

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - January 26, 1988

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Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting at 7:04 p.m., on Tuesday, January 26, 1987, in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Mock, Nakano, Walker, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and Staff representatives.

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION:

Mr. Tim Drevno of the El Camino Warriors led in the salute to the flag.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Father Paul Doyle, St. Matthews Orthodox Church.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the City Council minutes of December 22, 1987, as recorded. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS:

None.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

None scheduled.

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:

8a. RETIREMENT PLAQUE - CARL THOMAS:

It was with pleasure that Mayor Geissert presented a plaque to Mr. Carl Thomas, Senior Mechanic, upon the occasion of his retirement from the City after twenty years of service.

There was grateful acceptance by Mr. Thomas.

8b. RECOGNITION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE WARRIORS FOOTBALL TEAM:

In honor of their winning of the Junior College National Championship, Mayor Geissert presented a plaque to the El Camino College Warriors Football Team, with individual letters of recognition available for each member of the team.

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Present to receive this recognition were:

Mr. John Featherstone, Coach
Mr. Tony Uruburu, Assistant Coach
Mr. Bob Thompson, Assistant Coach

Team members present this evening --

Tim Drevno
Erik Estrada
Mark Merritt
Jeff Neal
Todd Sprosky
Bryan Burnett

Booster Member Chuck Schaeffer.

8c. PROCLAMATION proclaiming the month of February, 1988,
as "National History Month."

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert.

This proclamation was accepted with appreciation by Ms.
Martha McAvoy of the D.A.R. El Redondo Chapter.

9. LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS:

9a. LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON:

RESOLUTION NO. 88-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A FIVE (5)
YEAR LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution
No. 88-16. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried
unanimously by roll call vote.

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10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:

10a. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EIR FOR THE SOUTH BAY LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR:

Mayor Geissert noted that she has distributed for Council consideration a modified version of the resolution prepared by staff, said modified version setting forth the need for light rail more strongly and supporting the County Landfill area in a more positive manner.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that the Council adopt the modified version of the resolution on Agenda Item 10a. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and there being no objection it was so ordered.

At the request of Mayor Geissert, Deputy City Clerk Hong assigned a number and read title to --

(Modified Resolution)

RESOLUTION NO. 88-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE SUPPORTING THE PREPARATION
OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
SOUTH BAY LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-17. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Geissert requested that the Director of Transportation determine whether or not there is a need for a delegation from the City of Torrance at the upcoming meeting of the Committee of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission.

10b. AGREEMENT RE VIA CORONA/VISTA LARGO HILLSIDE RESTORATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Engineer recommends that:

1. The engineering firm of South Bay Engineering Corporation be retained for the engineering, project management, administration, and inspection services for the Via Corona/Vista Largo hillside restoration project;

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2. The City Manager be authorized to execute an agreement for these services;
3. The current level of professional service authority be set at \$150,000; and,
4. An appropriation of this amount be made from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Fund.

City Attorney Remelmeyer pointed out that Recommendation No. 2, above, should correctly state: "The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement for these services."

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated staff recommendation, with the correction on Recommendation #2 as indicated by the City Attorney. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

10c. EMERGENCY WORK - AMIE AVENUE SUMP:

RESOLUTION NO. 88-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY ARISING FROM FAILURES OF PORTIONS OF THE AMIE AVENUE SUMP NORTH OF SPENCER STREET, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR REPAIRS OF SAID FAILURES, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO APPROVE EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-18. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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11. POLICE AND FIRE MATTERS:

11a. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION and acceptance of gift from the Mobile Emergency Radio Information Team (MERIT) and the Police Reserves.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager and the Chief of Police that the City Council:

1. Present the last remaining members of MERIT with certificates of appreciation tendered by the Police Department, and
2. Accept the gift in the amount of \$5,112.00 as providing for the most recent dog purchased for the Police K-9 program and any surplus be utilized for outfitting the police SWAT van.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved that the City Council accept the above noted generous gift of \$5,112.00. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried without objection.

Police Captain Randall introduced Officer Sterling Tanouye and "Travon", a 3-year old Belgian Shepherd and newest member of the City's K-9 Corps. Captain Randall noted that the contribution of \$5,112.00, which was accepted with sincere appreciation by Mayor Geissert, will be used to offset the cost of Travon.

Assisted by Sergeant Mike Tamble and Reserve Officers Ron Angell and Denise Cordova, Captain Randall then introduced the following members of MERIT, who were afforded appropriate recognition for their valuable assistance to the Department and to the community throughout the years.

Dan Blasman
Paul Blasman
Sandy Blasman
Donna Braly
Norm Braly
Beverly Clark
James Clark
Tina Clark
David Florer
Susan Florer
Vic Granadas
Bill Richardson

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Betty Sander
Paul Sander
Bryan Thompson
Joe Waldhoff.

- 11b. COUNCIL AWARD OF CONTRACT - To refurbish Caswell Range
Equipment in Police Pistol Range.
Expenditure: \$27,357.66
Funding: Police Asset Forfeiture Funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff's recommendation that Council authorize the award of a contract to retrofit and refurbish the range equipment, correct certain problems within the range, and direct the "fine tuning" of the systems to optimize their operation to the CASWELL INTERNATIONAL CORP. in the total amount of \$27,357.66 (including tax) and for Council to authorize the use of ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS for this contract.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The City is presently holding \$311,524 received from State/Federal agencies as our share of Police Asset Forfeiture cases. These funds may only be used (appropriated) for law enforcement purposes.

It is RECOMMENDED that approval of this item include a motion to appropriate \$27,358 from the Police Asset Forfeiture Deposit Account to the Police Department's current operating budget.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above noted staff recommendations (including the appropriation as recommended by the Finance Director). His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

- 17a. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

See Pages 13 and 14.

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17b. SEISMIC REHABILITATION ASSESSMENT-PROCEDURAL ORDINANCE:

ORDINANCE NO. 3219

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 6 TO DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE, PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS TO FINANCE SEISMIC SAFETY BUILDING REHABILITATION

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to approve Ordinance No. 3219 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, City Treasurer Rupert advised that this matter may be returned to the Council next week in the form of an emergency ordinance in order to allow for the timely accommodation of property owners desiring to act immediately under the provisions set forth.

Roll call vote approving Ordinance 3219 at its first reading was unanimously favorable.

17c. ADMINISTRATIVE MANDAMUS SUITS AGAINST THE CITY:

RESOLUTION NO. 88-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 1094.6 APPLICABLE TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-19. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

20. CONSENT CALENDAR:

20a. COUNCIL AWARD OF A CONTRACT: To purchase twenty-five (25) BUDGETED REPLACEMENT Composite II Air Bottles for use with existing (MSA) Mine Safety Breathing Apparatus.
THIS IS A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE
Expenditure: \$8,786.26, including tax.

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Purchasing Division is recommending that your Honorable Body award a contract to the SANTA ROSA FIRE EQUIPMENT CO., of Huntington Beach as the sole Los Angeles County distributor for Mine Safety Appliance Co., for the purchase of twenty-five (25) No. 473579 Composite II Air Bottles, complete with valves. The total amount of the contract, including tax, will be \$8,786.26.

20b. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION GUARANTEE DEPOSIT -

TRACT NO. 44706
SUBDIVIDER: R. G. A., Inc. (Robert Garstein)
ENGINEER: Sulejmanagic
LOCATION: 2025 Artesia Boulevard
NO. OF LOTS: 1 LOT - 15 unit condo.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends that the \$6,025.00 cash deposit be released.

20c. PARCEL MAP NO. 17243 (D 85-20)

SUBDIVIDER: Torrance Center I
LOCATION: Southwest Corner Torrance Boulevard
and Western Avenue
NO. OF LOTS: 2.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends that Parcel Map No. 17243 be approved.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with staff recommendations on Agenda Items 20a, 20b, and 20c. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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At 7:44 p.m., the City Council convened in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance, returning to the Council agenda at 7:45 p.m., but remaining in joint session at that time for purposes of a joint executive session to be held later in the meeting (see Pages 13 and 14).

* * *

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

22a. Deputy City Clerk Hong provided a current up-date regarding the March 8 Municipal Election schedule.

22b. Mayor Geissert referenced the January 26 memorandum from the City Clerk regarding recognition of retiring Commissioners. There being no objection from the Council, Mayor Geissert deemed February 9, a 7:00 p.m. meeting, as an appropriate date for this activity.

22c. Councilman Applegate requested that appropriate staff investigate current signing at the kiosk on the northwest corner of Anza and Del Amo Boulevards.

22d. Councilman Nakano expressed appreciation for staff's efforts regarding certain abandoned properties in the City. Mr. Nakano requested continued monitoring of the Crenshaw/230th Street site.

22e. Councilman Nakano requested that staff look into the possible need to trim a large city tree at the intersection of Calle Miramar and Benita.

22f. Councilman Wirth requested that the City of Torrance reaffirm its earlier position regarding the appropriate use of Proposition A Funds for mass transit purposes. Mayor Geissert concurred that this City's earlier stated position should be upheld, and recommended that Torrance be well represented at the South Bay Cities meeting on Thursday, January 28.

