

# City of Auburn sets out wish list for 1985

by Val Varney  
Times South bureau

The city of Auburn is hoping the 1985 State Legislature and Congress will lend an ear, change some state laws and dole out more money for local projects.

These requests are part of 16 resolutions recently passed by the Auburn City Council.

Some requests are repeats, such as state funding for park and recreation needs, and a few are new, including state funding for historical monuments and museums.

What Mayor Bob Roegner has in mind is development of the Auburn Game Farm into a major park and recreation complex. The multi-phase project would cost about \$2.8 million.

During the last session, a bill that could have given the city \$200,000 to \$400,000, failed to make it through the Legislature. Funds would have come from state-lottery revenue specifically dedicated for parks.

In its resolution, the city calls for Congress to approve at least \$100 million to

the Land and Water Conservation Fund. And it wants the state to approve a bond issue to buy, develop and/or fix up local park and recreation facilities.

Also on the city's wish list is state help in fixing up the historic Neely Mansion and funds for the White River Historical Society and its museum.

The 90-year-old mansion was built beside the Green River by Aaron Neely, who settled in the valley in 1878. After World War II, when Neely family members no longer lived there, the home fell prey to neglect and vandalism.

It's been taken over by Neely Mansion Associates who are fixing it up. King County had donated \$110,000 to the project. But at this point, the county seems unwilling to give any more money, the mayor said.

The White River Historical Society has been responsible for the museum, which is in Les Gove Park. Auburn has given the group \$800 for the past few years.

Roegner said the society soon will need a

full or part-time staffer to maintain and operate the museum.

Other resolutions passed by the Council include:

— Laws dealing with Boundary Review Boards. One asks that the boards no longer have authority over annexations, while the other recommends a study to determine if the boards are necessary.

— Increase bid limits on certain public-works projects, allowing city employees to work on them. Under current law, cities must call for bids when a project reaches a certain funding level.

— Distribution of the state sales tax on a monthly instead of a bimonthly basis.

— Additional money for public-works projects.

Roegner noted that a recent study predicted that between 1984-88, cities and towns will come up \$1.2 billion short of meeting critical public-works needs. During the last Legislative session, a bill was passed authorizing a \$10 million loan program for

such projects.

— A Constitutional amendment for submission to voters to allow the Legislature to define the words "public purpose."

Currently, cities are prohibited from participating financially in the private sector in economic-development activities regardless of whether a public purpose is served, said the mayor.

— A law to allow cities to charge interest on apportioned latecomer fees for utilities instead of charging for just the actual cost.

Other resolutions call for changes in using professional services on small projects; granting cities the authority to control pornography and related activities and expanding the use of the arterial-street funds.

Also on the list are reimbursement for cities that provide services to Indians and Indian tribes, taking police and fire chiefs out of the Civil Service System and allowing cities the choice on how they enforce parking laws.