

City may expand sign law

SANTA CRUZ — City councilmembers Tuesday will wrestle with a system of controls for “non-commercial” signs.

The council meets at 4 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. The sign ordinance item is set for the evening session.

City planning commissioners are recommending the ordinance that regulates commercial signs be expanded to cover signs that are hung by non-profit groups and individuals.

The ordinance prohibits all signs from certain locations, limits size and height, prohibits animated signs and regulates lighting.

Also scheduled in the evening is the final action on rezoning approximately 20 acres in the Neary's Lagoon area from an average 12 units per

acre to an average 22 units per acre.

At the 4 p.m. session, City Manager Richard Wilson will recommend the city keep its water main expansion policy that requires new home builders pay the cost of water main extensions and upgradings.

Wilson said to ease the burden on some builders — in some cases the cost is in the tens of thousands of dollars — the council should consider approving the use of assessment districts to spread the cost over all potential new home builders.

A city Housing Task Force report will go to the council. It recommends policies encouraging UCSC to provide up to two-thirds of the housing needed by students, allowing greater densities on some vacant parcels, and

determining the city should measure it density in terms of population rather than number of housing units.

It also recommends the city reduce the price of housing by amending city regulations where possible, and by encouraging accessory units and limited equity cooperatives where owners cannot capitalize on the escalated worth of the units.

On the consent agenda, the council is asked to enter into a contract with the county to hire a legal firm for counseling during contract talks with cable television companies.

At the end of the regular afternoon agenda, Councilman John Laird is asking approval for a resolution of “declaration for peace with justice in Central America.”