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22g. Mayor Geissert suggested that the City consider a policy of presenting resolutions as a form of personal tribute to retirees who have served the City for a specified period of time (20 or more years was noted as a possibility). Noting his wholehearted concurrence with the concept, Councilman Applegate requested that the City Manager return to the Council with recommended criteria.

22h. Mr. Ronald Soiset, 2007 West Jeanette Place, Long Beach, Chairman of the Environmental Committee and the Public Safety Committee for the West Long Beach Association, read aloud from a prepared statement (which was later submitted for the official record) concerning the issue of Refinery and Pipeline Safety. In presenting his comments, Mr. Soiset referenced the Mobil Oil refinery in the City of Torrance and also alleged problems involving a specific employee of the Southern California Air Quality Management District.

City Attorney Remelmeyer interrupted Mr. Soiset's presentation, advising that the Torrance City Council is not the proper forum for discussing the credibility of an individual in the performance of his work. Mr. Remelmeyer recommended that any such criticism be directed to the AQMD.

In response to statements regarding the City's actions pertaining to the November 24, 1987 incident at Mobil Oil, Fire Chief Adams advised that there was monitoring for possible toxics and a contingency plan was in place.

City Manager Jackson advised of precautionary steps which are a matter of established course in such incidents and noted that the City is presently compiling a comprehensive report on the Mobil refinery, said report to be available in the very near future.

At the request of the Mayor, Building and Safety Director Grippio advised of the general experience of the City of Torrance with the AQMD in monitoring reported situations in the field.

Mayor Geissert offered to submit any written materials submitted by Mr. Soiset to the City's technical staff for review.

22i. Mr. Steve Sullivan, 15209 Yukon Avenue, Lawndale, requested the Council's endorsement of a letter concerning upcoming labor negotiations at Mobil Oil and situations to which area residents may be subjected, said letter to be distributed to residents of the area surrounding the refinery.

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City Attorney Remelmeyer pointed out that the Council is prohibited by the Brown Act from taking action on any item that has not been on the agenda and posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Mr. Remelmeyer suggested that the matter be referred to the City Manager or members of staff for a report and recommendation.

Councilman Applegate commented regarding the inappropriate nature of Mr. Sullivan's proposal at this meeting.

Mayor Geissert advised this speaker that it would be permissible to proceed if his remarks are relevant to health and safety issues.

Mr. Sullivan then noted concern regarding the refinery's safe operation should a labor strike of union represented employees develop.

The inappropriateness of attempting to involve this City Council in an apparent labor dispute was voiced by the Mayor. The City's upcoming report regarding Mobil was again referenced by the Mayor.

22j. Mr. Kevin Geddes, 3605 Long Beach Boulevard, Long Beach, a representative of the OCAW, stated for the record that it is not the intention of the Union to involve the Torrance City Council in a labor dispute, nor are they attempting to instill fear in members of the community. Grave concerns regarding safety issues were voiced by this speaker.

Councilman Wirth suggested that the forthcoming staff report regarding operations at Mobil Oil be presented to these speakers for comment.

22k. Mr. Gene Reynolds, a resident of Whittier, alleged that in November of 1987 the community escaped, by a narrow margin, a disaster involving the Mobil refinery.

Mayor Geissert requested that this speaker's allegations be submitted in writing for analysis and she invited the foregoing speakers to examine the City's report when it becomes available.

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The Council now returned to --

17a. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency having remained in joint session (see Page 10), Mayor/Chairwoman Geissert read the following statement into the record.

The City Council will now recess to closed session to give instruction to the City Manager regarding the renegotiation of the lease of City owned property to Paragon Cable. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

The Council will also receive advice from the City Attorney regarding potential litigation arising from the widening of Torrance Boulevard, property located at 1889 Torrance Boulevard. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.9 (b).

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, will give instructions to the Agency's Executive Director regarding acquisition negotiations with Charles A. Tourville for industrial property located in the Torrance Industrial Redevelopment Project at 22219 South Western Avenue. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

In addition, the City Council will give instructions to the City Manager regarding modification of the lease agreement between the City of Torrance and Robert Cohen and Frank Torino, known as Madison Park, located at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Madison Street. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

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NOTE: Councilman Applegate announced that he would abstain in consideration of the Madison Park matter and he subsequently absented himself from the meeting room during discussion of that item.

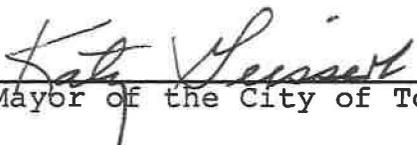
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At 8:20 p.m., Mayor/Chairwoman Geissert called a brief recess, followed immediately by the above noted joint executive session.

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency reconvened at 9:50 p.m. There was no action as a result of the joint executive session and both Bodies were formally adjourned to Tuesday, February 2, 1988, at 5:30 p.m.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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