

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:33 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2000, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

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.

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Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda on November 16, 2000, information was received on November 20 and November 21, 2000, on two matters requiring immediate response from the City regarding the possible initiation of litigation. As a two-thirds vote of the Council is required to add items to a posted agenda, a motion was made by Councilmember Messerlian, seconded by Councilmember Nowatka, to add these matters to the agenda pursuant to Government Code §54954.2(b)(2) and 54956.9(c); the motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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Agenda Item 16 was considered out of order at this time.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:33 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(a), 54957 and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda and the aforementioned urgency items.

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:14 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Witzansky, Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department.

Reverend Don Shoji, Hope Chapel Torrance, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

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, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Scotto announced that the Transportation Committee would meet on Monday, December 4, 2000, 5:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Assembly Room, City Hall, to consider the taxicab ordinance.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. PRESENTATION OF 2000 COMMUNITY CHEMICAL PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Ms. Amy McLeod, Public Affairs Advisor for ExxonMobil, reported that Beach Cities CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) was selected by the Chemical Education Foundation to receive the 2000 Community Chemical Product Stewardship Award in recognition of efforts surrounding the Torrance Community Warning System awareness campaign. The award was presented to Mayor Hardison for display in the City of Torrance by Chief Bongard, Torrance Fire Department; Barry Gross, Torrance Unified School District; Joe Sokolik, Union Carbide Corporation; Sally Siemak, Dow Chemical; and Charlie Maguire, ExxonMobil.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FY 1999-2000

Recommendation

Recommendation from the Cable Television Advisory Board that City Council accept and file the Annual Report for 1999-2000.

7b. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT RE WATER SYSTEM STUDIES AND ANALYSIS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve an amendment to Contract No. C99-246 with Cathcart Garcia von Langen (CGvL)

Engineers that changes the firm's address and extends the term of the contract to December 13, 2001, for water system studies and analysis.

7c. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT RE SITE PLANNING STUDIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director and the City Librarian that City Council approve a Consulting Services Agreement between the City of Torrance and Sasaki Associates, Inc. for preparation of site planning studies to include the North Torrance Branch Library and the existing buildings at McMaster Park, for a total expenditure not to exceed \$9,870. City Council approval is required because existing agreements with this consultant exceed \$25,000.

7d. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS RE MIRAMAR PARK ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council allocate funds in the amount of \$24,450 for architectural design related to Miramar Park in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

7e. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT RE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS 1999-2000 ON NEWTON AND MADISON STREETS

Considered separately, see page 4.

7f. PURCHASE ORDER RE AIRLESS ROAD SURFACE STRIPING MACHINE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued in the amount of \$131,602.31, to SOPP Chevrolet Truck Center of Huntington Park, California, and transfer \$11,602.31 from the Street Services General Fund operating budget for the purchase of an hydraulically operated airless road surface striping machine.

7g. FY 1999-2000 LOSS ALLOCATION PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council approve the appropriation of \$364,362 from the Self-Insurance Fund for the following:

- 1) Disburse incentives totaling \$314, 362 to departments to reward their employees for having achieved savings in liability and workers' compensation costs.
- 2) Provide awards totaling \$50, 000 to field departments that reduced the number of workers' compensation claims in FY 1999-2000 by at least 15% as compared with FY 1998-1999.

7h. PURCHASE ORDER RE KATY GEISSERT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council authorize the purchase of shelving for the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library basement remodel for Bid #B2000-24. The anticipated expenditure is up to \$50,000.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7f, 7g and 7h. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Calendar Item 7e was considered separately at this time.

7e. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT RE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS 1999-2000 ON NEWTON AND MADISON STREETS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the plans and specifications, including Addendum No. 1 of Water Main Replacements 1999-2000 at Newton and Madison Streets;
- 2) Disqualify the bid of Southern California Underground Contractors, Inc. as not responsible;
- 3) Award a Public Works Agreement to Engineered Plumbing, Inc. on the basis of the lowest responsible bid of \$974,845;
- 4) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$48,743;
- 5) Appropriate an additional \$535,000 from the Water Fund Balance;
- 6) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said Agreement.

Councilmember Messerlian announced that he was abstaining from consideration of this matter as he lives in the project area and exited the dais.

Mayor Hardison stated that Item 7e was pulled from the Consent Calendar because there might be people in the audience who wish to speak on this matter. She noted supplemental material available at the meeting containing a letter from Jim Jackson of Southern California Underground Contractors, Inc. and a letter with attachments from their attorney

Engineering Director Burt advised that, having reviewed the documents included in the supplemental material in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, the Engineering staff had concluded that it was not in the City's best interest to award the contract and was recommending that all bids received on October 11, 2000, for Water Main Replacements 1999-2000 on Newton and Madison Streets be rejected.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to reject all bids. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote with Councilmember Messerlian abstaining.

Councilmember Messerlian returned to the dais.

9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9a. **CALIFORNIA RELOCATION ASSISTANCE LAW AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION GUIDELINES**

Considered out of order, see pages 7-8.

9b. **RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO ALLEY SOUTH OF 235TH STREET**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Planning Director that City Council review the proposed traffic calming measures to the alleys south of 235th Street between Maple Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard and refer the matter back to the Traffic Commission for reconsideration of the proposed turn restrictions.

Transportation Planner Semaan advised that, in response to the Council's request at the last meeting, background information regarding the proposed traffic calming measures for the alleys south of 235th Street was provided in the agenda material and noted that staff was recommending that the matter be referred to the Traffic Commission for further consideration.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced concerns that the proposed turning restrictions and one-way movement of the north/south alley behind the 7-Eleven store would severely limit access to the office building at the corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and 235th Street. She suggested the possibility of installing a remote controlled gate which would restrict access to the alleys to those people who live and work there.

Indicating that she concurred with the staff recommendation to refer the matter back to the Traffic Commission, Mayor Hardison related her observation that most of the problems are concentrated in the vicinity of the driveway/alley just west of the commercial development at Crenshaw Boulevard and 235th Street; recommended that additional traffic studies be conducted regarding the north/south alley west of Crenshaw Boulevard; and suggested that staff explore ways of separating commercial from residential traffic.

In response to Councilmember Messerlian's inquiry, Transportation Planner Semaan advised that, should the matter be sent back to the Traffic Commission, staff would take another look at the entire alley system in the subject area and conduct additional traffic counts to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures that have already been implemented.

Mr. Dennis Sebenick, tenant of the office building at 23505 Crenshaw Boulevard, thanked the Council for responding to his concerns and voiced his agreement with the recommendation to send the matter back the Traffic Commission, noting that he has several recommendations he would like to share.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to refer the matter back to the Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. DELETION OF CLUB REPRESENTATIVE RE COMMISSION ON AGING

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13.18.2a of the Torrance Municipal Code related to the Commission on Aging deleting a Club Representative (Torrance Adult Club) and adding a General Representative with the number of total representatives to remain unchanged at eleven.

City Clerk Herbers presented the staff report (per written material of record).

ORDINANCE NO. 3489

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 18 OF CHAPTER 3 OF DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3489. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN FOR THE 2001-2003 BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director and the City Manager that City Council approve a Community Outreach Plan for the 2001-2003 Budget.

Community Relations Officer Ghio noted that two community outreach meetings were held during the 1999-2001 budget process, thereby providing an opportunity for residents to offer input on the budget. She advised that staff was recommending that one community outreach meeting be held for the 2001-2003 budget; suggested two options for the location – Option 1: the Cultural Arts Center Meeting Hall; or Option 2: the Wilson Park Sports Center; and noted that displays, giveaways and refreshments would be offered at the meeting. She reported that staff was also recommending that an informal survey be conducted of Torrance residents and businesses and that a draft of the survey was included in supplemental material. She explained that staff had originally planned to mail the budget survey with the spring issue of *Torrance Seasons* but it was determined that this method would not meet the budget timeline and, because direct mailing would be prohibitively expensive, staff was recommending an alternate plan. The plan would include placing the survey in information racks throughout the City, setting up staffed tables at the farmer's market and other City facilities, and distributing the surveys via Commissions, homeowners associations, the Chamber of Commerce, and Torrance schools. She stated that, in addition, a City employee budget meeting would be conducted in January 2001 to give employees the opportunity to participate in the budget process.

Councilmember Messerlian expressed his preference for holding the outreach meeting at the Cultural Arts Center, pointing out that it was the more cost-effective option because it would not require a lot of staff and equipment to televise the meeting.

Noting that many events are held at the Cultural Arts Center, Mayor Hardison, echoed by Councilmember Scotto, indicated that she favored showcasing the new gymnasium.

Councilmember Cribbs stated that she did not have preference with regard to Option 1 or Option 2; however, she strongly believed that a second outreach meeting should be held in the North Torrance area, noting that the budget meeting held at North High in 1999 was very well attended.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the budget survey, and Councilmembers recommended that information be included explaining how much funding is currently allocated to each budget area and that respondents be asked to prioritize those areas in which they indicate they would like more money spent.

Ms. Ghio advised that the survey in the supplemental material was only a rough draft and that a second page of explanation will be added which will include a pie chart showing current expenditures and clarification that, because the City has a balanced budget, any increase in expenditures in one area requires a corresponding decrease in another. She indicated that the survey would be resubmitted to Councilmembers for their comments before it is finalized.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to schedule two public meetings, one at Wilson Park and the second in the North Torrance area, with dates to be determined; and to approve an informal survey. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider Tuesday, December 26, 2000 and January 2, 2001 as a Council Dark nights.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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At 8:12 p.m., the Council met as the Redevelopment Agency, and Item 9a was considered concurrently with Redevelopment Agency Item 4a at this time.

9a. CALIFORNIA RELOCATION ASSISTANCE LAW AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Redevelopment staff that City Council adopt by Resolution the proposed City of Torrance's Rules and Regulations for Implementation of the California Relocation Assistance Law and Real Property Acquisition Guidelines. These guidelines are identical to the proposed Redevelopment Agency's Guidelines. (Companion to Redevelopment Agency item 4A.)

Planning Manager Bihn reported that the current relocation guidelines are outdated and that the new rules and regulations would bring the guidelines into compliance with State law.

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA RELOCATION ASSISTANCE LAW AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2000-139. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmembers extended Thanksgiving wishes to everyone.

Councilmember Walker congratulated Councilmember Witkowsky on her 41st wedding anniversary.

Councilmember Witkowsky wished her husband a happy anniversary as well.

Mr. Alan Lee, President TME – AFSCME, extended Thanksgiving greetings on behalf of his group. He shared his frustration that some employees are working without a contract.

Mayor Hardison noted that the City was currently fact finding at the request of AFSCME.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 p.m., the Council recessed to closed session to continue consideration of items listed on the agenda. The Council reconvened in open session at 10:30 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 5, 2000, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.