

January 14, 1997

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

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened for a closed session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 14, 1997, in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Lee, Messerlian, Nakano, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Councilmembers O'Donnell and Walker.

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

Agenda Item No. 20 was considered at this time.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:32 P.M., Mayor Hardison announced that, pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54957 and 54956.8, the Council would recess into a closed session to confer with the City's Negotiator and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under items 20.a.1 (Conference with Labor Negotiator), 20.a.2 (Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation), 20.a.3 (Conference with City Manager) and 20.a.4 (Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator).

The meeting reconvened in regular session at 7:07 P.M. with all members present.

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steven Roberts, Boy Scout Troop No. 310.

The invocation for the meeting was given by Reverend Nancy Johnson, Cathedral of Life and Police Chaplain.

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

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**MOTION:** Councilmember 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 Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lee moved that, after the City Clerk has read the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof 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 Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

With regard to Agenda Item No. 6b, City Manager Jackson announced that Resolution No. 97-04 (Honoring Madrona Middle School) will be presented at a future meeting. He also announced that Agenda Item No. 7b (Purchase Order for Fire Department Hazardous Materials Tow Vehicle) will be considered at the meeting of January 21, 1997.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee**

Monday, January 13, 1997, 5:30 P.M.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Natural History Center

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 1997, 5:30 P.M.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-01 HONORING POLICE OFFICER GARY W. HILTON**

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-01.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE HONORING POLICE OFFICER GARY WILLIAM

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HILTON FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

6b. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-04 HONORING MADRONA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-04.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-04. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-04**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE HONORING MADRONA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FOR ITS SELECTION AS A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL

Resolution No. 97-04 will be presented to Madrona Middle School at a future meeting (see page 2).

6c. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-05 RE SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-05.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-05. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE RECOGNIZING JANUARY 1997 AS SCHOOL  
BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Resolution No. 97-05 was accepted by Mr. John Eubanks, School Board Trustee.

6d. **COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

The Council made the following appointments to City commissions:

Airport Commission	Mr. Arciuch, Mr. Kern
Cable Television Advisory Board	Ms. Hausmann, Mr. Tsao
Civil Service Commission	Ms. McIntyre, Mr. Nishioka

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Commission on Aging Club Representatives	Mr. Callen, Ms. Hammond Mr. Nolte, AARP; Ms. Brandt, McMaster Sr. Ctr.; Mr. Doty, Sea-Aire Golf Club; Ms. Figueroa, Walteria Sr. Club; Mr. Clutter, Torrance Adult Club
Community Services Commission	Mr. Bise, Mr. Brady
Cultural Arts Commission	Ms. Aihara, Ms. Kohler, Ms. Miller
Disaster Council	Mr. Ing
Environmental Quality Commission	Mr. Cook, Mr. Nishinaga
Library Commission	Ms. Gerber, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Watson
Parks & Recreation Commission	Mr. Horwich, Mr. Mayeda
Planning Commission	Mr. Delperdang, Ms. Gibbons
Traffic Commission	Mr. McGee
Water Commission	Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Mahida, Mr. Miller

Mayor Hardison highlighted the many applications received to serve on City commissions and she encouraged those who were not appointed to continue to apply in the future.

City Clerk Herbers advised that those appointed will be contacted by City staff and that all applications will be retained for a period of six months in the event of any unscheduled vacancies.

The above appointees were sworn in by City Clerk Herbers.

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At 8:00 P.M. there was a recess until 8:15 P.M. when the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order.

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7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 26, 1996**

7b. **PURCHASE ORDER FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT HAZARDOUS TOW VEHICLE**

Continued to January 21, 1997.

7c. **PURCHASE ORDER FOR CRUSHED AGGREGATE BASE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Services Director and the Director of Street Services recommend that the City Council authorize the renewal of a purchase order in an anticipated amount not to exceed \$201,727.50 to Cal Mat Co. of Irwindale, California, for the purchase of crushed aggregate base on an "as requested basis."

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7d. **PURCHASE ORDER TO RE-ROOF MAIN CITY HALL**

**RECOMMENDATION**

A recommendation by the General Services Director that the City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to furnish all labor and materials to re-roof Main City Hall, to Letner Roofing Co. of Orange, California, in the amount of \$41,548.00, plus a 10% contingency of \$4,154.80, for a total of \$45,702.80.

7e. **CONTRIBUTION FROM THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Librarian recommends that the City Council accept and appropriate a \$525.00 donation from the Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club for the purchase of a paperback media display rack for the WALTERIA Library.

7f. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1996**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Director recommends that the City Council accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996.

7g. **PURCHASE ORDER RENEWAL FOR GUARD SERVICE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Service Director and the Director of Street Services recommend that the City Council authorize a three (3) month interim purchase order extension for twenty-four (24) hour guard service at the City Services Facility with the option to renew the purchase order for an additional three (3) month period to Wells Fargo Guard Service of Paramount, California, in the total amount of \$30,000.00, plus \$30,000.00 option.

**MOTION:** Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

With regard to Agenda Item No. 7g, Mayor Hardison related her appreciation of the efforts that went into compiling the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996.

11. **PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

11a. **OPTING OUT OF THE PERMIT PARKING ZONE IN TORRANCE GARDENS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Council has directed staff to develop a methodology for allowing certain streets to opt out of the permanent parking program. To this end, the Planning Director is recommending the following:

1. That the City Council approve a proposed methodology for enabling residents of certain streets to opt out of the permanent permit parking zone within the Torrance Gardens neighborhood;
2. That this methodology specify that no less than sixty-six percent of all property owners on a street must agree to opt out of the program;
3. That the following streets remain in the permit area: Maple Avenue from Maricopa Street to Torrance Boulevard, the south side of Maricopa Street and both sides of the Torrance Gardens frontage road; and,
4. That staff be authorized to implement the approved methodology.

Background information on this item was provided by Transportation Planner Buchman.

Mr. Jack Perry, 815 Cerise Avenue, commended the City Council and Transportation Planner Buchman's efforts relative to this matter. He asked that Cerise Avenue be considered in a manner similar to Maple Avenue; noted that he distributed a letter to each home in Torrance Gardens outlining resident concerns over parking in the area; and related his receipt of two telephone calls from residents adamant about parking and environmental problems in Torrance.

The Council suggested that the draft "Important Notice to Torrance Gardens Homeowners Regarding the Permanent Parking Restrictions in Torrance Gardens" be reformatted for easier reading and that staff contact Mr. Perry to determine what information he distributed so that efforts are not duplicated.

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

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **TPSA SUPPLEMENTAL #1**

**RECOMMENDATION**

A recommendation of the City Manager and the Fleet Services Director

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that the City Council adopt the Torrance Professional & Supervisory Association (TPSA) supplemental resolution adding a uniform allowance for the employees in the position of Assistant Transit Operations Supervisor.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-06.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-06. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 97-06**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 96-160 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL & SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION

14. **HEARINGS**

14a. **APPEAL RE MIS 96-0152, JAMES DAHL**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning Commission and Planning Director recommend that the City Council deny an appeal of a Planning Commission decision to deny a Minor Hillside Exemption, MIS 96-0152, to allow the enlargement of a rear yard deck on property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1: Single-Family Residential zone at 4305 Paseo de las Tortugas due to the potential for adverse impacts on the privacy of properties in the surrounding area.

With the aid of slides, Senior Principal Planner Gibson provided the staff report. In answer to questions from the Council, Mr. Gibson explained the following: that the caissons on the subject property were installed without the benefit of a permit and that the City has unsuccessfully attempted to have the property owner remove them; that the approval of the subject residence in 1991 was conditioned to require that the west elevation second floor windows shall be a translucent material; and that the windows were of such a material at the time of final inspection but, at this time, they are not.

Mayor Hardison opened the public hearing.

Mr. James Dahl, 4305 Paseo de las Tortugas, related that he had no comments.

Mr. Albert Lee Roberts, 4309 Paseo de las Tortugas, noted that the Planning Commission denied this project twice before it being forwarded to the City Council for consideration and he requested a denial at this time.

There being no additional requests to speak, the following motion was offered.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Council discussed that the project would negatively impact privacy, particularly from 4309 Paseo de las Tortugas (Roberts' residence). Council related concern over the lack of adherence to the requirement of translucent material for the west elevation second floor windows of the subject residence and over the fact that the caissons have not been removed.

Responding to an inquiry from the Council, Building and Safety Director Isomoto verified that the caissons do not provide any additional stability and that, if they are properly removed, no stability problems should arise.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nakano moved to concur with the Planning Department and Planning Commission recommendations to deny the appeal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Senior Principal Planner Gibson explained that a resolution for denial will be presented for the Council's adoption at a future meeting.

Following a question from the Council, City Attorney Fellows advised that written material on how to go about getting compliance with the requirements noted during this discussion will be provided to the Council.

18. **ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. City Attorney Fellows mentioned that he became acquainted with the City of Torrance City Council four years ago and he related his appreciation of the residents who participate in the City government.

19b. Councilmember Messerlian called attention to the increasing amount of graffiti throughout Torrance, particularly in the southern portion of the City. He noted graffiti on Downey Savings on Pacific Coast Highway across from Ross and along the back wall of Ralph's supermarket. He appealed to citizens who witness this type of activity to contact the City graffiti hotline.

19c. Councilmember Messerlian noted a sign is lying in the median at the intersection of Vista Montana and Anza Avenue.

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City Manager Jackson indicated that staff will report this problem to Cal Trans.

19d. Councilmember Messerlian suggested that, at a future meeting, the Council recognize retiring Senior Deputy Leah Jeffries' long-standing service to the South Bay and the City of Torrance.

19e. On behalf of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Councilmember Nakano thanked City employees for their generous donations of cash, canned foods and gifts for children.

19f. Councilmember Nakano related his understanding that the City of Los Angeles has prohibited the use of a particular metal in the construction of steel structures and he asked staff for additional input related thereto.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto advised that staff has requested pertinent information from the City of Los Angeles, which will be forwarded to the Council upon its receipt.

19g. Mayor Hardison suggested that Ms. Barbara Carswell, retired head of the Torrance Federal Credit Union, be honored at a future Council meeting for her many years of service.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:55 P.M., the Council returned to a closed session to confer with the City's Negotiator and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under items 20.a.1 (Conference with Labor Negotiator), 20.a.2 (Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation), 20.a.3 (Conference with City Manager) and 20.1.4 (Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator) pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54957 and 54956.8.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 P.M., the meeting was formally adjourned to Tuesday, January 21, 1997, 5:30 P.M., for an Executive Session, to be followed by the regular meeting at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers.