

June 2, 1998

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Cribbs, Lee, Messerlian, Walker
and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Council Members Nakano and O'Donnell.

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

2. **FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the North High School Army JROTC, Sgt. John Tucker, Commanding.

Rabbi Yisroel Hecht, Chabad of South Bay, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison noted the passing of longtime resident Roy Hickcox, a former police reserve officer and civil service commissioner, and requested that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

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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 (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

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 (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary

City Council
June 2, 1998

Mayor Hardison announced two addendum items (Request for Redevelopment Agency Closed Session) and (Request for Continuation of Public Hearing Re Time Warner's "Value Basic" Rate) and one additional item (Robert Cunningham v. Daryl Gates) to be considered later in the meeting; and noted supplemental material available at the meeting on Item 13a (Statement of Investment Policy).

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Finance and Governmental Operations Committee

Tuesday, June 2, 1998, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

Subject: 3rd Quarter Budget Review/Council Seniority Issues

Councilman Lee announced that the committee had met as scheduled and will be reporting back to the Council soon.

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 1998, 5:30 p.m.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Discussion of Taxicab License

Interim Fire Chief Thompson announced the testing of the Mobil Alert System siren on June 11, 1998 between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Hardison announced that a City Council Budget Workshop will be held on Thursday, June 4, 1998 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

City Clerk Herbers announced that the City Clerk's office would be open this evening until 8:00 p.m. to assist voters in locating their polling location.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **RESOLUTION NO. 98-59 RE ROBERT C. DETWEILER**

RESOLUTION NO. 98-59

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE HONORING AND CONGRATULATING
ROBERT C. DETWEILER UPON HIS DEPARTURE AS
PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
DOMINGUEZ HILLS**

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 98-59. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

Mayor Hardison noted that this resolution will be presented at a later date.

6b. **PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK”**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of June 7 through June 13, 1998 as “National Garden Week” in the City of Torrance to Gloria Jacobs, president; Beebe Moorhead, president-elect; and Mary Varieur, past president of the Riviera Garden Club. Ms. Jacobs displayed a resolution the Riviera Garden Club had received from the City in 1960, attesting to the club’s longtime commitment to the beautification of the Riviera section of the City; and noted the club’s involvement in the planning, development and continued support of Rocket Ship Park.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 5 AND MAY 12, 1998**

7b. **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY FOR APRIL 1998**

Recommendation

The City Treasurer recommends that City Council accept and file the statement of investment activity for the month of April, 1998.

7c. **REVISION OF 1997-98 JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT OPERATIONAL BUDGET**

Recommendation

The Private Industry Council (PIC) and the Director of Human Resources recommend that City Council accept and appropriate additional funding of \$2,634,934 and adopt the revised JTPA 1997-98 Operational Budget of \$10,115,670.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved for the approval of the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O’Donnell).

8. **LIBRARY / PARKS & RECREATION**

8a. **MADRONA MARSH NATURE CENTER**

Recommendation

The Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee recommends that City Council approve the selection of the firm of IQ Magic to develop the exhibits for the Nature Center at Madrona Marsh.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with the Committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O’Donnell).

9. **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS**

9a. **STORM WATER AND URBAN RUNOFF POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Recommendation

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council adopt an ordinance amending the Torrance Municipal Code by adding a new Chapter 10 to Division 4, enabling the City to comply with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Engineering Director further recommends that City Council approve the attached summary of the ordinance for publication.

Senior Division Engineer Wisz presented the staff report (per written material of record), and noted that this is the first of seven model programs that must be adopted as a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

Mr. Young, outside counsel from the firm of Burk, Williams, Sorenson, advised that the ordinance will help insure clean water and will be an important factor in protecting the City from liability for contamination that might otherwise flow through the City's sewers and storm drains.

ORDINANCE NO. 3452

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND CITY PROPERTY WITH RESPECT TO CONTROL OF DISCHARGES OF POLLUTANTS AND THE PROHIBITION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM BY AMENDING DIVISION 4 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 10, "STORM WATER AND URBAN RUNOFF POLLUTION CONTROL."

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3452. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to authorize the publication of a summary of Ordinance No. 3452. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by a unanimous voice vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

9b. **CONTRACT RE MAX COMMUTER BUS SERVICE**

Recommendation

The Municipal Area Express (MAX) Policy Steering Committee and the Transit General Manager recommend that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a contract with Coach U.S.A., Inc. for the provision of operations and maintenance services for the MAX Commuter Bus Service for July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2001 for a total agreement sum of \$2,009,870.94.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

9c. **PVEA TELECOMMUTING CENTER GRANT PROJECT**

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends that City Council approve the following items relating to the modification of the Petroleum Violation Escrow Account (PVEA) Telecommuting Center grant:

- (1) Approve the rescoping of the original grant from a telecommuting center to an audio and video teleconferencing project, known as South Bay Business Link (SBBL);
- (2) Approve the extension of the contract with Jacki Bacharach & Associates in the amount of \$128,000 to complete Phase II (implementation) of this PVEA grant; and
- (3) Authorize staff to request an additional PVEA grant from Assembly member Debra Bowen's office for approximately \$325,000 for continuation and implementation of the SBBL project for at least an 18-month period after the start-up period funded by the current grant.

Transportation Planner Buchman presented the staff report (per written material of record).

Commenting on the short amount of time he and the Council members have had to review the agenda material, Councilman Walker stated that the funds were designated for the purpose of reducing vehicular travel; that he could not support the general concept of this project and the funds would be better spent on something else; and suggested that the Chamber of Commerce could be encouraged to do this type of project.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Ms. Buchman provided clarification regarding Phase 1 of the grant, and explained that the goal of the project is to reduce trip lengths, or eliminate them all together, by providing an electronic link between resource organizations and small businesses that currently don't have that capability.

Mayor Hardison stated that she believes that sites such as the Small Business Development Center in Torrance, El Camino College Campus, and Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (PIC) would directly benefit small businesses in Torrance and that she would be supportive of this project going forward.

Responding to Councilwoman Cribbs' questions, Ms. Buchman explained the logistics and advantages of video teleconferencing.

Councilman Walker stated that he didn't want to imply that the \$22,000 spent in Phase 1 was wasted. He conceded that some of the sites may benefit the Torrance community, but questioned the value of the linkage to sites in Inglewood and Compton and the expenditure of a half a million dollars for technology readily available at every Kinko's.

Councilman Lee expressed his concern that with the rapid changes in computer technology, equipment purchased for these centers might quickly become obsolete; stated that he

hadn't had sufficient time to review the agenda material; and related his preference to continue this item.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to continue this item to the July 7, 1998 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

Councilman Messerlian requested that more detailed information regarding project guidelines and Phase II funding be provided by staff prior to further consideration.

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FY 1998-99**

Recommendation

The City Treasurer recommends that City Council approve the official "Statement of Investment Policy" and the adoption of a resolution.

City Treasurer Barnett presented the staff report (per written material of record) outlining the proposed changes to the Investment Policy, explained how the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) is utilized by the City, and requested input from the Council as to whether the maximum should be increased to \$30 million to be consistent with the maximum permitted by State law.

Councilwoman Cribbs expressed her reluctance to change the reporting requirement to semi-annual, stating that she prefers having the option of quarterly reports. Noting that she's very conservative when investing other people's money, she stated that she did not object to the 14-month limitation on time deposits but would recommend that they remain limited to those issued by a financial institutions rated in the upper 30 percent of their peer group and keeping the LAIF maximum at the current \$20 million.

Councilman Lee commented on past financial problems that occurred locally and in Orange County, and stated that although he agrees conceptually with investing City money in local banks, he believes it's prudent to stay with larger institutions. Referring to reporting requirements and the LAIF maximum, he stated that he sees no compelling reason to change the current system that's served the City well.

It was the consensus of Council members to approve as the only change to the Investment Policy, the not-to-exceed 14 months limitation on time deposits.

MOTION: Councilwoman Cribbs moved to direct staff to bring the revised item and the resolution back to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

13b. **APPROPRIATION RE SELF-INSURANCE FUND**

Recommendation

The City Attorney recommends that City Council approve an appropriation of \$400,000 from the Self-Insurance Catastrophe Reserve to the Tort Litigation Account to fund the settlement of two police matters.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

18. **ADDENDUM MATTERS**

18a. **CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION**

Redevelopment Agency Closed Session

(California Government Code 54956.8)

- (a) Property: 2130-2200 Abalone Avenue
Negotiating Parties: LeRoy J. Jackson and Tom Love
Under Negotiation: Sale and Purchase of Property

18b. **PUBLIC HEARING RE TIME WARNER'S "VALUE BASIC" RATE**

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that City Council continue the advertised public hearing on Time Warner's "Value Basic" rate (Tier 1) to June 9, 1998.

Cable Television Administrator Smith advised that Time Warner had requested a continuance of the public hearing to June 23, 1998, because additional time is needed to prepare an offer.

Mayor Hardison requested that residents who had registered concerns at a previous Council meeting on this issue be notified of the date of the public hearing.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to open and continue the public hearing to June 23, 1998. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

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At 8:10 p.m., the Council met concurrently as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency, and at 8:11 p.m., the Council meeting was resumed in regular agenda order.

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19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. City Manager Jackson thanked staff members who helped organize the Open House at the City Yard and commented on the number of new people in attendance.

19b. Councilwoman Cribbs thanked City Manager Jackson for the Open House and commented on the fun had by everyone as well as the pride of employees in being able to share their work.

19c. Councilman Lee commented that his three sons enjoyed the Open House and looked forward to next year.

19d. Councilman Walker commented on the win of the CSULB baseball team in the College World Series.

19e. Mayor Hardison congratulated all on the successful Open House at the City Yard and commented on the many dedicated and proud employees who were given their chance to shine.

19f. Mayor Hardison commented on the number of Torrance High School seniors in the audience and congratulated them on their upcoming graduation.

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Mayor Hardison stated that subsequent to the posting of the agenda, litigation issues regarding the case entitled Robert Cunningham v. Daryl Gates, CV 96-2666 JSL had arisen, and that the City Attorney had requested that the matter be discussed in closed session as authorized in California Government Code Section 54956.9(a).

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to add the item to the Executive Session listed on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Nakano and O'Donnell).

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20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:20 p.m., the Council recessed into a closed session to confer on the addendum items and items listed on the meeting agenda pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.8.

The Council returned to Chambers at 9:55 p.m., and no formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, June 4, 1998, at 5:30 p.m. to conduct a Budget Workshop.

***** Adjourned in Memory of Roy Hickcox *****