

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting at 6:31 p.m. on November 23, 2004, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky and Mayor Walker.

Absent: Councilmember Mauno.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Fellows reported that he had reviewed the proposed escrow instructions for 1511 Cravens Avenue submitted by the agent for the seller that afternoon which are part of the supplemental and he asked that the Council consider adding the item to the agenda under Anticipated Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c) which indicates that based on existing facts and circumstances, the legislative body of the local agency has decided to initiate or is deciding whether to initiate litigation with respect to the possible exercise of the Agency's right of first refusal and consideration of possible purchase of that property.

In order to take action on an item that is not on the agenda, the California Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Council that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to add item 11d. to the City Council agenda and item 4a. to the Redevelopment Agency agenda. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under 17.a) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator and 17.b) Anticipated Litigation - pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.8 and 54956.9(c).

The City Council reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember McIntyre.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Witkowsky.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent

Councilmember Mauno).

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Witkowsky announced a meeting of the City Council Planning and Design Committee on Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers to discuss the Mills Act and Historic Overlays within the Olmstead property zoning and she encouraged any interested parties to attend the meeting.

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired Torrance Police Lieutenant Swayne Johnson who passed away on November 15, 2004 and Torrance resident Ron Littlefair who passed away on November 22, 2004.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-150 RE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE BILL WRIGHT

Recommendation of the Mayor that City Council approve the re-appointment of Bill Wright as the City's representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board for a four-year term.

RESOLUTION 2004-150

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR REAPPOINTING BILL WRIGHT TO THE POST AS THE CITY OF TORRANCE'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-150. Councilmember Lieu seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to Bill Wright who expressed appreciation for the vote of support for his efforts on the Board noting that Torrance was considered a leader in Southern California water conservation efforts by saving approximately 700,000 acre feet of water.

6b. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-146 RE DIANE LOUISE FRALEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-146

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA HONORING DIANE LOUISE FRALEY UPON

HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-146. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

To be presented at a later date.

6c. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-147 RE ARTHUR EUGENE "PETE" FRALEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-147

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA HONORING ARTHUR EUGENE "PETE" FRALEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-147. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

To be presented at a later date.

6d. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-148 RE PAULINE ADELE "PAM" SHAW

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-148

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA HONORING PAULINE ADELE "PAM" SHAW UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-148. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

To be presented at a later date.

6e. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-149 RE POLICE SERGEANT RAUL ANGEL RAMIREZ

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-149

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE SERGEANT RAUL ANGEL RAMIREZ UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to adopt Resolution No. 2004-149. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

To be presented at a later date.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Lieu asked that item 7e be pulled for separate consideration.

7a. **MULTI-AGENCY WATER QUALITY MONITORING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Urban Stormwater Committee** that City Council approve a Multi-Agency Monitoring Services Agreement between the City of Redondo Beach and the City of Torrance, for a term ending on October 31, 2007, for shoreline water quality monitoring required by stormwater regulations and part of the Santa Monica Bay Beach Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (SMBBB TMDL) Implementation Plan in the amount not to exceed \$28,180.

7b. **2003-2004 WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Acting Public Works Director** and **Water Commission** that City Council accept and file the 2003-2004 Water Commission Annual Report.

7c. **AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE ARTESIA BOULEVARD STREET IMPROVEMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Acting Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to public works agreement with Sully-Miller Contracting Company (C2003-101) to extend the term from December 31, 2004 to March 30, 2005 for the Artesia Boulevard Street Improvement, T-26; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor execute and the City Clerk to attest to said amendment.

7d. **FINAL PARCEL MAP NO. 60684**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve Final Parcel Map No. 60684 creating two condominium units on one lot subdivided by Clara Cupery, and located at 1215 and 1217 Portola Avenue, which substantially conforms to and meets all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map; and
- 2) Accept a 10' corner cut-off easement at the northwest corner of the lot.

