

I N D E XADJOURNED REGULAR MEETINGCITY COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 2, 1982

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 1982, at 4:30 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: City Manager Ferraro and Staff representatives.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Clark Terrill led in the salute to the flag.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CITY MANAGER:

Mayor Armstrong announced that the purpose of this meeting is a most important one -- the imminent retirement of City Manager Ferraro has invoked Charter requirements that the City Council name a successor to Mr. Ferraro.

The numerous Executive Sessions representing hours of deliberation attest to the dedicated concern of this Council relative to that successor, per Mayor Armstrong -- a consensus has now been achieved, hence this meeting, and Council comments were invited at this time by the Mayor.

Councilwoman Geissert noted the lengthy consideration of this matter, deeming the "process," rather than personalities, has been the stumbling block -- the Council is unanimous in its very high regard for the professional qualifications of people who work within the City. It was added by Mrs. Geissert: however, she personally subscribes to the theory that the professional stature of the person selected will be enhanced by an open process. This process,

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in Mrs. Geissert's opinion, would encourage application by highly qualified people within the City, as well as like qualified applicants from the outside.

MOTION: Councilwoman Geissert moved that criteria be developed for the position of City Manager, and to entertain applications for that position both from current employees and from qualified applicants from outside the employment of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Applegate.

Concurrence with the above expressed position of Councilwoman Geissert was indicated by Councilman Applegate who added that the City has established a long and very successful record by way of open examinations, resulting in the selection of some very outstanding department heads. Also noted by Mr. Applegate was the fact that there are two positions currently open which will be filled by way of open examinations; this has been the pattern which has developed the high quality department heads now serving this City -- it is the pattern that should be followed.

It was further stated by Councilman Applegate that an open examination is a requirement of this City Council to validate to the department heads and to the Executive Staff members that the person selected to lead them is the best that this City can provide. Further, the community has the right to expect that the person selected by the Council is the best that can be provided -- the City of Torrance would attract the "cream of the crop," per Mr. Applegate. Specifically noted by Councilman Applegate was the fact that he has discussed this matter with Assistant City Manager Jackson and has informed him that were he to compete in this process, he has absolutely no qualms whatsoever about appointing him to the position of City Manager.

In conclusion, Councilman Applegate stated his opinion that the Council has an obligation to follow the format which has been developed over the years in light of the successful results thereof as related to high level executive appointments.

It was the comment of Councilman Wilson that there have been long deliberations regarding the desired type of person to continue to lead the system in this City which, over the years, has developed into a very effective organization -- it is a unanimous consensus that the City of Torrance has had a very strong, productive management system which should be continued. It was further stated by Dr. Wilson that to bring

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someone in from the outside -- regardless of his qualifications -- would change the system; Dr. Wilson's primary interest is continuing what he considers to be one of the best run cities in the nation. The processing procedure would be a costly one, per Councilman Wilson, and the Council would only find that what is sought is already here -- a person who has proven himself and has met the responsibilities of his assignment and will continue to do so in the future.

Councilman Rossberg affirmed his pride in the City of Torrance -- the citizens, the "balanced community," the Staff, the Council, and the Torrance "way of life." The City is well managed now -- City Manager Ferraro has done an outstanding job, and the "cream of the crop" is right here in Torrance to continue the life that is enjoyed by all.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Rossberg: That the City Council select Mr. LeRoy Jackson as "City Manager Designate" to take over on the departure of City Manager Ferraro from the City of Torrance. The substitute motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

It was stated by Councilman Walker that he deems it a "fine thing" to select an employee who has worked very faithfully for the City for many years; an employee who has worked his way up from the ranks, having served in every capacity in an outstanding manner.

Mayor Armstrong reviewed the governing process in Torrance -- working with it, supporting it, living with it, and, hopefully, advancing it -- and with it, the cause of good government. Government as practiced in this City is not just the envy but the hope of local government everywhere; for that reason, the Mayor will support the substitute motion.

The SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED, with roll call vote as follows:

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

It was the comment of Councilwoman Geissert, at the time of her negative vote, that it had been her hope that the issue of process could be separated from the issue of personalities and individuals -- most assuredly, if her motion re: process had been defeated, she fully intended to vote for LeRoy Jackson. Her reservations are a matter of procedure, and procedure only.

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Councilman Wirth stated that he had been leaning somewhat to the position taken by Councilmembers Applegate and Geissert -- however, he has supported the substitute motion because he feels there is a need to go forward. Mr. Wirth likewise expressed his great faith and approval of LeRoy Jackson.

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It was the direction of Mayor Armstrong that discussions re: wages, benefits, etc. be scheduled approximately six weeks hence, with pertinent Staff input available at that time.

Mayor Armstrong, on behalf of the Council, extended warm congratulations and best wishes to Mr. LeRoy Jackson -- City Manager Designate.

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5. FIREWORKS LEGISLATION:

Councilman Applegate noted current legislation which would dangerously impact local control in the matter of sale of fireworks. Extensive efforts now under way to urge veto by Governor Brown were reviewed by Councilman Wirth and Fire Chief DeYoung.

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6. REMARKS BY CITY MANAGER DESIGNATE JACKSON:

It was stated by Mr. Jackson: "I am appreciative of the appointment. I will serve you to the best of my ability.... I think the City Manager job in Torrance has a certain ease with it, as well as burdens and troubles; the ease is created because it has a fantastic Staff as backup that does tremendous work on a day-to-day basis and has contributed to the City's progress over the years. With this Staff, and the continuation of that Staff, I can do no less than be successful. Thank you very much."

ADJOURNMENT:

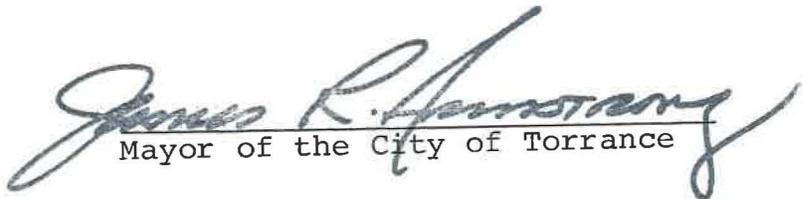
The meeting was regularly adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

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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