

August 13, 2002

**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 5:30 p.m. on August 13, 2002, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

17. 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 17.a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation; 17.b) Public Employees Performance Evaluation – City Manager and City Attorney; and 17.c) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9 (b) 54957 and 54956.8.

The Council reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember McIntyre.

The invocation was given by Rabbi Yisroel Hecht, Chabad of South Bay.

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 Scotto and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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 Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

Mayor Walker reported that at approximately 5:45 a.m. a devastating explosion occurred in the 20900 block of Tomlee Avenue. The City Manager acting in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, declared a state of local emergency and has asked

that the City Council ratify the declaration. In order to make immediate action on an item not on the agenda, California Government Code 54954.2(b)(2) requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of Council that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda on August 8.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to add item 11e to the agenda in order to take action on matters pertaining to the state of local emergency. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Item 11e was considered out of order at this time.

11e. STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR 20900 BLOCK OF TOMLEE AVENUE

Recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney that City Council ratify the proclamation of the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, declaring the existence of a state of local emergency, issuing Rules and Regulations and appropriating \$85,000 to the City Manager's budget.

Mayor Walker indicated that he was proud of the response of the City's Fire and Police Departments and of the impacted neighborhood residents looking after each other.

Acting Fire Chief Thompson reported that an explosion in a single story three-bedroom house that was being fumigated injured five people. Although there was a natural gas shut off at the meter, a leak at the supply side caused the tent to fill with natural gas with the probable source of ignition being the fans used to spread the fumigant.

Acting Fire Chief Thompson commented that residents and emergency personnel demonstrated excellence in teamwork and attitude and he thanked the Redondo Beach Fire Department for assistance. Earlier in the year a disaster plan was brought forward for adoption and it worked well in the field and at the operations center on this occasion.

Police Chief Herren reported that police officers were at the scene of the explosion immediately to assess damages and look for injuries and they called for assistance and notified fire and police. Redondo Beach fire and police personnel responded as well and all available Torrance police officers were pulled in for the recovery effort. The City Manager was immediately notified and appropriately decided to activate emergency procedures. The Police Department secured the location and assisted with evacuation and continues to monitor conditions to ensure safety of all residents. The area is still contained with a perimeter and a command post to monitor everyone going in and coming out with proper identification required. Officers are on the site 24 hours per day for security.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto complimented the various departments involved on a well-coordinated effort and indicated that Building and Safety was mainly involved with disaster assessment. He observed that much of the damage was to windows, ceilings and garage doors as they were sucked into the homes. Of 40 homes that were inspected, 25% had significant damage with the interior of many homes showing extensive damage and large amounts of debris. Some homes were still livable and released back for use and 10 homes will require work to get them back into livable conditions in the coming weeks.

City Manager Jackson commended Mary Giordano, the Chief Manager of Emergency Operations, for her efforts and he thanked the City Attorney for his help as well. Steps were taken to declare the local emergency based on police department input and the Council is required to affirm the established rules for the specific impacted area.

City Manager Jackson indicated that he had also taken actions for follow-through and to secure the community itself including boarding up windows and doors and providing additional security personnel for the neighborhood for the next several days and he felt it would be wise to have a reserve for unknown expenses that could come up.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to affirm the Proclamation of Local Emergency and confirm the Rules and Regulations issued by the City Manager on August 13, 2002. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-95

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CALIFORNIA CONFIRMING THE ACTION OF THE CITY MANAGER ACTING AS THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND ISSUING RULES AND REGULATIONS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to adopt Resolution No. 2002-95. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to appropriate \$85,000 from the City's Economic Anomaly Fund for emergency expenditures. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated unanimous approval.

City Manager Jackson stated that information was available on the City of Torrance website (www.torrcity.com) and by calling (310) 618-2320 or (310) 618-2321.

Mayor Walker announced that supplemental material was available for item 6c at the back of the auditorium and City Manager Jackson asked that item 6d be withdrawn from the agenda, and reported that AFSCME had requested that item 7h be withdrawn as well.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of longtime City of Torrance employee James Lester Dunmeyer.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. INTRODUCTION OF KASHIWA EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Mayor Walker summarized the busy agenda of the Kashiwa Exchange Students staying with host families in the City of Torrance and introduced Torrance Sister City Association President Ray Roulette. Mr. Roulette introduced Keigo Arai; Junko Kobayashi; Shoko Koda; Chikako Kubota; Hiroko Nagai; Rai Nakanishi; Etsuko Takahashi; Miki Yamazaki; and Adult Leader Makiyo Doi who reported that her family had

been involved with the program for 15 years. Mayor Walker presented plaques to the students and photographs were taken.

6b. CERTIFICATE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH TORRANCE LITTLE LEAGUE MAJOR DODGERS

Mayor Walker presented a certificate of congratulations to Manager Tom Garnica and Coaches Gilbert Garnica, Randy Ozawa, Kirk Hatfield, and Takehiro Suzuki. Mr. Garnica introduced the coaching staff, volunteers, parents and members of the team including Kyle Brown; Brandon Denker; Timothy Garnica; Brandon Gomez; Charlie Gonzalez; Russell Ozawa, Kyle Petter; Yohei Suzuki; Konosuke Toida; Andy Westrem; and Ryan Young.

6c. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council review applications and make appointments to fill vacancies on the Airport Commission, Community Services Commission and Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

Mayor Walker explained procedures for appointments indicating that Councilmembers had reviewed the applications in detail.

The City Council made the following appointments by unanimous ballot:

Airport Commission: William Tymczyszyn	Appointment expires 1-15-2003
Community Services: Rod Guyton	Appointment expires 1-15-2003
Environmental Quality: Paul McCabe	Appointment expires 1-15-2003

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioners Guyton and McCabe.

Mayor Walker encouraged those who did not get appointed tonight to apply again in January when more openings would be available.

6d. PRESENTATION FROM THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Pulled from the agenda to be heard at a later date.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7h was previously removed.

7a. AGREEMENT RE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT I-24 Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Award an agreement with Catchcart, Garcia, von Langen Engineers for professional engineering services for the design of the Water Main Replacement Project I-24 (\$3,000,000) for an 18-month period in an amount of \$174,222; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7b. COMPUTER LOAN FUND APPROPRIATION RE SYS TECHNOLOGY INC PURCHASE ORDER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council appropriate \$40,000 from the Computer Loan Fund and approve a purchase order for the term August 14, 2002 through July 31, 2004 to SYS Technology Inc. of Cypress, CA, the approved vendor for the City of Torrance Computer Loan Benefit Program.

7c. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT RE CALIFORNIA CODE CHECK

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Building and Safety Director that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with California Code Check for plan review services on an "as-needed" basis, in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.

7d. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 53240 RE 2313 ARLINGTON AVENUE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 53240 for one parcel with 12 condominium units located at 2313 Arlington Avenue, which substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7e. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 52916 RE APPLE AVENUE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 52916 for one parcel with 13 condominium units located at 2511 Apple Avenue, which substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7f. RESIDENTIAL STREETS REHABILITATION PROGRAM CHANGE ORDER RE ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept a check in the amount of \$566 from John and Christine Anderson ("developer") and appropriate the funds to the Residential Streets Rehabilitation Program, I-5 General Fund; and
- 2) Authorize a change order in the amount of \$566 to contract C2002-112 with All American Asphalt in conjunction with the I-5 Residential Streets Rehabilitation, Phase 3 - West Torrance.

7g. PURCHASE ORDER RE ENGINEERS SALES-SERVICE COMPANY, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to Engineers Sales-Service Company, Inc. (ESSCO) of Los Angeles, CA, in the amount of \$28,688.42 for the sole source purchase of a Stainless Steel Control Panel for the El Retiro Sewer Lift Station.

7h. CONTRACT RE SUE SWEET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council authorize a contract in an amount up to \$28,000 to K. Sue Sweet to provide minute taking and transcription services at a rate of \$22/hour from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

7i. SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE APPROPRIATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council appropriate \$5,000 from the Security Improvements Reserve for purchase of goods for emergency preparedness.

7j. RENTAL FEE WAIVER RE EMPLOYEE VARIETY SHOW

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council waive the rental fees at the James Armstrong Theatre in the amount of \$1,200 for the City of Torrance Employee Variety Show.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to approve items 7a through 7g and 7i through 7j on the consent calendar. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. EASEMENT RE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council grant an easement to Southern California Edison ("Edison") for underground electrical supply systems and communications systems.

Assistant City Manager Giordano indicated that the item was a procedural matter to allow Edison to come on the property.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to grant an easement to Southern California Edison ("Edison") for underground electrical supply systems and communications systems. Councilmember Witkowsky 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 the City Attorney that City Council continue the state of local emergency, proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

Alan Martinez, 3211 Singingwood Drive, reported that when he moved into his house six years ago the area was considered very desirable and property values were increasing, but that has changed with 20 homes yellow tagged. Police had to vacate squatters who had moved in and several other homes on Carolwood were burglarized

with thieves using abandoned homes on Singingwood as a base. Mr. Martinez expressed concern that crime and vandalism would continue to increase and he asked for help from the Mayor and City Council.

Police Chief Herren indicated they were aware of the situation and have begun an outreach with neighbors in Country Hills for a neighborhood watch program with a meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 15. He added that an instance where a home was leased to an unsuspecting victim has raised the issue of other fraudulent activities that may occur.

City Manager Jackson stated that the City continues to be alert to the neighborhood and will work with Building and Safety to try to alleviate pressures occurring on the line.

Building and Safety Manager Isomoto reported that properties are still being monitored monthly with increased monitoring as the rainy season comes. Last winter homeowners covered the entire slope with plastic and that will be considered again this fall.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to continue the state of local emergency for Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Fred Beaver, 3016 Glenwood Circle, a member of the Environmental Control Committee of the Homeowners Association representing 200 homes, cited the responsibility of making sure that CC&Rs are binding and enforced. He felt that there were additional opportunities for the City to help with problems that can not be solved by homeowners alone and asked for leadership to provide coordination with other agencies. Mr. Beaver suggested being proactive rather than reactive noting that if something is not done now, more would have to be done later.

Mayor Walker indicated that the City was looking into finding a solution and City Manager Jackson stated that the City had made significant efforts but the size of the emergency is such that it does not qualify for external aid. The City has explored ways to address the problem and indications are that it is an isolated situation confined to the two streets and the center of the two blocks identified as the major slippage area. The City has explored ways to spread the cost of modifications and has sought consulting advice and strategies as a method of resolving the problem.

City Manager Jackson stated that the City Council was willing to participate in an assessment district to spread the cost of the repairs but there has to be movement by the homeowners themselves toward that. He acknowledged that it was difficult to figure out the right solution and noted that the City was waiting on resident follow-through to their actions.

Mr. Beaver reiterated that additional leadership was required and Mayor Walker responded that the problem was being worked on and suggested that he and a group of homeowners meet to try to work out a solution.

Mary Ritzk, 3124 Singingwood Drive, expressed concerns that the area was no longer a safe place to live. She asked the City to please fix the problem as there have been squatters and robberies that would not have happened if the hill was fixed.

Ray Petty, President of County Hills Homeowners Association, spoke on behalf of the organization noting he would like to attend the meeting with the Mayor. He expressed support for the City of Torrance citing the many good things done, but questioned why permits were granted in 1975-1977 on 50 feet of fill with underwater issues and land movement history. He asserted that someone in the past had dropped the ball and expressed sympathy to his neighbors that are sliding down the hill and are going to lose a great deal of money and stability. He requested an investigation of why that land was permitted to be developed with previously identified issues.

11c. RESOLUTION NO. 2002-94 RE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK

Recommendation of the Workforce Investment Network (W/N) Board and the Human Resources Director that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution to designate the Mayor of Torrance or his designee as the signature authority for the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Consortium with respect to the Federal H-1B Technical Skills Training grant and grant-related documents; and
- 2) Accept said funds if awarded.

Human Resources Director Winer reported that the Resolution was the culmination of many months of effort to design a program addressing shortages in certain healthcare occupations and she expressed excitement about the possibility of being awarded a Federal grant.

MINUTE MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved to concur with the staff recommendation. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-94

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DESIGNATING THE MAYOR OF TORRANCE OR HIS DESIGNEE AS THE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO THE FEDERAL H-1B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANT AND GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to adopt Resolution No. 2002-94. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11d. REPRESENTATIVES RE 2002 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council designate Councilman Paul Nowatka as the "voting delegate" and Councilwoman Pat McIntyre as the "voting alternate" to represent the City of Torrance at the 2002 League of California Cities Annual Conference.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to designate Councilmember Nowatka to serve as voting delegate and Councilmember McIntyre as voting alternate representing the City of Torrance at the 2002 League of California Cities Annual Conference. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Item 11e was considered earlier in the meeting.

11e. STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR 20900 BLOCK OF TOMLEE AVENUE

Recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney that City Council ratify the proclamation of the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, declaring the existence of a state of local emergency, issuing Rules and Regulations and appropriating \$85,000 to the City Manager's budget.

*

The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 8:26 p.m. to 8:27 p.m.

*

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16a. City Manager Jackson thanked all City departments for their response to the Tomlee explosion and thanked the City of Redondo Beach for their assistance as well.

16b. City Clerk Herbers invited everyone to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member Peg Simmons on display in the City Clerk's office during the month of August.

16c. Councilmember Lieu echoed Mayor Walker's comments about outstanding efforts by City staff in handling the Tomlee disaster.

16d. Councilmember Lieu announced a Community Forum on Homeland Security hosted by Congresswoman Jane Harmon and representatives of the Torrance Police Department at the Salvation Army, 4222 Emerald Street, on Thursday August 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Additional information was available at (310) 372-1600.

16f. Councilmember Mauno thanked AFSCME President Alan Lee for the invitation to attend the AFSCME picnic stating that it was a nice family event.

16g. Councilmember Mauno reported taking a recommendation from Councilmember Scotto to view damage at Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive with Building and Safety staff and he came away from the situation with the feeling that the Council needed to provide leadership. He indicated that he was ready to assist in any way he could.

16h. Councilmember Mauno reported viewing the Tomlee disaster site and expressed pride at the City's response to the situation.

16i. Councilmember McIntyre reiterated comments of the Council noting that she was proud of all the departments who came to together to handle the local catastrophe.

16j. Councilmember Nowatka reported that during his tour of the disaster area he had an opportunity to witness the gentle professionalism of City employees in helping families whose homes were destroyed.

16k. Councilmember Nowatka announced the Torrance Symphony Association's free concert in the Park honoring Torrance Police and Fire on Sunday, August 18 at noon in Wilson Park.

16l. Councilmember Nowatka indicated that he attended the opening of "South Pacific" at the Armstrong Theatre and encouraged everyone to attend.

16m. Councilmember Scotto toured the disaster site and was impressed with City services during the emergency. He was very grateful that there were so few injuries and extended sympathy to those people with injuries and damaged homes.

16n. Councilmember Witkowsky agreed with Councilmember Nowatka that "South Pacific" was an excellent production.

16o. Councilmember Witkowsky commented on attending the AFSCME picnic along with Mayor Walker and Councilmember Mauno noting that Assemblyman Nakano was also present. She congratulated Alan Lee on a great picnic with great food.

16p. Councilmember Witkowsky echoed previous comments on the Tomlee disaster situation and how the various departments calmly assisted residents.

16q. Mayor Walker expressed pride at the City's response to the Tomlee disaster and the efforts of all involved.

16r. Mr. Alan Lee, AFSCME, thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers Mauno and Witkowsky for attending the picnic noting that the employees were happy and pleased to have them there.

16s. Alan Lee commended the Streets department and the Police Communications Operators for their work related to the Tomlee disaster.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Considered earlier in the meeting.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:44 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 27, 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, August 20, 2002 will be a Council Dark Night.

**** Adjourned in memory of James Lester Dunmeyer ****

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

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

Approved on September 24, 2002