

# Arthur-Clifford annexation approved

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WATSONVILLE — A move toward annexing 200 parcels in the Arthur Road-Clifford Avenue area into the city was approved last night by the City Council.

The council approved "prezoning" of the 43-acre area, almost all of which is already built on.

The annexation issue now goes to the Local Agency Formation Commission, made up of elected officials from around the county,

which has the power to approve the annexation.

Last night's action was part of a continuing effort by the city and residents to annex parts of Freedom.

Annexation of the Carnation Drive area was approved last year, and applications to annex the areas around Freedom School and Burchell Avenue have been approved by the city. The latter two applications have yet to be considered by LAFCO.

A petition requesting annexation, signed by 66 property owners was delivered to the city in December, and the application was approved by the city Planning Commission Feb. 5.

The annexation area includes Allston Way, Crescent Drive and Kenyon, Evelyn, Melrose and Claremont avenues. The city-county boundary is jagged, and some streets are part county, part city.

Joe Flores, who lives on Kenyon, See ANNEXATION, back of section

## ANNEXATION

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said the county had only put "a Band-Aid" on roads in the area, and asked what the city would do.

City Manager Steve Salomon said that if the county had any major money earmarked for road improvements allocated, the city would get them upon annexation.

But Salomon said it's his experience in other annexations that the county hasn't had much allocated. The city would not propose any major improvements without consent of the people in an area, he said.

Residents save \$100 to \$150 a year in various fees when they're in the city, Salomon estimated.

Dan Martin, who lives on Clifford Avenue, said he's constantly plagued with speeders and reckless drivers. Police Chief Terry Medina said the city could use motorcycle officers to patrol the area.

The Sheriff's Office, which now has jurisdiction over the area, does not do routine traffic enforcement.

## BUDGET

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The \$87,000 deficit would have to be paid from reserves, unless the city finds some other way to reduce spending.

Cutting costs isn't easy after five years of tight budgets and cost-cutting, said Finance Director Eric Frost. The city's budget is \$76 million.

Frost is recommending that the city consider raising sewer and water fees, but not garbage collection.

The city adopted a budget last summer that was \$256,000 in the red, with the hope that more revenue would come in. It hasn't worked out that way.

The city has been able to keep spending in check — \$518,000 under budget — but revenues aren't as high as projected.

The biggest gap is in fees, most of which comes from building and development charges. The city now estimates taking in \$467,000 less than budgeted.

The usual trickle of small