

March 12, 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 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, in Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

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

**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; 16.b) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation; and 16.c) Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator and Redevelopment Agency Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9 (c) and 54956.8.

The Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m., absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bruce Maass, Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop #310.

The invocation was given by Reverend Billy Song, Torrance First Presbyterian Church.

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

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka 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 Witkowsky and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka 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 Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

City Manager Jackson asked that item 7a be withdrawn from the agenda.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hardison announced a meeting of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee on Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Commissioner Scotto announced that the Veterans Memorial dedication would be held on Tuesday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the northwest corner of Torrance Boulevard and Maple Avenue.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 7a. was withdrawn.

**7a. MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2002**

**Recommendation**

Approval of minutes of January 8, 2002.

**7b. YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council accept and file the Youth Council Annual Report for 2000-2001.

**7c. CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT RE LABELLE-MARVIN, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

1. Approve a Contract Services Agreement in the amount of \$53,825 with Labelle-Marvin, Inc. to provide paving inspection services and perform materials testing services for the I-5 Residential Streets Rehabilitation, Phase 1 - Downtown Torrance (B2002-02) and Phase 2 - North Torrance (B2002-03); and
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said Agreement.

**7d. CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT RE NORRIS-REPKE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

1. Approve a Contract Services Agreement in the amount of \$60,000 with Norris-Repke to provide construction inspection services for the I-5 Residential Streets Rehabilitation, Phase 1 - Downtown Torrance (B2002-02); and
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said Agreement.

**7e. LEASE NUMBER DTFA08-01-L20809 RE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER AT 3115 AIRPORT DRIVE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Land Management Team that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a Lease by and between the City of Torrance and the Federal Aviation Administration for Lease Number: DTFA08-01-L-20809; approximately 2380 square feet of space in the Air Traffic Control Tower located at 3115 Airport Drive.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to approve Consent Calendar items 7b through 7e as written. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**9a. PARKING LOT CONFIGURATIONS**

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council:

1. Approve the conceptual parking lot and circulation configurations labeled Alternate A-1 and Alternate A-2; and
2. Direct staff to implement Alternate D (re-stripe) the existing parking lot in conformance with Alternate A-1.

Street Services Director Bell introduced Project Manager Wisz and Blake Mitchell of CBM Consulting Services.

Mr. Mitchell stated that CBM Consulting had been retained to develop a plan to improve efficiency of the parking area and provided background on the item along with a design analysis for the alternate plans. Numerous meetings with various departments were held to hear concerns and several plans were proposed with additional feedback from meetings with the City Manager resulting in the alternative now presented.

Mr. Mitchell reported that a parking structure had been considered but was determined to be cost prohibitive. He presented specifics for Alternates A-1 and A-2 noting that those options were the most pedestrian friendly with reduced speeds, drop off areas and parking oriented toward major uses and facilities. Costs for Alternate A would range from \$800,000 to \$900,000 and would include 430 parking spaces, landscaping, decorative paving, improved drainage and reduced conflicts with Torrance Boulevard with circulation drop off around the Plunge.

Alternates B-1 and B-2 contain 448 spaces and are not pedestrian friendly as people have to cross multiple aisles of parking to reach uses and facilities. The plan is also inconvenient in terms of circulation though it provides for beautification, reduced speeds, and bus parking along the police station frontage at a cost identical to Alternate A with the primary difference being that aisles are aligned east to west.

Alternate C is the least expensive plan at \$15,000 for striping improvements. The plan provides 409 spaces and some diagonal and parallel parking. Circulation would remain the same as it is today but speeds may be reduced and no changes to beautification or drainage and pavement are proposed.

Alternate D would provide a low cost (\$70,000) look at either Alternate A-1 or B-1 under actual traffic, parking and pedestrian conditions.

Mr. Blake stated that there was a lack of funding for the preferred alternative with approximately \$100,000 budgeted for the project and Alternative D was affordable and could be reexamined in a year.

Councilmember Witkowsky received clarification that the intention was to leave handicapped parking spaces where they are currently located.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Street Services Director Bell explained that implementation of Alternate D could be accomplished by City staff in approximately one month.

Mayor Hardison observed that Alternate C gained additional parking but did not provide a plan for the long term and Street Services Director Bell noted that sidewalks and landscaping from the original concept three years ago would be eliminated by parking spaces.

City Manager Jackson indicated that a primary difference between Alternates A and C was a change in direction of the parking behind the library. Alternate A-1 is more functional as it directs pedestrians to walk down rows rather than having them walk across parked cars to get to the library.

Councilmember Walker commented that Alternates B and C would be inconvenient and compound the problem with a greater problem. He stated that Alternate D with A-1 striping would be relatively inexpensive and provide a look into the future.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto regarding the differences between Alternate D with the A-1 striping or B-1 striping, City Manager Jackson explained that although B-1 striping provided an additional 18 spaces, the benefit was offset by the inconvenience of having to cross all the rows. Councilmember Scotto indicated he would support Alternate D with A-1 re-striping.

Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated the consultant and staff for creating a pedestrian friendly design, noting that she had learned about pedestrian friendly cities while attending a conference on livable communities. She hoped there would be money to build a parking structure in the future and stated that she would be supporting Alternate D with A-1 striping.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Witkowsky, Street Services Director Bell noted proposed crosswalk locations and City Manager Jackson indicated that stop signs and striped crosswalks would be installed as part of the striping plan to provide a more defined area for pedestrians.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, Street Services Director Bell indicated that curbs between the rows would have to be removed and the parking lot would be slurry sealed and reconfigured to option A-1.

Mayor Hardison expressed support for Alternate D with A-1 striping as it provided an inexpensive way to evaluate the plan and reported that she had walked from the Japanese Garden to City Hall with 60 first and second graders and it was tricky to plan a safe route.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation and direct staff to implement Alternate D (re-stripe) in conformance with Alternate A-1. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

## **11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **11a. 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.

Planning Manager Isomoto reported there was no movement on the slope and no interaction with homeowners. He added that staff had monitored water levels and there has been no change in the ground water levels for the past 6 months.

**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 a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

### **11b. ORDINANCE NO. 3511**

Recommendation of the Civil Service Administrator and the Civil Service Commission that City Council adopt an Ordinance amending the Torrance Municipal Code to provide certification of five names when filling division head positions from promotional eligible lists.

Human Resources Analyst Lee provided a brief summary on the item.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3511**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.17.2 AND SECTION 14.17.3 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF NAMES CERTIFIED FROM OPEN COMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY LISTS.**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3511. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**14. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING ORDINANCES**

**14a. ORDINANCE NO. 3510**

Second and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 3510 approving a Zone Change from C-3 (Solely Commercial) to R-3 (Limited Multiple Family Residential).

**ORDINANCE NO. 3510**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2700 BORDER AVENUE FROM C-3 (SOLELY COMMERCIAL) TO R-3 (LIMITED FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZON01-00002: SEPULVEDA ESTATES LLC / RICHARD GOULD**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Walker moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3510. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

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The Torrance Redevelopment Agency reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

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**15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**15a.** City Clerk Herbers invited staff and the public to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member Candy Paula on display in the City Clerk's office through the end of March.

**15b.** Councilmember Nowatka congratulated newly elected members of the Council and the Mayor-elect Walker.

**15c.** Councilmember Scotto congratulated the Torrance Firefighters Association on their successful spaghetti dinner on Saturday night.

**15d.** Councilmember Scotto commented on the Peanut Gallery performance at the Armstrong Theater and encouraged parents to take their children to the theatre.

**15e.** Councilmember Scotto reminded everyone again to attend the dedication of the Veterans Memorial on Tuesday, March 19 at 1 p.m. at the northwest corner of Torrance Boulevard and Maple Avenue.

**15f.** Councilmember Walker thanked the voters of the City of Torrance for electing him Mayor.

**15g.** Councilmember Witkowsky remarked that Councilmember Nowatka was brilliant as the Undertaker in "Our Town".

**15h.** Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated the new councilmembers and the new mayor and indicated how much she would miss Mayor Hardison and the outgoing councilmembers.

**15i.** Mayor Hardison concurred with Councilmember Scotto's Peanut Gallery comments and noted that it was her experience that those events usually sold out. She observed that the programs provided a variety of entertainment for young children and were a great way to introduce them to culture.

**15j.** Mayor Hardison congratulated the winners in the recent election. She noted that the efforts to achieve a higher voter turnout by keeping the municipal election on a primary election did not appear to have achieved those results as voter turnout was not much higher than eight years ago.

**15k.** Joni Gang, Friends of Torrance Animals, read this statement into the record:

"This is in response to the letter to the editor (Monday, March 11) regarding the impact of the animal control issue on the city council election. I was gratified throughout the campaign by candidates' comments on animal control. All of the candidates worked hard, spending an enormous amount of time - and, in most cases, money - in an earnest effort to serve the community.

I attended several candidates' forums, and admired their willingness to speak extemporaneously in so many public forums. Some candidates, perhaps, did more "homework" than others, on a variety of issues; but they should all be commended for their work and enthusiasm.

Friends of Torrance Animals invites residents who are interested in working cooperatively with our new Council for effective animal control, responsible pet ownership, and humane treatment of animals in our community to contact us and learn more about our educational efforts and programs. As a non-profit organization, we also welcome tax-deductible donations. Residents can leave a message at (310) 754-6007, extension 1017, e-mail us: [FTA@onebox.com](mailto:FTA@onebox.com), write to us at P.O. Box 10123, Torrance, CA 90505, or visit our website, [www.friendsoftorranceanimals.org](http://www.friendsoftorranceanimals.org). Thank you."

At 8:00 p.m. the City Council recessed to Closed Session to continue consideration of items listed under 16 Executive Session, absent Councilmembers Cribbs and Messerlian.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting with no formal action having been taken.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:26 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 19, 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.

Attest: /s/ Dan Walker  
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Mayor of the City of Torrance

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

Approved on April 9, 2002