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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council reconvened its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 1996, at 7:46 P.M., in the Council Chamber of Torrance City Hall after having conducted a City Council Workshop on Residential Care Facilities.

**ROLL CALL**

(Previously done.)

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Flag salute was led by Fire Chief Adams.

Deacon Richard Shinkle, St. James Catholic Church, led the invocation for the meeting.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs. There being no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Council member the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and there being no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

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4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT & ENRICHMENT

Monday, August 5, 1996, 5:30 P.M.  
Third Floor Assembly Room  
Subject: Wilson Park Master Plan

FINANCE & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 13, 1996, 5:30 P.M.  
Third Floor Assembly Room  
Subject: Cultural Arts Center Business Plan

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 6, 1996, 5:30 P.M.  
Council Chambers  
Subject: Residential Care Facilities

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Mayor Hardison noted that supplemental material was available with regard to Agenda Item Nos. 7c., 9b., and 13b.

\*

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. RESOLUTION HONORING BEN MURDOCH

RESOLUTION NO. 96-85

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING BEN MURDOCH  
FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-85. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

*For adoption only -- to be presented at a later date.*

6b. **INTRODUCTION OF KASHIWA EXCHANGE STUDENTS  
AND ADULT LEADER**

Mrs. Hazel Taniguchi acknowledged those host families and members in attendance of the meeting and commended them for their support of the Kashiwa students.

With the assistance of Torrance Sister City Association President, Hazel Taniguchi, Mayor Hardison introduced and presented plaques of recognition to each Kashiwa Exchange student and their adult leader. Accepted with great appreciation, each student and the adult leader personally thanked the City Council for this special recognition.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- June 4, 1996**

7b. **PURCHASE ORDER TO FURNISH THE CITY'S ANNUAL  
REQUIREMENT OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Director of General Services, the Fire Chief, and the Director of Fleet Services that the City Council authorize a purchase order renewal be issued to PS Trading, Inc. of Citrus Heights, CA, in the annual anticipated "not to exceed" amount of \$1,200,000.00 (per year), through fiscal year 2000, for the City's annual requirement of gasoline and diesel fuel.

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7c. APPROPRIATION FROM THE PROGRAM CONTINGENCIES RESERVE TO FUND CITY PARTICIPATION IN A PROJECT TO VALIDATE AN ENTRY-LEVEL FIREFIGHTER WRITTEN TEST

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Civil Service Commission, the Civil Service Administrator, and the Fire Chief that the City Council authorize an appropriation of \$15,000 from the Program Contingencies Reserve to fund City participation in a multi-city consortium project to validate a new entry-level firefighter written test.

7d. DONATION FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Torrance Youth Council that the City Council approve donations from the Youth Council Donation Fund of \$200 to the Torrance Unified School District and \$300 to the City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Department and authorize the staff liaison to issue warrants on the Youth Council's behalf.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to concur with Consent Calendar Items 7a, 7b, 7c, and 7d. Councilman Walker seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote.

9. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS

9a. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CMS STORM DRAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Engineering Director that the City Council reject the apparent low bid submitted by Robert G. Castongia, Inc. as non-responsive due to a missing bid item; accept the bid from and award a Contract to PALP, Inc., dba Excel Paving Company (Excel) in the amount of \$500,439.00; reject all other bids; authorize staff to prepare a standard contract; authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to

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attest to the Contract on behalf of the City; and appropriate \$1,300,000 in Bond Proceeds for construction of the Corrugated Metal Pipe Storm Drain Replacement Program, 1995-96 - Phase II (B96-28).

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9b. **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Engineering Director that the City Council approve the professional engineering services agreement with MacDonald-Stephens Engineers, Inc. and authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to this Agreement on behalf of the City for design of the retrofit of two sites to use reclaimed water and development of reclaimed water standards in a "not-to-exceed" amount of \$46,460.00.

Briefly reviewing the staff report (as per agenda material), Engineering Director Burt advised that the proposed recommendation to retrofit two existing sites (Magruder Middle School and Columbia Park) in order for these facilities to utilize reclaimed water and to develop Reclaimed Water Standards (in order to govern the design and construction of reclaimed water systems) will be the first phase of the implementation of the City's Reclaimed Water System Master Plan.

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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**13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**13a. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the City Manager that the City Council adopt the resolution endorsing the "California First" Congressional Leadership Summit to be held on August 19, 1996.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-86**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ENDORSING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT "CALIFORNIA FIRST"

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-86. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**13b. AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PARSANS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the General Services Director that the City Council accept the low bid of \$129,900 and award a contract to Parsans Construction Company for renovation of the Ken Miller Recreation Center and appropriate \$17,000 from the directional signage Capital Project Improvement Fund for this purpose.

General Services Director Tilden referenced supplemental material (of record), noting the correct spelling of the contractor as well as the revised recommendation (as noted above) with regard to funding.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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13c. **RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE FINANCE AND  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the City Council Finance and Governmental Operations Committee that the City Council concur with the following two actions:

- appropriation of \$56,788 out of projected revenue to fund the net additional cost of four positions for the Cultural Arts Center (Office Manager, Bookkeeper, Box Office Manager, Assistant Booking Manager), and to increase benefits for one previously-approved position (Booking Manager);
- adoption of a modification to the Unrepresented Resolution, adding four permanent part-time classifications and changing the benefit package of a previously approved position.

Councilman Lee, Chairman of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee, briefly reviewed the staff report (of record).

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-87**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH CERTAIN  
CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND  
WORKING CONDITIONS FOR UNREPRESENTED  
EMPLOYEES

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-87. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call reflected unanimous approval.

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**13d. MEMORANDUMS OF INTENT AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING**

Although the City Council will be discussing this matter during executive session, Mayor Hardison, in light of those in attendance, invited public input at this time.

Although TME - Local 1117 AFSCME has attempted numerous negotiations with management, Mr. Pat Astredo informed the City Council members that no agreement has been reached. Referencing written letters from City residents, Mr. Astredo stated that it is the City Council's responsibility, as elected officials, to treat all employees in an equitable manner as it relates to wages, hours, and working conditions.

Ms. Linda Cessna, President of Torrance Engineers and Member of the Employees Coalition, stressed the pride with which all City employees perform their work functions in order to ensure proper services to the community, noting that the employees are the City's most valuable possession. She stated that the proposed offer does not reflect the City having the same type of pride in all of its employees as the employees do in their work. Ms. Cessna advised that the proposed offer sends a very demoralizing message. In closing, Ms. Cessna reiterated the willingness to work toward reaching an equitable and reasonable offer to all members of the Torrance Engineers.

Mr. Guido DeRienzo, AFSCME staff representative from Council 36, acknowledged the importance of those services provided by the Police and Fire Departments but clarified to the Council that the remaining employees should not be viewed as miscellaneous employees but as essential employees which are needed to ensure the quality of life in this City. Referencing the proposed offer, Mr. DeRienzo commented on the inequitable elements and noted that such an offer sends a message that those functions performed by those employees outside of the Police and Fire Departments are less important to the City. Referencing a previous City Council commitment to treat all employees equally and fairly, Mr. DeRienzo noted that the proposed 1.9% increase, according to several survey results, reflects an increase below the cost of living. In closing, he reminded the City Council members that many of the union members are as well City residents and City taxpayers.

Ms. Barbara Botiller, member of AFSCME, noted that the proposed 1.9% increase does not promote loyalty, diligence, caring, nor does it promote the retention of quality and qualified employees and, therefore, encouraged the City Council to promote equitable increases to all City employees.

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Commenting on the efforts undertaken by City employees to achieve the aesthetic appearance of the City, Mr. Rande Jacobs noted that such efforts are as a result of all employees performing their jobs; therefore, he requested that all employees be treated in an equitable manner.

Mr. Bob Hildebrand, President of TPSA, advised that salary adjustments have not been completed for the last eight to ten years. Requesting that these adjustments be made, Mr. Hildebrand recommended that sufficient funds be set aside in the 1996-97 budget to ensure the ability to make the necessary salary adjustments.

Mr. Joe Quinones, 2415 W. 238th Street, advised that he is a City employee as well as a City resident and taxpayer of the City. Having participated in two City Council campaigns, Mr. Quinones recalled that the residents of the City placed a high priority on ensuring that all necessary resources are made available to the Police and Fire Departments but stated that he does not recall that such resources be provided at the expense of the other City employees. In closing, he requested that all City employees be treated equally and fairly.

Mr. Rod Caliman welcomed any City Council member to work with him for one day and then determine whether or not all City employees are being treated equally.

Ms. Natalie Bills, 1021 Park Circle Drive, student and resident of the City, noted that the residents of the City are unable to obtain the highest quality of services if the employees of the City are not treated with equality.

Appreciating all comments, Mayor Hardison advised that because this matter would be addressed during executive session in closed session, the Council would not be able to make any comments at this time.

**16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES**

**16a. ORDINANCE NO. 3423**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3423**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING  
SECTIONS 91.2.83 THROUGH 91.2.153  
TO CHAPTER 1 OF ARTICLE 2 OF  
DIVISION 9 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE  
RELATED TO DEFINITIONS

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**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3423 at its second and final reading. Councilman Walker seconded the motion and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3424**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING A  
NEW ARTICLE 35 TO CHAPTER 2 OF  
DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL  
CODE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3424 at its second and final reading. Councilman Walker seconded the motion and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3425**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING  
ARTICLES 1 AND 2 OF CHAPTER 5 OF  
DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL  
CODE RELATED TO CONDITIONAL USE  
PERMITS

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3425 at its second and final reading. Councilman Walker seconded the motion and roll call voted reflected unanimous approval.

With regard to Ordinance No. 3426, Assistant City Attorney Quale referenced corrected Exhibit D (of record).

**ORDINANCE NO. 3426**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING  
SECTIONS 91.38.6 AND 91.38.8 AND ADDING  
NEW SECTION 91.38.9, AND ADDING NEW  
ARTICLES 45, 46, AND 47 TO CHAPTER 1 OF  
DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL

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**CODE AND REZONING ALL THE LAND INDICATED  
ON THE MAPS MARKED EXHIBITS A, B, C, D,  
E, AND F ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3426 at its second and final reading, as amended. Councilman Walker seconded the motion and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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At 8:45 P.M., the City Council reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was adjourned at 8:47 P.M., and consideration of regular Council business was resumed.

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**19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**19a.** Wishing him a good retirement, City Manager Jackson fondly reminisced Mr. Ben Murdoch's tenure with the City.

**19b.** Fleet Services Director Ishmael introduced newly hired Transit Manager, Mr. Tom Whittle, and thanked Mr. John Hall for his efforts as acting Transit Manager.

Mr. Whittle briefly acknowledged the City Council and relayed his delight in having the opportunity to work for the City.

**19c.** City Clerk Herbers announced the vacancy of one Commission opening on the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

**19d.** In response to Councilman Lee, City Manager Jackson advised that although previous City Council action has been taken with regard to the South Bay Girls' Softball Association and Central Torrance Little League field relocation projects, additional clarification is being requested with regard to the methodology of reimbursement and as to what type of site improvements are to be reimbursed by the City.

**19e.** Councilman Lee reminisced of fond memories shared with retiring Ben Murdoch.

**19f.** Councilman Messerlian relayed his delight with the success of the espresso cart at the Civic Center Library and noted that the cart would be

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featured in the South Bay Weekly. City Librarian noted that many positive comments have been received with regard to the cart.

Advising that the vendor of the espresso cart has expressed his delight with the progress of this venture, City Manager Jackson informed the City Council members that the vendor has expressed an interest in locating another cart at the Cultural Arts Center, noting that staff is exploring the possibility.

**19g.** Councilman Nakano thanked Engineering Director Burt for his immediate response in addressing the traffic signal problem at Sepulveda Boulevard and Hickory Street.

**19h.** Referencing previous measures taken as a result of an automobile accident at the intersection of Van Ness Avenue and 164th Street, Councilman Nakano noted that the trees that were trimmed at that time are in need of additional trimming to ensure clear visibility of the existing stop sign.

In response to Councilman Nakano's comments, City Manager Jackson noted that staff would address the matter as well as exploring other possible measures to ensure clear visibility of the stop sign.

**19i.** For Councilman Nakano, Planning Director Ferren noted that information would be forthcoming with regard to signalization improvements at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Jefferson Street.

**19j.** Councilwoman O'Donnell commended the Youth Council for its recent \$200 donation to the Torrance Unified School District and \$300 to the City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Department.

**19k.** Councilwoman O'Donnell commended American Honda Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce on the 10th Annual Food and Wine Tasting Festival, noting that the proceeds of this wonderful event benefited Little Company of Mary Hospital.

**19l.** Councilwoman O'Donnell echoed previous comments with regard to Mr. Ben Murdoch and wished him a happy retirement.

**19m.** Having previously commented on the appearance of Pacific Coast Highway, Councilwoman O'Donnell retracted her comments and commented on the quality of the streets in Brooklyn, New York.

**19n.** In light of his development accomplishments in the City, his generous dedications, and land donations, Councilman Walker requested that proper recognition be given to Mr. Don Wilson, Sr. No objection was noted.

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**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS**

Mayor Hardison read the following statement into the record:

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with legal counsel and the City's Negotiator on the agenda matter listed under Agenda Item 20.a.1) "Conference with Labor Negotiator," and 20.a.2) "Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation."

A closed session on these matters is authorized by California Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.9(a).

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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At 9:04 P.M., the City Council met in executive session, returning to Chambers at 10:15 P.M. The following action was taken:

Assistant City Attorney Quale requested that the City Council take action with regard to 20a. 2b.) Magat v. City of Torrance, et al.  
LASC Case No. BC 114866.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to accept the award of the arbitrator with regard to this matter in the sum of \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:17 P.M., this meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to Tuesday, August 13, 1996, at 7:00 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the City of Torrance

Michaela A. Ballreich  
Minute Secretary

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