

May 19, 1998

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a joint session with Torrance Youth Council at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 1998, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council members Cribbs, Lee, Messerlian, Nakano, O'Donnell\*,  
Walker and Mayor Hardison.

\*absent from joint session with Youth Council.

Absent: None.

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

During the joint session with Youth Council, reports were made on Youth Council activities and concerns including the 24-Hour Relay, Multi-Cultural Fair, Teen Center, Skateboard Park and Teen Web Site; and suggestions were made which included possible future interaction between the Youth Council, the Community Services Commission, as well as the City Manager's office to develop programs.

At 6:53 p.m. Council recessed, and the City Council meeting reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:06 p.m. for regular business.

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2. **FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Art Callen, a member of the Commission on Aging.

City Clerk Herbers gave the invocation for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Councilwoman 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 Councilman Messerlian and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman 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 Council member the right to demand

the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian, and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**City Yard Open House - Public Works Week**

Saturday, May 30, 1998, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
20500 Madrona Avenue

**Finance and Governmental Operations Committee**

Tuesday, June 2, 1998, 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Subject: 3rd Quarter Budget Review/Council Seniority Issues

**Transportation Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 11, 1998, 5:30 p.m.  
Third Floor Assembly Room  
Subject: Discussion of Taxicab License

City Clerk Herbers reminded voters that there will be a Primary Election on June 2, 1998, and announced that requests for Absentee Ballots must be received at the County Recorder's office by May 26th and returned by the close of the polls on June 2nd. She advised that the City Clerk's office will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to assist voters.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **PROCLAMATION RE "MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the weekend of May 22 through May 25, 1998 as "Memorial Day Weekend" in the City of Torrance to Larry Fritzen, Commander, Torrance Chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 11045. Mr. Fritzen urged everyone to commemorate our servicemen by giving generously to veterans who will be distributing Buddy Poppies during Memorial Day weekend.

6b. **PROCLAMATION RE "PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 17 through May 23, 1998 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Torrance to Richard Burt, Engineering Director and Gene Barnett, Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Burt commended the approximately 600 City employees responsible for operating and maintaining the public works facilities and services.

6c. **PROCLAMATION RE "WORLD TRADE WEEK"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 17 through May 23, 1998 as "World Trade Week" in the City of Torrance to Penny Cornwall, Vice President, International and Cultural Affairs; and Richard Tsao, Chair International Business Committee, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, and committee members.

Ms. Cornwall invited everyone to attend the World Trade Exhibition on May 20, 1998, 5:30 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott.

6d. **PROCLAMATION RE "BIKE WEEK"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 18 through May 22, 1998 as "Bike Week" in the City of Torrance to Jill Crump, Planning Associate, Planning Department. Ms. Crump invited residents to participate in the statewide campaign to promote the benefits of bicycling, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

6e. **OLDER AMERICAN AWARDS FOR 1998**

Mayor Hardison presented 1998 Older Americans Awards to Anna Marcie Olson, recognized for her nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer service at Little Company of Mary Hospital and her service to the American Association of Retired Persons, Local Chapter #1878; and Margaret Hosler, recognized for serving the hospital in many capacities as a member of the Little Company of Mary Auxiliary since 1959 and for her volunteer work at AARP, Local Chapter #1878.

6f. **PROCLAMATION RE "YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DAY"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Wednesday, May 20, 1998 as "Youth Scholarship Awards Day" in the City of Torrance to Rhett Bise, President, and Peter Warner, incoming President, Torrance Coordinating Council. Mr. Bise noted that the Coordinating Council's scholarships are awarded to young people who volunteer their time and talents in service to the community and extended an invitation to attend the awards ceremony on May 20th at 11:00 a.m. at the Torrance Marriott. Mayor Hardison was pleased to note that her son, a past scholarship recipient, will soon be receiving his master's degree from a local university.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **1998 MOBIL GREEN TEAM SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council approve a revised budget in the amount of \$119,317 for the 1998 Mobil Green Team Summer Youth Employment Program

7b. **PRAIRIE AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Considered separately (see below)

7c. **PURCHASE ORDER RE SYS TECHNOLOGY**

**Recommendation**

The Information Systems Director, the Human Resources Director, and the City Librarian recommend that City Council increase the purchase order with SYS Technology by \$69,000 for the purchase of computers for the One Stop Career Centers and \$78,210.63 for the purchase of computers for the Civic Center Library for a total increase of \$147,210.63. It is also recommended that City Council increase existing software purchase orders as follows to accommodate additional software purchases necessitated by the proposed purchase of the new computers:

<u>Vendor:</u>	<u>Increase PO by:</u>
Network Associates	\$ 2,242.94
Software Spectrum	9,473.02
GST, Inc.	10,892.98

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a and 7c. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda Item 7b was considered out of order at this time.

7b. **PRAIRIE AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council:

- (1) Approve an agreement with CBM Consulting, Inc. for construction management services in the amount of \$166,840;
- (2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$8,342; and
- (3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to this agreement on behalf of the City for the Prairie Avenue street improvement project.

Ms. Marilyn Throssel, 3905 W. 176th Street, thanked Council and staff for keeping area residents informed and allowing them an opportunity to provide input during the planning of this project, and expressed appreciation for the beginning of work.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS**

9a. **FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 51504 RE 2108 WEST 235TH STREET**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council approve final Tract Map No. 51504, located at 2108 West 235th Street, which has met all conditions of approval of the tentative map and authorize the City Clerk to accept the street easement granted on the map.

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9b. **VACATION OF ALLEY SOUTH OF MARCELINA AVENUE**

Heard out of order as a related item to Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4A (see page 11).

9c. **RELINQUISHMENT OF ARTESIA BOULEVARD**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council approve the relinquishment of Artesia Boulevard between Hawthorne Boulevard and Western Avenue from Caltrans to the City of Torrance and adopt a resolution authorizing a Cooperative Agreement between the City and Caltrans setting out the terms of relinquishment.

Senior Division Engineer Perkins reported that, after several years of negotiations, Caltrans and the City have devised a Cooperative Agreement providing for the relinquishment of Artesia Boulevard (within City boundaries) to the City of Torrance; that relinquishment was pursued because Artesia was not being maintained properly and the City wished to operate and maintain this highway without the need to obtain the approval of Caltrans; and that the Cooperative Agreement must be approved by Caltrans in June, placed on the California Transportation Commission Agenda in June for their early July meeting, and with the Commission's approval funds of approximately \$5.4 million would flow to the City in the fall of 1998. He advised that a rehabilitation project is being programmed into the five-year capital improvement program currently under consideration.

Councilman Lee expressed the hope that median improvements can be addressed at the same time. City Manager Jackson advised that options are being explored to completely renew the entire length of the street.

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-57**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR  
TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
NO. 4314 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 98-57. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10. **POLICE / FIRE**

10a. **RENEWAL OF AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT**

**Recommendation**

The Interim Fire Chief recommends that City Council renew the City's ambulance service contract with Gerber Ambulance Service for an additional one year, to include:

- (1) Clarification/modification of allowable billing rates language;
- (2) A new fee schedule of billing rates; and

(3) A provision for Gerber Ambulance Service to provide billing services for the City if the City wishes to bill for expendable supplies used in the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Program.

Interim Fire Chief Thompson presented the staff report (per written material of record). He stated that the Fire Department has been pleased with the service Gerber Ambulance Service has provided in the past, and that this contract establishes one set fee schedule for all patient transports which will benefit the residents of Torrance.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council:

- (1) Accept and file the second Strategic Plan evaluation report;
- (2) Concur with the submitted preliminary work plan and time frame for the Strategic Plan renewal; and
- (3) Define members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

City Manager Jackson stated that when the Strategic Plan was adopted, the Council had emphasized that it was intended to be fluid document that's reviewed periodically to determine whether the overall thrust of the plan still abides, and with that in mind, Assistant City Manager Giordano and all the Departments had worked very hard to gather the information contained in the report to provide an overview of what has been accomplished in the last two years.

Mayor Hardison acknowledged City staff's efforts to compile the report, commented on the importance of evaluating the Plan on a regular basis; and suggested that the community be updated on the progress of the Strategic Plan and informed of the many accomplishments.

In response to Councilman Messerlian's inquiry, City Manager Jackson explained how the approximately \$95,000 in additional funding will be used to facilitate the third-year renewal process.

Councilwoman Cribbs voiced approval for the recommendation to consolidate the two committees involved in the original strategic planning effort into a single steering committee; stated that one of the major concerns of the Strategic Planning Committee had been that benchmarks be provided to assess the effectiveness of the Plan; and offered suggestions for publicizing the Plan's progress.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to accept the report; concur with the preliminary work plan and time frame for renewal; and concur with the recommendation defining committee members (to include two Council members, City Manager, Planning Director, Police Chief, Parks & Recreation Director, City Engineer, retail center representative (DAFC Merchants Assn.), small and large business representatives (Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce), two employee group representatives (one safety, one miscellaneous), two homeowner association representatives, Youth Council representative, TUSD representative, and Commission on Aging

representative). The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13b. **DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Recommendation**

The Finance Director recommends that City Council approve June 4, June 9, and June 16, 1998 as dates to conduct one budget workshop and two public hearings on the second year of the City's two-year operating 1997-99 City budget and the proposed 5-Year Capital budget.

City Manager Jackson advised that there will be a full presentation of the second year of the City's 2-year operating budget and the proposed 5-year Capital budget at the budget workshop on June 4, followed by public hearings on June 9 and June 16, 1998.

Mayor Hardison noted that two Council members will be absent from the June 16 meeting, and that formal adoption of the operating budget may have to be deferred to the June 23 City Council meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous voice vote.

13c. **OPPOSITION TO VEHICLE LICENSE FEE REDUCTION**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council adopt a resolution opposing the governor's proposal to reduce the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) over a five-year period.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine presented the staff report (per written material of record), and stated that the ramifications of this proposal are so detrimental to the City's budget that staff believes they should be brought to the public's attention.

Mayor Hardison stated that while everyone likes to have taxes reduced, residents need to be aware that if this legislation is enacted, City services may be seriously affected. She noted that the City faced this issue three years ago when the City lost property tax revenues to the State, and that these revenues, now totaling \$12 million, have never been returned.

Councilman Nakano commented that the elimination of the Vehicle License Fee would be at the expense of cities, and since most cities are still feeling the effects of the loss of property tax revenues, they can ill afford a reduction in this major source of income. He expressed outrage that Governor Wilson, a former mayor of San Diego, would be so insensitive to cities' needs.

Noting that this reduction in the license fees could save consumers a lot of money, Councilman Lee stated that he favored a wait-and-see attitude before taking a position on the issue to see if the State can ensure that local funding will be preserved.

Councilman Walker stated that he is not taking a firm position on this matter because while the idea may have merits, Governor Wilson's term will be ending soon and the next governor may not be inclined to keep the commitments this governor is making.

Mayor Hardison expressed her concern that although the State has a \$4 billion budget surplus this year to fund the fee reductions, once the surplus is gone another source of income will have to be found within the State's budget. She noted the State's poor track record of keeping its promises to replace lost funding to cities, and suggested that this proposal may be a ploy to improve Governor Wilson's image.

Councilman Nakano mentioned that this issue is a good example of why the League of California Cities is pushing for a Constitutional amendment to prevent the State from raiding city revenues.

Councilman Messerlian pointed out that when California voters approved Proposition 47, it specified that cities were to receive VLF revenues, and that the loss of these funds would be a tremendous blow to public safety.

Mayor Hardison commented on the City's commitment to public safety, and found it ironic that having recently been notified that Torrance's crime rate was the lowest throughout the area, with a 19 percent reduction, the City is confronted with the prospect of future budget cuts.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by a 6-1 majority roll call vote, with Councilman Walker dissenting.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 98-58**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE VEHICLE LICENSING FEE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 98-58. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by a 6-1 majority roll call vote, with Councilman Walker dissenting.

#### 13d. **FUNDING FOR TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**

##### **Recommendation**

The General Services Director recommends that City Council increase funding support to the Cultural Arts Center in the amount of \$130,000 by use of funding from the Park and Recreation Fund balance in the amount of \$80,000 and by use of Cultural Arts Center Fund balance in the amount of \$50,000 and additionally to increase appropriations by an additional \$100,000 from excess revenues over budget (i.e. fund balance).



General Services Director Tilden presented the staff report (per written material of record).

Councilman Lee stated that the Center is going to have to adhere to the ratios of no fee/reduced fee users to high revenue users as outlined in the original business plan that was approved a year-and-a-half ago because the City cannot continue to cover the large budget shortfalls incurred over the last two years. He voiced his preference that the Joslyn Gallery program be moved to the Cultural Services Division of the Parks and Recreation Department effective with the July 1 fiscal year.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Mr. Tilden provided information regarding users of the different facilities within the Center, and noted that the theater costs approximately \$190 an hour to operate and fees vary from \$30 to \$100 an hour.

Councilman Messerlian stated that he didn't want to leave the impression that the Council was only interested in the financial operations of the Center, because a price can't be put on the benefits derived from cultural activities, but the Council does have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that budget goals are met. He questioned whether the mission goals of the whole facility should be reexamined.

City Manager Jackson advised that the Center has been evolving into more of a community cultural center, a place where all sorts of groups in the community can display their talents and use the facilities, but in the process revenues have been affected as non-profit groups sometimes displace groups that would generate revenue.

Councilwoman Cribbs echoed her colleagues concerns, noting that even for profit groups using the theater are being subsidized by almost 50 percent. She stated that she would not object to revisiting this matter in the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee, and that if guidelines are established limiting the usage of non-profit community-based organizations, they should be notified way in advance so that they can make other arrangements.

Councilman Nakano commented on the value of engaging youths in meaningful activities as a means of crime prevention and pointed out that libraries and parks are kept open as a community service and their existence does not depend on being profitable.

Councilman Lee clarified his earlier remarks, stating that his concern is not that the arts are being subsidized, but that the Center's budget projections are not being met and funds are being shifted from the Parks & Recreation Department to provide additional funding, and that this will continue to be a problem until the reasons for this shortfall are determined.

A discussion ensued regarding whether this matter would be better dealt with by the Council's Finance and Governmental Operations Committee or the full City Council. Mayor Hardison expressed her reluctance to send the item back to Committee.

Mr. Tilden remarked that usage is up dramatically at the Center, and since the facility is very expensive to operate in terms of utility bills and maintenance, it has become of victim of its own success. Mr. Jackson suggested two possible ways of balancing the Center's budget, controlling the mix of the types of uses (i.e. non-profit/for profit groups) and raising rental rates.

Mayor Hardison requested that staff provide additional information so that the Council can better identify the issues and explore solutions.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendations on funding and to move the Joslyn Gallery program to the Parks & Recreation budget effective with the July 1 fiscal year; and requested an information item identifying all less than full price users to come directly to Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hardison.

Councilman Walker offered a substitute motion.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to concur with the staff recommendations on funding; to move the Joslyn Gallery program to the Parks & Recreation budget effective with the July 1 fiscal year; and to send this item to the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and was defeated as reflected in the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council members Cribbs and Walker  
Noes: Council members Lee, Messerlian, Nakano, O'Donnell  
and Mayor Hardison

The original motion was then voted on and passed by a 5-2 roll call vote, with Council members Walker and Cribbs dissenting.

18. **ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

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At 9:05 p.m., the Council met as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency.

Agenda Item 9b was considered in conjunction with Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4A.

9b. **VACATION OF ALLEY SOUTH OF MARCELINA AVENUE**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council approve and adopt a resolution declaring the intention to vacate the first alley east of Cravens Avenue from Marcelina Avenue to 140 feet southerly and setting June 16, 1998 as the date for the hearing thereon.

Mayor Hardison again noted that two Council members will be absent from the July 16 Council meeting, and Mr. Fellows advised that four votes are needed to take action, otherwise the matter will be deferred to the July 23 Council meeting.

.Mr. Matt Keegan, 1434 Marcelina Avenue, owner of Keegan's Pub expressed his desire to proceed with the outdoor dining expansion of his pub as quickly as possible, noting that the smoking ban has seriously hurt his business.

Mayor Hardison suggested that Mr. Keegan meet with staff following the meeting to discuss ways of expediting his plans.

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-56**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF THE ALLEY  
LOCATED SOUTH OF MARCELINA AVENUE AND EAST OF CRAVENS  
AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR  
THE HEARING THEREON AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION  
OF THIS RESOLUTION**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 98-56. The motion was seconded Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

At 9:14 p.m., the Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned and the Council meeting resumed in regular agenda order.

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19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. Councilman Lee thanked everyone who worked on the Armed Forces Day Parade and Observance.

19b. Councilman Messerlian requested clean up of the southeast corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard.

19c. In response to Councilman Nakano's question, City Engineer Burt advised that the work being done on Crenshaw Blvd. from 190th Street to Dominguez is expected to be completed by the latter part of July.

19d. Councilwoman O'Donnell commented that she enjoyed the Armed Forces Day festivities and congratulated the Police Department and volunteers for their work.

19e. Councilwoman O'Donnell announced the YWCA's yard sale to be held on May 22 and May 23 at the corner of Plaza del Amo and Carson Street.

19f. Mayor Hardison also thanked everyone involved in Armed Forces Day events including Parks & Recreation, Street, and Police departments.

19g. Mr. Marshall Mouw, Mayor pro tem, City of Glendora, speaking as president of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities asked Council for their support of Assembly State Constitutional Amendment 42, proposed for the November ballot, which would insert into the State Constitution a guarantee of a certain statewide base level of funding for cities from fees.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:21 p.m., pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.8 the Council recessed into a closed session to confer on matters listed on the meeting agenda.

Councilman Lee departed City Hall at 10:45 p.m. and did not participate in the Redevelopment Agency Items listed on the agenda due to previously stated reasons.

The Council returned to Council Chambers at 10:58 p.m., and no formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:58 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 2, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.