7e. **CONTRACT RE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC STUDY**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract to RBF Consulting to conduct a Citywide Traffic Study for the amount of \$430,404 (B2004-38);
- 2) Appropriate and authorize the expenditure of \$117,630 from the Program Contingencies Reserve of the General Fund;
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement;
- 4) Transfer \$104,922 from the Traffic Signal Controller Upgrade Project (T-18) and \$87,852 from the ITS Upgrade Project (T-19), \$70,000 from Neighborhood Traffic Calming (S-12), and \$50,000 from Traffic Engineering professional services operating funds to a new Citywide Traffic Count Project (T-50); and,
- 5) Defer the remaining balances in Projects T-18 (Traffic Controller Upgrade) in the amount of \$5,000 and T-19 (ITS Upgrade) \$5,000 to Fiscal Years 2006-2007

in the Capital Budget.

7f. VENDOR CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER RE REFUSE TRUCK PARTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize a change order to existing vendor contract with Rush Truck Center (#524), of Pico Rivera, CA in the amount of \$40,000. The change order would increase the expenditure of said contract to \$70,000 and extend the term to June 30, 2005.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve items 7a through 7d and item 7f as written. Councilmember Lieu seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

7e. CONTRACT RE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC STUDY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract to RBF Consulting to conduct a Citywide Traffic Study for the amount of \$430,404 (B2004-38);
- 2) Appropriate and authorize the expenditure of \$117,630 from the Program Contingencies Reserve of the General Fund;
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement;
- 4) Transfer \$104,922 from the Traffic Signal Controller Upgrade Project (T-18) and \$87,852 from the ITS Upgrade Project (T-19), \$70,000 from Neighborhood Traffic Calming (S-12), and \$50,000 from Traffic Engineering professional services operating funds to a new Citywide Traffic Count Project (T-50); and,
- 5) Defer the remaining balances in Projects T-18 (Traffic Controller Upgrade) in the amount of \$5,000 and T-19 (ITS Upgrade) \$5,000 to Fiscal Years 2006-2007 in the Capital Budget.

Councilmember Lieu pointed out that it was clear in the 35-day report that Torrance had grown at a slower pace than the surrounding cities and he questioned whether the traffic study would be able to provide an indication of how much traffic in Torrance is pass-through traffic.

Transportation Manager Semaan indicated that 14 intersections would be analyzed through license plate surveys and other surveys monitoring who enters and exits the city within a shortened period of time.

Councilmember Scotto noted the study would run concurrently with the General Plan update and he clarified that the survey would not fix anything but would instead help identify problems.

Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the scope of the study would serve as the foundation for the General Plan update and citywide traffic study. Current traffic counts will be taken and determinations will be made as to how efficient the roadway system and intersections are with recommended mitigations to improve the level of service. Work will be done with the General Plan as it is updated to project future traffic counts and determine what mitigations will be needed in the future.

Responding to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto as to whether cut-through traffic would be examined, Transportation Manager Semaan reiterated that traffic flows

into and out of the City would be studied at the major corridors.

Councilmember McIntyre thanked staff for their efforts and asked about the winter holiday season and the Del Amo Mall area. Transportation Manager Semaan explained that in addition to normal traffic flow and commuter traffic, holiday traffic which increases significantly around the Del Amo Mall will be evaluated to see if different mitigations will be necessary.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve item 7e. Councilmember Lieu seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno.)

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. FIRST QUARTER 2004-2005 BUDGET REVIEW REPORT

Recommendation of the **Finance and Governmental Operations Committee** that City Council concur with the following recommendations for the First Quarter 2004-2005 Budget Review:

- 1) Accept the First Quarter 2004-2005 Budget Review Report;
- 2) Accept the City Treasurer's Investment Report;
- 3) Approve the allocation of Fiscal Year 2003-2004 carryover; and
- 4) Approve department program modifications for: Communication & Information Technology (CIT), General Services, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Public Works.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the material of record noting that concerns by the labor union to defer the item for two weeks caused the item to be held until this evening and that response has been attached to the item.

Councilmember Lieu expressed support for adding 8/10ths of a staff assistant for the juvenile division program in the police department noting that it was important to support victims of crimes. He also asked that staff investigate hybrid and electric vehicles to address the issue of rising fuel costs.

Alan Lee, TME, AFSCME Local 1117, thanked the Council for holding the item for two weeks but asserted that the item impacted many employees in the City and it was difficult to form an intelligent response in such a short period of time to the large amount of information provided by the City.

Mr. Lee pointed out that the City had an affirmative obligation to meet and confer in good faith prior to bringing the items before the Council and he read an excerpt from California Government Code Section 3505 entitled "Meet and Confer In Good Faith: *"The governing body of a public agency or other representatives as may be properly designated by law or by such governing body shall meet and confer in good faith regarding wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment with representatives of such recognized employee organizations and shall consider fully such presentations as are made by the employee organization on behalf of its members prior to arriving at a determination or policy or course of action. Meet and confer in good faith means that a public agency or such representatives as it may designate and representatives of recognized employee organizations, shall have mutual obligation personally to meet and confer promptly upon request by either party and continue for a reasonable period of time in order to exchange freely information, opinions and proposals, and endeavor to reach an agreement on matters within the scope of representation prior*

to adoption by the public agency of its final budget for the ensuing year. This process shall include adequate time for resolution of impasse or when specific procedures for such resolutions are contained in local regulations or ordinances or when such procedures are utilized for mutual consent."

Mr. Lee asserted that the City had fallen short of their obligation and he added that one month prior an arbitrator had informed the City that they had violated the meet and confer process and warned that would not be tolerated again.

Mr. Lee asked the Mayor and City Council to instruct and direct their representatives to meet and confer in good faith and provide adequate time to review the proposals which impact the people represented by the unions. He also requested that the fourth section of item 11a with regard to General Services, Communications and Information Technology (CIT) and Public Works, but not the Parks and Recreation and Police aspects, be held over until such time as staff and the union can meet and confer.

City Manager Jackson indicated that the requirement to meet and confer in good faith applies to the effects of decisions made by the Council on budget matters, specifically in the memorandum of understanding with employee groups and in the actions that they take. The governing agency makes decisions about the budget, the number of positions, or the size of the budget they will have in city government. Once the decision is made as to how it is implemented or how the positions are changed or modified, if it requires such, is within the scope of negotiation and requires follow through and meetings with the employee groups. He added that staff had met and discussed the implications of budget changes and can make presentations for the Council to consider.

Responding to Councilmember Witkowsky, City Manager Jackson clarified that if the scope of responsibilities for current employees is changed, or if the nature of their actual job relationship is changed, those can be matters within the scope of negotiations, that the number of employees is not a meet and confer matter, but how they will be used may then become a meet and confer matter.

Councilmember Witkowsky questioned whether the CIT position was being modified and City Manager Jackson explained that the budget could be changed to modify that position, but the employee organization has raised concerns as to how those positions will be filled and that may be within the scope of the negotiations.

Councilmember Witkowsky questioned whether the agenda item came too late for meet and confer and City Manager Jackson indicated that the union could have met before the quarterly budget meeting. He noted that the matter had been discussed to a certain extent and the union has indicated with correspondence this afternoon that they still have a concern with how the incumbency and modifications are going to be done.

City Manager Jackson suggested approving the item, but pulling the matter in question.

Councilmember Witkowsky asked for separate consideration of the CIT position.

Councilmember Lieu received clarification that the items were not so time sensitive that they could not be investigated further, even if there were not meet and confer items and City Manager Jackson noted that they could be delayed but that would result in changes to the budget process being more abrupt.

Mayor Walker did not feel a conflict between the path the City has taken and the conservative manner they are addressing budgeting compared to surrounding communities.

City Manager Jackson indicated that it would be very difficult to add to the budget as the City is in a budget reduction situation and if the item is deferred there will be consequences such as not fulfilling some needed areas of concern for coverage on weekends and reductions of overtime in that operation. He asked that the Council move ahead with the Police item which is not a new program but a reallocation of resources to achieve the same ends, as well as with the analyst position in CIT so they can deal with a retirement in the near future and process those activities.

Mayor Walker received clarification that the delay would not be disruptive and City Manager Jackson added that they would also like to move forward with the Customer Service Bookkeeper position in Cultural Arts which was not at issue.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the First Quarter 2004-2005 Budget Review Report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to accept the City Treasurer's Investment Report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to allocate the fiscal carryover for 2003-2004. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

In response to Councilmember Scotto, City Manager Jackson indicated that staff would have further meetings with the employee organizations to explore the concerns they have raised and will report back at a later date. Councilmember Scotto questioned what had happened during the previous two weeks and City Manager Jackson reported that they had met and conferred and discussed certain elements of the process, but had not arrived at an agreement which he did not feel that they were required to do. He indicated that they would do the same in the next two weeks and would return to seek recommended action from the Council.

Councilmember Scotto commented that there had been a two week delay and not much had changed.

Councilmember McIntyre indicated that she would be comfortable if staff felt that a two week time frame would provide the opportunity to be heard and City Manager Jackson stated that they would be heard but there might still be conflicts and disagreements which they would bring back to the Council.

Mayor Walker questioned whether two weeks would be sufficient and City Manager Jackson indicated that four weeks would be preferable.

Finance Director Tsao requested that the Council approve the revised organizational structure for CIT and approve the revised IT analyst position at this time.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve the revised organizational structure of the CIT Department, reducing three operational divisions to two in accordance with the previously approved FY 2003-2005 city-wide departmental consolidations and approve an increase to the CIT budget to upgrade one IT Specialist position to an IT analyst position. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and the discussion

continued.

Councilmember Witkowsky received clarification that the motion would reduce a position.

A roll call on the motion was taken and was approved unanimously (absent Councilmember Mauno).

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to add a .8 Staff Assistant position to the Juvenile Diversion Program at the Police Department, increase the Parks and Recreation Department's Scholarship Budget, and approve the proposed organizational restructure of the Cultural Arts Center Administration. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

City Manager Jackson stated that asset forfeiture funds would be used to offset the police item and Councilmember Scotto clarified that discussion on the General Services and Information Technology position would occur in four weeks.

11b. FINANCE AND GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURING

Recommendation of the **Finance Director** and the **City Manager** that City Council approve restructuring in the Finance and General Services departments to facilitate the implementation of future 2.5% budget reductions.

Councilmember Lieu cited pride in the achievement of the City of Torrance in having a surplus of over \$4.2 million with no layoffs or reduction in services.

Finance Director Tsao summarized the material of record and noted that Prop 1A would assist the City in protecting revenues but a deficit of \$3 million is still projected by July 1 of 2005. Staff is requesting implementation of reductions early so cuts will not have to be so drastic and he noted that budget reductions from Finance and General Services are presented in the item.

Alan Lee, TME AFSCME, Local 1117, commented that they had met with staff once for 90 minutes during the two week extension and he expressed concern about the impact of cuts on custodians and building maintainers. He disagreed with City Manager Jackson on the necessity of meeting and conferring and questioned the point of meeting and conferring after a budget is approved that eliminates positions, reiterating that meet and confer is crucial prior to eliminating positions as that impacts working conditions and hours.

Mr. Lee reported a recent decision by an arbitrator indicating that management has the right to control how the City is run but is also obligated to follow the process. He requested an additional four weeks because positions are being eliminated and City Manager Jackson noted that this was consistent with the previous action but deferring eliminates the opportunity to reduce early and there may be vacant positions.

Mayor Walker commented that things might end up exactly the same.

Jeannie Moorman, AFSCME Local 1117 pointed out that some of the actions proposed were to take place upon the retirement of the current facility services supervisor who has no plans to retire within the next five years thereby making action on the item not urgent.

City Manager Jackson stated that two weeks ago the Council authorized staff to move ahead on the Finance action and he asked them to concur with the Finance element of those modifications and reductions

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation on the Finance Department action. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote recommended unanimous approval.

Mayor Walker clarified that General Services Department recommendations would be held for a future date.

11c. TRANSIT ACCESS AND CIRCULATION PLAN (TACT)

Recommendation of the **Transit Director** that City Council approve the Transit Access and Circulation Plan (TACT) and direct staff to implement new system-wide changes.

Transit Director Whittle introduced staff members and summarized the material of record noting that Transit Access and Circulation Plan TACT was due to be implemented on January 9, 2005. He reviewed proposed changes to bus routes and stated that the new system would provide better, direct service, increased productivity and additional service to LAX and Riviera Village with the total service hours slightly more than before and the cost slightly less.

Transit Operations Manager Turner reported on public notification procedures including mailings, fliers, and signage, notices published in La Opinion and the Daily Breeze, and the establishment of a Transit Hotline. She added that meetings were held with union representatives and a public hearing was held on November 3, 2004. She related requests for full day service on Line 6 and indicated that after evaluation, staff had concluded that service could be increased during off peak hours with no changes required in the number of full time bus operators.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember McIntyre, Transit Business Manager Chaparyan indicated that 15 calls had been received on the Transit Hotline since it became operative in late September.

Responding to Councilmember McIntyre, Transit Director Whittle explained that an average of 22 people ride each bus on Line 5 which is about half a bus or the minimum standard for a fixed route system. Transit Business Manager Chaparyan explained that staff proposed to add five additional minutes between buses to give bus operators more break time.

Responding to an inquiry from Councilmember McIntyre, Transit Director Whittle indicated that most students at El Camino College did not ride Line 5.

Councilmember Scotto recalled that when the elimination of Line 4 had been proposed several years back, staff indicated that the mileage was needed to apply for grants. Transit Director Whittle stated that Line 4 had not been previously eliminated because residents would have been left without service, but now since Beach Cities Transit will be taking over the route, service will be doubled and Torrance can save money.

Councilmember Scotto commented that he rarely saw riders on Line 4 and Transit

Director Whittle agreed that was difficult territory for buses.

Councilmember Scotto acknowledged the tremendous amount of work staff had done in revising the system and expressed concern with the elimination of the transit terminal and the distance between connections.

Transit Director Whittle stated that transfer activity had been monitored and the revised routes had mitigated 98% of the activity. Councilmember Scotto pointed out the difficulty for some people in walking the long block from one bus to connect to another and Transit Director Whittle suggested that could be addressed by looping the mall which would take 5 minutes at \$1 per minute.

Councilmember Scotto stated that it was not fair to make changes if riders do not have a way to get from one bus to another and he asserted that sometimes decisions should not be made on how much things cost but on how people can be better served. He noted that Councilmembers have to worry about the people who are affected by the judgments they make.

City Manager Jackson pointed out the connections available between Madrona and Hawthorne along Carson and he noted that the Carson corridor is much closer to where people want to walk than the far north end of the mall where the old service center was. He also pointed out other methodologies for transporting individuals with disabilities such as the senior ride program.

Councilmember Scotto observed that with only 16 senior rides available, people would use the bus as much as possible.

City Manager Jackson indicated that adding an additional loop would be an enhancement of service levels and would require a budget allocation.

Councilmember Scotto proposed that Line 6 go around the mall once before terminating at Madrona and Carson since it has to go down the street and turn around anyway and City Manager Jackson indicated that the loop could be explored as a way of offsetting, but that would preclude increasing the frequency of Line 6 to full day service.

Transit Director Whittle pointed out that Lines 1 and 6 were both in that situation and he suggested that less frequent service in mid-day could provide the needed service hours to add the loop. He requested time to explore the alternatives and Councilmember Scotto expressed support for looping the mall during peak times.

City Manager Jackson stated that service would be enhanced for a few, but in the long run the number of individuals served would be reduced and he recounted the lack of participation when the shuttle program was instituted at the time the malls merged. Councilmember Scotto suggested that the shuttle should have been a fun ride that people wanted to use and Mayor Walker pointed out that they were dealing with an enclosed mall.

Councilmember Witkowsky asserted that ridership for Line 5 could be increased if buses ran more frequently and she suggested that SCROC and El Camino College could help with outreach to spread the word. She noted that issues of traffic and pollution would be addressed by additional ridership and asked that increased frequency be explored on a trial basis.

City Manager Jackson pointed out that would be a budget enhancement rather

than a realignment such as is currently being considered and he suggested that further information could be brought back on costs to implement such a program at a later date. He pointed out that even with increased patronage the program must be subsidized and Councilmember Witkowsky supported finding funding for increased participation in public transit which she felt to be the wave of the future.

Responding to Mayor Walker, City Manager Jackson suggested the Council move forward with the proposal and the modification related to the routes as staff needs direction in order to move forward to meet deadlines. He added that additional service for El Camino would have to be determined at a later date as financial information is developed and Mayor Walker asserted that he would like to see an intensive study conducted before having a loop around the mall.

City Manager Jackson suggested that the numerous requests to enhance service on Line 6 and employee organization concerns about position reductions caused by a change in the system could be achieved by increasing service on Line 6 which will result in retaining the positions. Implementing the loop would preclude the expansion so he suggested following the recommendation, going shy one permanent position at this time and returning at a later date with the loop element or the enhancement of Line 6 and adding a position at a later date.

Transit Director Whittle clarified that Councilmember Scotto was not talking about a loop, but rather extending their run which would be substantially less expensive.

Councilmember Lieu questioned whether modifications to Line 3 made it harder to get to City Hall and the Cultural Arts Center and Transit Director Whittle reported that more people wanted to go to Harbor UCLA than to City Hall.

Responding to Councilmember Scotto, Transit Director Whittle indicated that the next version of the schematic would include the Max buses.

Greg Ferguson, Secretary for AFSCME Local 1117, commented that the proposed changes reduce services rather than improve them and he expressed concern with changing to 70 minute service on Line 5. He asserted that changes to Line 5 would compound the parking issues in North Torrance that had come before the Council a few weeks ago and he added that since transit funding is based on total mileage of buses, these cuts would potentially cut funding.

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that only one out of 55 public comments agreed with the changes and he expressed concern with the loss of local control over Line 4 and the reduction of 80 hours which equates to two full time operator positions. He questioned whether those operators would be reassigned or if they would come from relief bus drop rider positions or relief employees and asked the Council to address the concerns of passengers and drivers by not approving the modifications. He reported that representatives from the City Manager's office had met about the impact of the proposal and several questions and concerns which were raised during the 90 minute meeting have still not been addressed.

Mr. Ferguson requested that Line 6 run six days per week with 40 minute service to provide North Torrance with better service, school trippers be added to Line 3 to address overloaded buses and he suggested a bus route between senior centers.

Chris Wright, Merrill Street, indicated he attends West High and he suggested establishing a website to facilitate carpooling to El Camino College and SCROC.

Pamela Morgan, Lincoln Avenue, appreciated learning that it costs \$1 per minute to run a bus and asked that a new map with all the routes in Torrance be produced to help riders with the changes. She pointed out that not every disabled person is a senior noting that many people are in a temporary disabled situation and have to rely on public transit and weather conditions can make long waits between buses difficult. She pointed out the importance of Line 5 for its proximity to grocery stores and because it has so many connections and she asked that service be increased.

Melissa Cortado, Transit Operator with the City of Torrance, suggested adding an extra bus to the clockwise side of Line 5, which she has driven for two and a half years, to provide 40 minute service on each side. She related that she has driven eight hours with no break and service should be enhanced, not decreased. She pointed out that it was hard on the public and the drivers and would be a big disservice to El Camino College students to run buses every 70 minutes and she stressed the importance of serving people noting that she has ridden public transport and knows that it can be difficult with adverse weather, accidents and trains that can affect the schedule.

City Manager Jackson explained that the El Camino loop was separate from the adjustments to the system and the intent was to enhance employee breaks. He agreed to keep service the same with more information brought back at a later date analyzing adding another bus.

Responding to Councilmember Scotto, Transit Director Whittle clarified that the current schedule for Line 5 is 65 minutes and they had proposed adding five minutes for operator breaks only on the clockwise side which did not have any budgetary impact.

Terisa Price, Feldbar, indicated that she is the Transit Manager for Beach Cities Transit, Chair of the COG Transit Working Group and the Chair of the MTA South Bay Service Sector Governments Council. She commended staff for their work noting that they had formulated the best workable situation without a transit terminal and she reported positive public feedback since the announcement of their proposal to implement service in the Hollywood Riviera, and specifically with the fact that improved service will be provided with buses traveling in both directions.

Alan Lee, AFCSME Local 1117, pointed out that although it had been reported that 15 calls were received on the hotline, it was important to consider the many calls that came in through the direct line as well. He agreed with Councilmember Scotto's comment that the focus should not be on how much something costs, but on how right it is and Mr. Lee added that the role of government is to stand up and speak up for those who can not speak up for themselves. He asserted that historical perspective was important and he observed that the Council had invested a large amount of money and resources at the top level but is currently proposing cuts which would eliminate two bus operator positions.

Mr. Lee agreed with the elimination of Line 4 but questioned the plan for those transit operators who will be impacted and he indicated that the department had again failed to meet and confer. He related that a judge had ruled that the transit department had acted improperly when they modified a line at the request of Councilwoman Janice Hahn without consideration of how it affected the bus operator and without meeting and

conferring.

James Mohammed, Transit Department, Local 1117, received clarification that no changes were planned for line 5 and he suggested that another bus be added to Line 9 rather than simply extending service as there will be a demand for an additional bus within six months. Mr. Mohammed suggested that transit management be required to ride buses to get the feel of the system in order to sensitively address rider and driver issues.

Councilmember Scotto suggested that Line 9 stop in front of the San Rafael trailer park and he received assurance from Transit Director Whittle that the exact stops had not been determined yet and if a demand was identified for another bus on Line 9 the City could add that bus by the next day.

City Manager Jackson reiterated that changes would be evaluated after a period of time to measure effectiveness.

Responding to Councilmember Lieu, City Manager Jackson explained that changes were being proposed to address the loss of the facility at the north side of the Del Amo Mall and route modifications were proposed to provide better service. He added that enhanced service on Line 6 could absorb the bus operator positions that would be impacted by the modifications or they would be reallocated to other services until absorbed by turnover of personnel.

Councilmember Nowatka received clarification that there was a commitment not to lay off those people, but without changes to Line 6 or the loop, two positions would be reduced in the system. He added that he had also expressed concerns about the lack of a transit station, had taken heat for supporting South Bay Council of Government's (COG) position and he still felt a transit station was necessary.

Charles Deemer, Talisman, questioned what happened to Prop A money that was being refunded to the system and City Manager Jackson explained that the money would come back to the City with restricted uses for the Council to consider. He added that since the money is a capital reimbursement and a single one-time amount of funds, it would not be appropriate for use to fund an ongoing operation.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation with no changes made to Line 5, but a plan to return to the Council at a later date with the possibility of increasing service on the clockwise portion of the route; monitoring of activity on Line 9 with additional service added if it becomes overloaded; midday service added on Line 6; the possibility of extending routes around the mall area explored to limit passengers walking to transfer points with staff returning at a later date with recommendations; and adding MAX bus lines to the Torrance Transit System Maps.

City Manager Jackson requested that enhancements at the mall be held for consideration at a later date and Councilmember Scotto clarified that he was not requesting implementation now but that information be brought back.

City Manager Jackson clarified that Line 6 enhancements would be implemented to help staff understand personnel requirements and Mayor Walker pointed out that enhancements to line 6 would protect employees.

Responding to City Manager Jackson, Councilmember Scotto clarified that he was

proposing to leave Line 5 as it is and City Manager Jackson indicated that staff would return at a later date with a separate report on what costs would be involved with enhancing service.

Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

Mayor Walker called a recess from 9:24 p.m. to 9:44 p.m.

The City Council and Redevelopment Agency convened in joint session.

11d. WATER ENTERPRISE FUND LOAN TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1511 CRAVENS AVENUE

Recommendation of the **Redevelopment Agency staff** and the **City Manager** that City Council approve a \$2,750,000 loan from the City's Water Enterprise Fund to the Redevelopment Agency to fund the purchase of property located at 1511 Cravens Avenue. **(Companion to Redevelopment Agency Item 4A)**

City Manager Jackson reported that the Redevelopment Agency had the right of first refusal to certain properties in the Redevelopment areas and the Old City Hall at 1511 Cravens Avenue has become available and that the City is considering imposing implementation of the first right of refusal to purchase it at the offering price, but certain issues have arisen.

City Attorney Fellows indicated that some of the documents for the Agency item 4a were not available until late Monday afternoon, and the City received a call that casts some doubt as to whether the existing escrow for 1511 Cravens is still open. He recommended the following action; authorize the City Attorney's Office to 1) Develop a letter expressing Agency desire to exercise the right of first refusal for the property located at 1511 Cravens Avenue as outlined in Owner Participation Agreement executed on December 1, 1981, provided that there is a current escrow open on the property and that the Agency's purchase would be subject to the same terms and conditions of that escrow; and 2) Take such further actions as may be necessary to preserve the Agency's rights with respect to this matter.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to authorize the City Attorney's Office to 1) Develop a letter expressing Agency desire to exercise the right of first refusal for the property located at 1511 Cravens Avenue as outlined in Owner Participation Agreement executed on December 1, 1981, provided that there is a current escrow open on the property and that the Agency's purchase would be subject to the same terms and conditions of that escrow; and 2) Take such further actions as may be necessary to preserve the Agency's rights with respect to this matter.. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

City Attorney Fellows suggested that the loan be approved and City Manager Jackson agreed noting that the funds could be moved back at a later date if necessary.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve the loan. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Councilmember Mauno).

Janet Payne, Engracia, expressed support for the preservation of the 1936 Torrance City Hall. She provided a file with additional information from the Torrance Historical Society archives noting that there are outstanding photos of the building being built and good photos after it was completed showing detail of the building which could be helpful for restoration. She offered the assistance of the Historical Society and thanked Doug Irving of the Daily Breeze for his continuing work with staff.

15. 2ND READING ORDINANCES

15a. ORDINANCE NO. 3562

Second and Final Reading of **Ordinance No. 3562** amending Section 61.6.32 of the Torrance Municipal Code related to Residential Permit Parking.

Mayor Walker excused himself and Councilmember McIntyre led the meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 3562

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AMENDING SECTION 61.6.32 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE
RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3562. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Mayor Walker and Councilmember Mauno.)

Mayor Walker returned to Council Chambers.

*

The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 9:53 p.m. to 9:54 p.m.

*

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16a. City Clerk Herbers reminded everyone that the City is currently accepting applications for appointment to various City commissions. She encouraged interested parties to contact the City Clerk's office for additional information and to attend commission meetings to see what the position entails. Appointments will be made during the January 11, 2005 City Council meeting.

16b. Councilmember Lieu extended prayers to Kathy and Mike Mauno during a difficult time.

16c. Councilmember Lieu reported traveling to Sacramento to lobby for a \$5 million grant application that the City has submitted and he noted that if the grant did not come through the City would try again in 2006.

16d. Councilmember Lieu wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

16e. Councilmember McIntyre invited everyone to the Silver Anniversary of the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning at 8:00 a.m.

16f. Councilmember Nowatka expressed Happy Thanksgiving wishes, hoped to see everyone at the Turkey Trot and he expressed concerns for the Mauno's with the illness in the family.

16g. Councilmember Scotto wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and expressed condolences to the Littlefair family.

16h. Councilmember Witkowsky wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hoped that the men and women in the service would be able celebrate overseas and return home safely.

16i. Councilmember Witkowsky reported that there were no speed limit signs on Ocean Avenue between Lomita and Sepulveda and City Manager Jackson agreed to look into the matter.

16j. Councilmember Witkowsky related that disabled parking is not available at the Ace Hardware Store on Palos Verdes Boulevard near Sepulveda and City Manager Jackson stated that he would investigate.

16k. Councilmember Witkowsky asked for a report on signal synchronization noting that there is a big problem going east on Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw after 3:30 p.m. City Manager Jackson indicated that was in the jurisdiction of Caltrans and Councilmember Witkowsky asked that synchronization around the Del Amo Mall during the holidays in the afternoons be examined as she felt it could be improved.

16l. Councilmember Witkowsky invited everyone to the menorah lighting service in front of City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on December 8 and she added that there would also be a candle lighting ceremony on December 14, the final night of Hanukkah.

16m. Mayor Walker wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving noting that he would be firing the gun that begins the Turkey Trot.

16n. Julie Randall, Torrance Blvd. manager of the downtown Torrance Antique Fair indicated that she had been unaware of the need for Council approval to hold the fair on the last Sunday in November and she expressed reluctance to cancel the event noting the importance of the fair for the vendors as this weekend is the only show before Christmas. City Manager Jackson explained that it was a condition of the current license that there be no fair on the last Sunday in November and he noted that the matter was not on the agenda and would require review with individuals affected in the downtown area.

16o. Sara Guyan, Gramercy Avenue, encouraged those watching the City Council meetings on television to come down to see the proceedings in person as the experience is more fun and one can see the whole picture.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Considered previously.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:04 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 7, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting in the Council Chambers.

Tuesday, November 30, 2004 will be a Council dark night.

** * Adjourned in memory of Ron Littlefair and
Retired Police Lieutenant Swayne Johnson * * **

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC

Approved on January 25, 2005

Kristi Callan
Recording Secretary

City Clerk of the City of Torrance