

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 1998, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Council members Nakano and Cribbs.

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 Civil Air Patrol Squad #107.

Reverend Richard Talley, First Christian Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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

MOTION: Councilman Lee 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 Cribbs and Nakano).

MOTION: Councilwoman Lee 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 Cribbs and Nakano).

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

City Manager Jackson reported that he had received a request from Mr. Arun Bhumitra, Vice President of Arjay Telecommunications, to defer Agenda Item No. 13a (Request for Proposal to Provide Digital Cellular Service) for one week.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Hardison ordered the matter deferred for one week.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Finance and Governmental Operations Committee

Tuesday, November 17, 1998, 5:30 p.m.

West Annex Commission Room

Subject: First Quarter Budget Review/Campaign Reform

Councilman Lee announced that the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee had met as scheduled for the First Quarter Budget Review and will be transmitting an item to the Council within the next few weeks, and reported that discussion of campaign finance reform was deferred pending action by the California Appellate Court on Proposition 208.

City Clerk Herbers announced that the City of Torrance is accepting applications for appointment to various boards, councils, and commissions through Wednesday, January 6, 1999, and that appointments will be made by the City Council at its regular meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. She invited interested citizens to contact the City Clerk's office.

In response to the many calls and letters received regarding the vacancy being created by Councilman Nakano's impending resignation, Mayor Hardison announced that the Council will be considering options and guidelines for filling the vacancy at the November 24, 1998, City Council meeting.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **AMENDMENT OF CONTRACT WITH ONLINE CONNECTING POINT**

Recommendation

The Information Systems Director recommends that City Council authorize an amendment to contract C98-127 with OnLine Connecting Point to change language in the scope of services and increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$27,983.12, for a total of \$33,448.12.

7b. **YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Director and the Torrance Youth Council recommend that City Council accept and file the Torrance Youth Council Annual Report for October 1997 through September 1998.

7c. **VICTOR E. BENSTEAD PLUNGE PILOT PROGRAM**

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that City Council approve the operation of the Victor E. Benstead Plunge on a year-round basis as part of a two-year pilot program and appropriate \$35,000 donated by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. into the Plunge operating account.

7d. **MADRONA DESALINATION FACILITY**

Recommendation

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council approve the tri-party agreement between the City of Torrance, the Water Replenishment District, and the Metropolitan Water District for the Madrona Desalination Facility.

7e. **POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPUTER SYSTEM SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Recommendation

The Police Department and the City Manager recommend that City Council approve an amendment to the Tiburon, Inc. agreement in the amount of \$41,386.14, for the continuing software maintenance services for the Police Department computer system.

MOTION: Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a through 7e. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and approved by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Cribbs and Nakano).

9. **TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC WORKS**

9a. **CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM**

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends that City Council:

- (1) Receive information regarding the proposed Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program goals, strategies and procedures;
- (2) Advise staff of the feasibility of traffic calming strategies;
- (3) Adopt criteria and process for applying for traffic calming consideration; and
- (4) Direct staff to implement the various components of the program as situations require.

Mayor Hardison noted supplemental material available at the meeting on this item.

With the aid of slides, Transportation Planner Buchman outlined the proposed Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, including the program's goals and objectives, the different types of traffic calming tools and strategies to be employed, the creation of an application process, and the criteria for determining which streets are eligible for traffic calming. She emphasized that safety is the prime concern of this program and that the program was designed to be flexible so that staff can analyze and apply the appropriate strategy to each situation as conditions warrant.

Responding to Councilman Messerlian's inquiry, Ms. Buchman advised that the agreement of at least two-thirds of residents in a neighborhood affected by traffic calming strategies will be required before they are implemented.

Mayor Hardison commented on the need to clearly identify objectives when residents seek traffic calming, noting that residents frequently talk about reducing traffic

speed and reducing traffic volume, and that these two issues do not necessarily go hand in hand. She pointed out that residents seem to tolerate neighborhood traffic better than cut-through traffic and that these two types of traffic may require different strategies.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry regarding the use of speed humps, Fire Chief Bongard advised that although he is concerned with anything that might hinder the Fire Department's response time, he does not believe it is necessary to prohibit their use as a traffic calming tool, and that the Planning Department has agreed to consult with the Fire Department when considering the installation of speed humps on a case-by-case basis.

Councilwoman O'Donnell related her understanding that the speed humps may pose a problem from a liability standpoint. City Attorney Fellows advised that the liability issue is fairly straightforward and nothing that cannot be handled by the City.

Mayor Hardison invited input from the audience.

Mr. Morgan Tookey, 4124 Newton Street, stated the Newton Street residents are very pleased with the program and believe that Newton Street is an excellent example of a street that can be improved by traffic calming techniques. He commented on serious traffic problems that continue to plague the area and commended Ms. Buchman for her efforts to identify solutions.

Mr. Chuck Boughton, 4039 West 175th Place, indicated that his neighborhood is impacted by cut-through traffic from Prairie Avenue and Artesia Boulevard and that he believes the new program provides an excellent way to deal with the problem.

Mr. David Brunnenmeyer, 20622 Annrita Avenue, voiced support for the Traffic Calming Program, noting that it will help further the goals of the Strategic Plan; pointed out that Torrance's proximity to freeways makes it vulnerable to cut-through traffic from the beach cities and the Palos Verdes Peninsula; and stated that it is important to keep this traffic on arterial and collector streets and out of residential neighborhoods. He expressed concerns that his street might not meet all the criteria for traffic calming and asked that requests be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Ruben Ordaz, 2231 Del Amo Boulevard, stated that vehicles frequently travel at 15 to 20 miles over the speed limit on his street, that it has been inundated with trucks ever since construction began on Crenshaw Boulevard, and that the truck traffic continues even though the project is completed. Mayor Hardison suggested that more enforcement may be needed.

A resident at 4022 West 242nd, Street, name inaudible, echoed Mr. Tookey's comments, stating that Newton Street would provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate traffic calming techniques.

Ms. Jacqueline O'Mara, 5404 Sara Drive, questioned the speed limits on Del Amo Boulevard and Henrietta Street and expressed concern for the safety of children in the West High area.

Ms. Buchman explained how streets are categorized and that speed limits are set in accordance with the Torrance Municipal Code. Police Chief Herren advised that the Police Department will look at increasing enforcement efforts in the area and mentioned the possibility of locating the radar trailer there to educate drivers.

Councilwoman O'Donnell stated that she would like to see Torrance develop a reputation for being tough on speeders, suggesting the formation of a special Police squad with an emphasis on traffic enforcement.

Councilman Messerlian commended staff for doing an outstanding job in compiling the report and voiced support for the Traffic Calming Program, noting that it provides a mechanism for residents to deal with speeding and cut-through traffic and preserve the residential character of their neighborhoods.

Mayor Hardison thanked Ms. Buchman for her efforts and noted that some problem areas mentioned at the meeting seem to be beyond the education stage and may require more definitive action.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with the Planning Department's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Cribbs and Nakano).

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE DIGITAL CELLULAR SERVICE**

Deferred to November 24, 1998 (see page 1).

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Item No. 13b was considered concurrently with Public Financing Authority Item No. 4a.

13b. **PUBLIC PARKING STRUCTURES FINANCING AUTHORITY**

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Finance Director recommend that City Council concur in amendments to the Torrance Public Parking Structures Financing Agreement; authorize the mayor to sign for the City; the City Clerk to attest to the agreement; and that City Council authorize the City Attorney to make minor, non-substantial changes to the agreement prior to execution of the agreement.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine briefly outlined how this agreement differs from the original agreement that was approved by the Council in January 1998.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by a 4-1 majority roll call vote, with Councilman Messerlian dissenting (absent Council members Cribbs and Nakano).

Councilman Messerlian explained that his dissenting vote is consistent with his previous vote on this matter in January of 1998.

13c. **SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE L.A. COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends that City Council consider candidates to be the representative for the cities in our area on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and to instruct the Mayor with regards to the vote for this position.

Transportation Planner Buchman noted that a letter had been received from one of the candidates for the position and that it was included in the supplemental material. Mayor Hardison indicated that she had received a letter from another person interested in the position and submitted it for the record.

Mayor Hardison explained that there is no application process for the position of Southwest Corridor Representative on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors, and that in addition to the three announced candidates, additional nominations will be taken from the floor when the Southwest Corridor League of California Cities meets on November 18, 1998. She requested that she be given the authority to cast her vote as she deems appropriate based on the information that is brought forward at the meeting.

In response to Councilwoman O'Donnell's inquiry, Ms. Buchman confirmed that it is possible for cities with multiple votes to split those votes among more than one candidate.

Councilman Walker stated that he was not opposed to a split vote and would like the Mayor to have this option, but noted that Councilman Jim Cragin of Gardena is the only one of the three announced candidates that he would support.

Referring to past controversies regarding the MTA and noting that Mr. Cragin has been on the Board for some time, Councilman Lee indicated that he was inclined to favor a change. He pointed out that Torrance is one of the few cities that runs a full-service bus company and expressed his preference that Mayor Hardison determine which candidate will best serve the City's interests and vote accordingly.

Responding to Councilman Messerlian's inquiry, Ms. Buchman confirmed that the Mayor had been given authority to act without naming a specific candidate in the past.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to grant Mayor Hardison the authority to cast the City's votes as she deems appropriate in the best interests of the City of Torrance.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Cribbs and Nakano).

Councilman Walker reiterated his support for Mr. Cragin.

18. **ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. In response to Mayor Hardison, Parks and Recreation Director Barnett spoke of the arrival of Torrance Seasons, the new format of the quarterly City of Torrance publication.

19b. Councilman Messerlian complimented staff on the new publication, but recommended that a map of City facilities be included.

19c. Councilwoman O'Donnell announced upcoming Torrance Rose Float Association activities: Volunteer Orientation on November 19 at 7:30 p.m.; preparation of dried flowers for the float on November 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and the Queen's Reception for the Rose Queen and her Court on November 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

19d. Councilwoman O'Donnell wished Councilman Walker a happy birthday.

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City Attorney Fellows advised that subsequent to the posting of the agenda, oral arguments in the matter of Marshall v. Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District, Case No. BC120528, had been scheduled for November 18, 1998, and requested that the item be added to the executive session as it was necessary to take immediate action so that the City Council could provide direction regarding possible resolution of the lawsuit.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to add the above urgency item to the agenda under Item 20b Executive Session, Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation, as authorized by Government Code Section 54956.9 (a). The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Council members Cribbs and Nakano).

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20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:34 p.m., pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to confer on matters listed on the meeting agenda.

The Council returned to open session at 10:00 p.m., and no formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, November 24, 1998, 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance