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City Council - April 13, 1982

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCILOPENING CEREMONIES:1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 1982, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Geissert, Rossberg, Walker, Wilson, Wirth and Mayor Armstrong. Absent: None.

Also present: Assistant City Manager Jackson and Staff representatives.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Environmental Quality Administrator McElroy led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Reverend Frank Morley, Church of the Nazarene, gave the invocation.

STANDARD MOTIONS5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 1982, as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

6. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof

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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 Councilwoman Geissert, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Citizen Development:  
April 15th at 4:00 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Armstrong, with deep regret, announced the deaths of Joyce Stanley, Robert Murray, Buck Wright and John DeVries, and directed that this meeting be adjourned in their memory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Specifically noted by Mayor Armstrong was the "Town Hall Meeting" scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 1982, at 7:00 P.M. at the Civic Center Library Meeting Room.

\* \* \* \* \*

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:

8a. RESOLUTION commending Torrance Police Officer William H. Ferrell.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-77

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE COMMENDING TORRANCE POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM H. FERRELL FOR HIS HEROIC ACTION WHICH LED TO HIS BEING SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF VALOR

Councilman Applegate moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-77. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Police Officer Ferrell was present for this recognition -- Mayor Armstrong presented same, with the warm congratulations of all present.

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- 8b. PROCLAMATION - "National Library Week" and observance of Fine Free Week - April 18-24, 1982.
- 8c. PROCLAMATION - "Public Schools Week" - April 19-25, 1982.
- 8d. PROCLAMATION - "Soroptomist International Day" - Sunday, April 18, 1982
- 8e. PROCLAMATION - "Victims Rights Week" - April 18-24, 1982.
- 8f. PROCLAMATION - "Fair Housing Week" - April 18-24, 1982.

So proclaimed by Mayor Armstrong.

\* \* \* \* \*

A special musical presentation was provided by the Torrance Chorale -- celebrating its 20th anniversary -- and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

\* \* \* \* \*

8g. INTERVIEWS TO FILL VACANCY ON LIBRARY COMMISSION.

Following interviews and nominations, Mrs. Luella Yde was appointed to the Library Commission by unanimous ballot.

9. LIBRARY/PARK AND RECREATION MATTERS:

9a. OLD FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT WILSON PARK.

RECOMMENDATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

That the City Council concur with Option #1 -- "The City would pay the costs of the fireworks which would be free to the public." -- and that \$11,115 be appropriated from Unappropriated Reserves (1981-82) for the cost of fireworks display at Wilson Park and the costs of the community celebration.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the Staff recommendation for Option #1. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:10a. RESOLUTION OF INTENTION - 1982 Weed Abatement Program.RESOLUTION NO. 82-78

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING THAT WEEDS GROWING UPON AND IN FRONT OF CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTIES IN THE CITY ARE A SEASONAL AND RECURRENT NUISANCE, AND DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABATEMENT THEREOF

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-78. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS:13a. FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICE FACILITY.RECOMMENDATION:

The architect, H. Wendall Mounce, and the Building and Safety Director recommend the Council accept the work as being complete and in compliance with the plans and specifications previously approved by the City; that final payment be made in accordance with the terms of the contract and subsequent change orders; and that Notice of Completion be filed with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved to concur with the above stated recommendation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13b. SIGN APPEAL - S 77-25, Great Western Savings, 17400 Hawthorne Boulevard.

Staff presentation was provided by Environmental Quality Administrator McElroy.

Representing Great Western Savings, Mr. John Lane commented on the overall signing program underway by this company -- some 25 such signs to be installed in the Greater Los Angeles area. This sign is very important in the conducting of their business, the "24 Hour Teller" arrangement being a very significant service in these highly competitive days, per Mr. Lane.

Council discussion ensued, with Staff input regarding overall signing program, the absence of permit for the subject sign, etc.

MOTION: Councilman Rossberg moved to grant the appeal and approve the subject sign. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, but FAILED TO CARRY, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Rossberg, Walker, Wilson.  
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Geissert, Wirth;  
Mayor Armstrong.

Mayor Armstrong announced that the appeal had been denied; that the recommendation of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission and of Building and Safety Department Staff for denial has been upheld.

It was the request of Councilman Applegate that Staff check into the status of the temporary sign in front of Big Ben's.

14. PERSONNEL MATTERS:

14a. RESOLUTION re: Externally Funded Division Head position for the Manpower Division of the Personnel Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-79

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SETTING  
FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS,  
WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EXTERNALLY  
FUNDED POSITIONS

Councilwoman Geissert moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-79. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Applegate, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

15. HEARINGS:

15a. 1981-82 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROPOSALS.

Mayor Armstrong announced that this was the time and place for the subject public hearing. City Clerk Babb presented the Affidavit of Publication; Councilman Applegate moved to receive and file same; the motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

The Mayor then inquired if anyone wished to be heard; there was no response.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to continue the public hearing re: Capital Improvement Project Proposals to April 20, 1982 for the second hearing. His motion, seconded by Councilman Rossberg, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

15b. EA 81-24 (CUP 81-36), ROBBINS AND BROWN: Administrative Appeal of Environmental Review Board Issuance of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BOARD AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF RECOMMEND ISSUANCE OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION.

Affidavit of Publication was presented by City Clerk Babb, and it was ordered filed, there being no objection.

Mayor Armstrong announced that this was the time and place for the subject public hearing, and, following Staff presentation by Planning Associate Woodward, invited comments from the audience.

Representing the proponent, Mr. Nat Franklin, 1528 Berkeley Street, Santa Monica, advised that the building had been redesigned, eliminating many of the previously expressed concerns -- the matter of traffic mitigation measures was also reviewed. Architect Larry Robbins was also present to provide any desired clarification.

Ms. Maxine Whitt, 1852 Phillips Drive, Los Angeles, representing tenants in the adjacent center, requested clarification regarding notification procedures. She was referred to Planning Associate Woodward to insure that appropriate parties will be added to the mailing list.

The next speaker was Mr. Mike Whisler, 4323 West Artesia Boulevard, who reaffirmed his concerns, of record, pertaining to traffic, air and light, privacy, etc. Mr. Whisler also pointed out that the report contains no reference to Amie Avenue traffic problems. The Mitigated Negative Declaration does not properly address these concerns, in the opinion of Mr. Whisler.

Dr. Malcom Winer, 17270 Hawthorne Boulevard, stated that he, a dentist, rents the office just behind the existing filling station, and noted that people in the area were not notified regarding these considerations -- parking and traffic problems should be more fully explored, per Dr. Winer.

Mr. John Waddell, representing American Savings and Loan, acknowledged that there had been a "mix-up" re: notification -- he urged that there be a more thorough study as to traffic flow.

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There being no one else present who wished to be heard, Councilman Applegate moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilwoman Geissert, the appellant in this matter, elaborated on her concerns -- the location of the proposed building within an existing shopping center presents very serious environmental issues; also, the possibilities for cut-through traffic through a residential area must be recognized -- further concerns are access, cross easements, etc.

It was the comment of Councilman Walker that, in his opinion, Staff has clearly assessed the situation and has all the necessary information. Mr. Walker then MOVED to concur with the Environmental Review Board and Planning Department Staff that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be issued, with testimony this date to be included. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg.

Councilman Applegate stated, prior to roll call vote on the motion, that he has some serious concerns that may not apply directly to the environmental issues, and he does not want to leave any false impression with the proponent as to the project -- it was Mr. Applegate's suggestion that the proponent consider reevaluating the project before proceeding and involving large sums of money.

It was clarified by Mayor Armstrong that action on this item makes no commitment at all -- it simply authorizes the establishment and development of another tool in the planning process.

Councilman Walker's motion CARRIED, with roll call vote as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Rossberg, Walker;  
Mayor Armstrong.
- NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Geissert, Wilson, Wirth.

\* \* \* \* \*

The hour being 8:45 P.M. the Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency, returning to its agenda at 8:46 P.M. A ten-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Armstrong at that time.

\* \* \* \* \*

- 15c. EA 81-2, CITY OF TORRANCE (CARSON STREET IMPROVEMENTS):  
Administrative appeal of the Environmental Review Board  
decision to adopt the Carson Street Widening Environmental  
Impact Report. THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BOARD AND PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT STAFF RECOMMEND CERTIFICATION OF THE EIR.

Mayor Armstrong announced that this was the time and place for the subject public hearing, with clarification regarding the decision to be made by the Council re: environmental issues only and the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Report.

Comments from the audience were then invited by the Mayor.

Mr. Milton Carlson, 3105 West Carson Street: Submitted a letter (of record) -- is still of the opinion that it is not adequate for planning decisions yet to be made, with traffic problems remaining the primary concern. Is there really a need for a 6-lane boulevard to handle 30,000-40,000 cars per day -- the EIR does not touch on this too strongly. There also should be more input re: speeding and its impact on traffic safety, as well as further discussion re: the alternative of six lanes, and why it is deemed necessary, per Mr. Carlson

It was also pointed out by Mr. Carlson that the Environmental Impact Report overlooked the very nice group of Maple trees on Carson Street between Maple and Madrona which would be eliminated with the proposed curb revision. Property acquisition, as discussed in his communication of record, was also reviewed by Mr. Carlson. (City Engineer Bourbonnais advised that none of the alternatives would result in a complete loss of these trees.)

Mr. Daniel Summers, 3021 West Carson: Referred to Page 71, Section 4.5, of the EIR re: Noise -- the noise levels presented in the EIR are currently 13 dba above the City's noise level for a residential area. (Mr. Summers concerns are of official record in agenda material presented this date.) It was Mr. Summers' recommendation that Section 4.5 be reevaluated to obtain accurate noise measurements along Carson Street and adjacent streets.

Mr. Ed Greene, 3205 Onrado Street, representing the Madrona Homeowners Association: (Comments are of record in agenda material presented this date). There is a critical need for additional information in the EIR to cover the expressed concerns -- the need for larger scale drawings (cross-elevations would be beneficial); driveway/access arrangements; traffic noises; needed tabulation re: all parcels of property, sizes of parcels, and land to be consumed by dedication or by eminent domain of each parcel; ambiguity re: removal of service roads; status of sidewalks; etc. It was the opinion of Mr. Greene that the EIR has some

shortcomings, as above enumerated; there is insufficient data to make an evaluation -- the EIR should be returned to the originators and should be rewritten.

Ms. Caroline Hetzel, 2670 West 233rd Street: The subject EIR has not taken into consideration any future development -- what is going to happen to the overall area should be included.

There being no one else present who wished to be heard, Councilman Applegate moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the EIR should be expanded to include the above expressed concerns, along with input relative to the option of a 4-lane street; a property survey on a lot-by-lot basis which would give the desired information under the various options re: the proximity of the roadbed; more specific information on the noise level as it relates to specific properties and the frequency of noise events with an improved roadbed and roadway; sidewalk/parkway placement; etc.

Formal action taken by the Council is reflected below:

MOTION: Councilman Rossberg moved that the subject Environmental Impact Report be referred back for amendments, additions and responses along the lines suggested this date, the purpose being to provide a more effective document. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

- 17a.
- RESOLUTION
- giving notice to Computer Sciences Corporation, and
- RESOLUTION
- setting salary for in-house Data Processing Staff.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That your Honorable Body:

Adopt the subject Resolution giving notice to CSC to reduce contractual service levels.

Authorize the RFT process for the EMRS system as well as other systems in the short and mid-range development systems.

Modify the data processing budget to provide for three additional data processing Staff.

Adopt a Resolution setting forth wages, hours and working conditions for two of the data processing Staff.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-80

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO NOTIFY COMPUTER SCIENCES CORPORATION TO REDUCE THEIR STAFFING LEVELS AT THE TORRANCE DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-80. His motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-81

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR LIMITED TENURE EMPLOYEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1982 TO JUNE 30, 1982

Councilwoman Geissert moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-81. Her motion, seconded by Councilman Applegate, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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- 17b. RESOLUTION re: Consent to Assignment - Teleprompter.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-82

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONSENTING TO THE TRANSFER OF THE CITY'S CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE FROM TELEPROMPTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. TO GROUP W CABLE, INC., A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE WESTINGHOUSE CORPORATION

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 82-82. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

- 17c. EXECUTIVE SESSION re: Litigation.

Withdrawn.

18. SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

- 18a. ORDINANCE NO. 3039

ORDINANCE NO. 3039

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 45.6.26 TO THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING POSSESSION, STORAGE, OFFERING FOR SALE, EXPOSING FOR SALE, SELLING AT RETAIL, GIVING, FURNISHING, USING OR EXPLODING ANY FIREWORKS IN THE CITY; AMENDING SECTION 86.1.2 TO REMOVE THE EXCEPTION FOR STORAGE OF FIREWORKS FROM THE DANGEROUS CHEMICAL REGULATIONS; AND REPEALING ARTICLE 11 OF CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 3, OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO LICENSING OF FIREWORKS STANDS

Councilman Applegate moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3039 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Geissert, Wilson,  
Wirth; Mayor Armstrong.  
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Rossberg, Walker.

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20. CONSENT CALENDAR:20a. REDUCTION OF SUBDIVISION BONDS - TRACT NO. 41489.

Subdivider: Calprop Corporation  
 Location: 4600 Merrill Street  
 Bonding Company: Fremont Indemnity Company

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:

That the subdivision bonds be reduced as indicated,  
 per material of record.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the City Engineer. His motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

22a. Assistant City Manager Jackson announced that Water System Manager John Borgwat is leaving the City, after some fourteen years of service, to become General Manager, Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District in Northern California -- the best wishes of the Council were expressed to Mr. Borgwat.

22b. Building and Safety Director McKinnon requested authorization, and the establishment of a policy, to prepare a letter, signed by the Mayor, to go forward to appropriate parties re: another sale of tracts for drilling in Santa Monica Bay in protest of same.

It was so authorized by Mayor Armstrong in this instance and any future instances related to off-shore drilling.

22c. Councilman Applegate reviewed the matter of concession stands at the Armed Forces Day Parade, requesting that these stands not become a "platform or a forum."

Mr. Applegate also noted the increased interest in the Armed Forces Day 10K Run, with appreciation expressed to Captain Lanham for his advertising efforts.

22d. Councilwoman Geissert commended the Police and Fire Departments for their exemplary manner in dealing with the recent airplane crash in front of Farrell's -- this dramatic and tragic event was handled extremely well, and all involved should be praised.

22e. Councilwoman Geissert inquired as to the status of the Staff report re: floor area ratio as a possible way of setting guidelines for density. Assistant City Manager Jackson advised that an interim report will be forthcoming to the Council.

22f. Councilman Rossberg concurred in the above commendation of the Police and Fire Departments at the recent airplane crash, adding that some of the "unsung heroes" were employees of the Street Department along with volunteer assistance in blocking off the streets in the accident area.

Appreciation to Staff for their prompt notification to Councilmembers of the accident was also indicated by Mr. Rossberg.

22g. Councilman Rossberg praised Chief of Police Nash for his recent Canine Unit Report -- it was "absolutely outstanding" -- hopefully, there will be newspaper publicity about the Canine Unit; it should serve as a deterrent to crime in Torrance.

22h. Councilman Rossberg reviewed the forthcoming Armed Forces Day Parade -- an assignment of Councilmembers to the dignataries who will be present was recommended by Mr. Rossberg; further, that the table arrangements be such that Councilmembers, Staff, Chamber representatives, etc. will be at different tables.

22i. Councilman Wilson commented on his recent trip to Kashiwa, Japan -- the Mayor did an oustanding job, per Dr. Wilson; it was a very fine interaction with the business and government leaders of our Sister City.

22j. Councilman Wirth referred to Councilman Applegate's earlier oral communication regarding Armed Forces Day con-cession stands, noting that "Friends of Madrona Marsh" had a booth last year, without problems, and the same should be true for this year, in spite of recent difficulties.

22k. Mayor Armstrong lauded the Fire Department's "Home Safety Program," starting May 15th -- a good publicity program regarding the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration would greatly enhance the event. Chief DeYoung advised that this facet has been incorporated in the program.

22l. Mayor Armstrong advised that, although out of the country when the airplane accident occurred, the reports have been most complimentary, and he joins in commendation of all who responded in this emergency.

22m. Mayor Armstrong advised that a full report on his trip to Kashiwa will be forthcoming, noting that Kashiwa officials are intensely interested in the Sister City relationship.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 10:25 P.M. to Tuesday, April 20, 1982, at 5:30 P.M., noting that the Council will immediately adjourn to Executive Session,

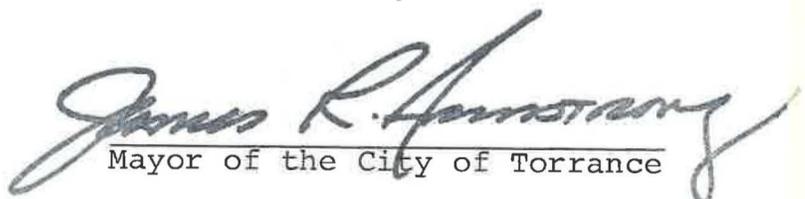
Adjournment was dedicated to the memory of Joyce Stanley, Robert Murray, Buck Wright and John DeVries.

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance