

January 22, 2002

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Messerlian, Nowatka, Scotto,* Walker, Witkowsky and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

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

*Councilmember Scotto arrived at 6:06 p.m.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under 16.a) Conference with Labor Negotiator; and 16.b) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.9 (c).

The Council reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cub Scout Pack #240, Graham Wood, Assistant Cubmaster.

The invocation was given by Reverend Lance, Seaside Community Church.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs 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 Nowatka and hearing no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs 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 Nowatka and hearing no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Nowatka asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Torrance Police Department CETA employee Joe Romero.

Mayor Hardison announced that memorial services for former Mayor Jim Armstrong would be held on Friday, February 1, at 2:00 p.m. in the James Armstrong Theater of the Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive. She noted that the public was invited to attend and as parking may be limited, overflow parking identified by "Event Parking" signs would be provided in County Court House north parking lot and in the Internet Connect lot located north of Civic Center Drive with a shuttle provided.

City Attorney Fellows announced that in closed session the City Council had voted 7-0 to join in an amicus brief - Eastburn v. Regional Fire Protection Authority, 4th District, Division 2, No. 2 Civil E029463 at no cost to the city. The subject matter raises issues regarding liability arising from fire dispatch calls.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. PROCLAMATION RE TORRANCE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (JAYCEES) WEEK

Mayor Hardison issued a proclamation declaring the week of January 20 through 26 as Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) Week in the City of Torrance to Stacie Webster, President of the Torrance Jaycees; Brandon LaVerne, Membership Vice President and Chairman of the Board; Rose Ann Chik, Management Vice President; and Jennifer Shinohara, Community Development Vice President and urged all citizens to recognize the importance of community service.

6b. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council

- 1) Review applications and make appointments to various advisory bodies; and
- 2) Confirm the Senior Club appointments to the Commission on Aging.

The following appointments were made by unanimous ballot:

- Airport Commission: Richard T. Browning and Linda G. Dozier
- Cable TV Advisory Board: Chet Craft
- Civil Service Commission: Marla Shwarts
- Commission on Aging: May C. Amemiya and Carol L. Dean
- Senior Club appointments confirmed for:
 - AARP - Ursel Nolte, SeaAire Senior Golf Club – Ted Doty and
 - Walteria Seniors Club - Charles Breaker
- Community Services Commission: Howard G. Orpe
- Cultural Arts Commission: Mary P. Miller and Ann Smisek
- Disaster Council: Herbert L. Kahn
- Environmental Quality and
- Energy Conservation Commission: Gavin H. Wasserman
- Library Commission: Rhett Bise (expires 1/15/2003) and Virginia M. Levanas
- Parks and Recreation Commission: William A. Cook and Morgan E. Tookey

Planning Commission: Gene Drevno and
Domingo Ottolia (expires 1/15/2005)
Traffic Commission: Ron Ogden and Jim Stadler
Water Commission: Deane W. Haddon

Mayor Hardison noted that vacant positions on the Cable Television Advisory Board, Community Services Commission and Traffic Commission would be re-advertised at a later date and encouraged those applicants who were not appointed to attend meetings of Commissions they are interested in serving on and re-apply.

City Clerk Herbers gave the oath of office to those commissioners present.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Witkowsky asked that item 7d be removed from the consent calendar for separate consideration.

7a. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 18, 2001

Recommendation

Approval of minutes of December 11 and December 18, 2001.

7b. MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2001

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of December 2001.

7c. CONTRACT EXTENSION RE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a contract extension with International Security Services, Inc., (ISSI) for transit security services for one year (February 1, 2002 through January 31, 2003) for an amount not to exceed \$123,408.72.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve Consent Calendar items 7a through 7c as written. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Item 7d was considered separately at this time.

7d. 2002 GRANT PROGRAM FOR NON PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council approve grant funding under the year 2002 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies to Behavioral Health Service (\$2,000), Being Alive South Bay (\$3,000), H.E.L.P. (\$2,500), H.O.P.E. (\$2,000), My Handi-Capable Reporter (\$2,000), National Council of Alcoholism (\$2,583), Pediatric Therapy Network (\$2,361), PROJECTouch (\$2,000), R.S.V.P. (\$1,000), Salvation Army (\$1,356), South Bay Children's Health Center (\$2,500), South Bay Post-Polio Support Group (\$1,000), Southern California Youth and

Family Center (\$2,000), St. Paul United Methodist Church (\$2,400), Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels, Inc. (\$1,300), for a total of \$30,000.

Councilmember Witkowsky stated that as a salaried employee of R.S.V.P. she would be abstaining from voting on the motion.

Mayor Hardison indicated that she serves on advisory boards for both H.E.L.P. and Pediatric Therapy Network, but as she is not a paid employee, she would be voting on the motion.

Councilmembers Messerlian and Nowatka reported that they are on the Salvation Army but would be voting on the motion.

Councilmember Cribbs noted that she also served on the advisory board for the Pediatric Therapy Network, but would be voting on the motion as she is not a paid employee.

Clark Adams, Chairman of the Community Services Commission, thanked the City Council for the increase in funding to the grant program.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve the 2002 Grant program as presented. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval with Councilmember Witkowsky abstaining.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STATUS REPORT

Recommendation of the City's Emergency Preparedness Team that City Council receive and file the status report on the City's emergency preparedness efforts.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reviewed the programs currently in place noting acceptance of the Torrance Emergency Preparedness plans by the State of California. She indicated that a public forum would be held in February.

Police Captain Besse stated that the three original objectives were to finalize the City's emergency operations plan; renew the department plans and conduct training. The City's Emergency Operations Plan went to the State Office of Emergency Services in November and was approved with minor corrections which will be incorporated with the final plan submitted to the Council in March. He reported on the development of new templates to assist departments in revising individual plans.

Captain Besse reported that various disaster exercises had been conducted including: a mock train derailment, a water distribution exercise and evacuation drill and he reported that there would be additional exercises and training in the near future.

Fire Department Division Chief Thompson reported that a threat assessment analysis had been conducted which resulted in meetings with chemical companies and hospitals regarding security enhancements, large scale medical emergencies and information sharing. He indicated that planning is ongoing.

Assistant City Manager Giordano indicated that the Emergency Preparedness Team had met with the Disaster Preparedness Committee of the Airport Commission, Federal Aviation Administration Safety and Security and FBOs regarding airport security.

Airport access has been examined and there will be changes to access with limitations on certain vehicle and pedestrian access and some gates being shut. Perimeter fencing and a significant lighting project to enhance airport security have been proposed.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that non aviation storage on airport property would be investigated and probably eliminated. She noted that the Emergency Response Plan had been in the works for almost 2 years and a complete presentation would be forthcoming.

In reponse to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison regarding the role of hospitals in a disaster, Chief Thompson explained that the general public did not always understand the importance of remaining in one place to be decontaminated and would travel unannounced to hospitals for decontamination. He stated that they were working to develop decontamination procedures at area hospitals and officers would be sent to assist.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that police officers would also be sent to hospitals to insure orderly care and agreed to provide an update on airport issues.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to receive and file the status report on the City's emergency preparedness efforts. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11b. CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR CAROLWOOD DRIVE AND SINGINGWOOD DRIVE

Recommendation of the City Manager and City Attorney that City Council continue the state of local emergency proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to continue the state of local emergency, proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

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The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 8:05 p.m. to 8:06 p.m.

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15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. City Clerk Herbers announced that a list of Candidate Forums is printed on the Torrance website at Torrnet.com or available at the City Clerk's office. The next scheduled forum is to be held by Southwood Riviera Homeowners on Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Calle Mayor Middle School with another one on Monday, February 4 by Southwood Homeowners at 7:30 p.m. at Anza Elementary School.

15b. Councilmember Messerlian raised several planning issues including procedures for floor area ratios (FAR) deviations, the ability to look at design as a factor for approval of new development as the City is built out and the issue of master planning the look and feel of corridors.

15c. Responding to Councilmember Messerlian, Mayor Hardison asked that an information item be given to Council along with the time frames for the Hawthorne Boulevard Corridor study.

15d. Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated Art Callan for winning a Western Access Video award for his Senior Scene program on Richard Peterson.

15e. Mayor Hardison announced a City Council Legislative Committee meeting on February 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room to consider statewide ballot measures and legislative policy.

15f. Jane Hall, 17700 S. Western, #103, commented on congestion and other traffic issues at various intersections on Western Avenue.

15g. Don Frane, Annrita Street, spoke in opposition to construction of a Veterans Memorial.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Items under the Executive Session were considered earlier in the meeting. Further detail on these items is contained in the agenda.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 5, 2002 at 5:30 p.m., for an executive session in the Council Chamber, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Tuesday, January 29, 2002 will be a Council dark night.

***** Adjourned in memory of former
Police Department employee Joe Romero.

Attest:

/s/ Dee Hardison
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on February 19, 2002

Kristi Callan
Recording Secretary

City Council
January 22, 2002