

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - July 26, 1988

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Adjournment was at 10:26 p.m. to Tuesday,
August 2, 1988 at 5:30 p.m.

#

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 1988, at 7:05 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Mock, Nakano, Walker and Mayor Geissert.

Absent: Wirth.

Also present: Assistant City Manager Ng, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and Staff representatives.

* * *

It was with sadness that Mayor Geissert announced the recent passing of Mr. Harold Carter, an active member of the Torrance community for many years. The Mayor directed that this meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Carter.

* * *

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION:

Mr. John Clark led those present in the salute to the flag.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Reverend Kathleen Ross, First United Methodist Church.

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the City Council minutes of June 28, 1988, as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, 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. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

5. MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS:

Assistant City Manager Ng announced that staff is requesting continuance of Agenda Item 17c, SEISMIC ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, to the City Council meeting of August 2, 1988 -- [See Page 9].

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

None scheduled.

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:

8a. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION HONORING THE LATE THOMAS MILLS OF THE CITY OF CARSON:

Resolution No. 88-141, which was adopted by the City Council on June 28, 1988, was presented by Mayor Geissert to the widow and family of Dr. Thomas Gene Mills, former Councilman for the City of Carson.

Mrs. Mills voiced appreciative acceptance of this resolution honoring her late husband.

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8b. PRESENTATION IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER THEODORE LITVIN:

Mayor Geissert presented a plaque to Police Officer Ted Litvin honoring him for having received the Distinguished Service Award from the South Bay Police and Fire Medal of Valor Committee.

8c. PROCLAMATION HONORING JOHN CLARK, JR.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert, and received with sincere appreciation by Civil Engineering Associate, John Clark, Jr.

Considered next out of order --

22a. Mayor Geissert introduced Jenny L. Batongmalaque, M.D., a member of a medical team from Southern California which has provided assistance to the people of Davao in the Phillipines.

Dr. Batongmalaque then introduced two individuals from the City of Davao: Councilors Augusto Fuentes and Renalto Bangoy. Mr. Phillip Kempo, President of the Southern California Davao Club was also present.

Mayor Geissert expressed her desire that the City of Torrance extend friendship and assistance, through "Dr. Jenny" to the people of Davao.

9. LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS:

9a. DONATION FROM DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director recommend that the City Council accept the most generous donation [in the amount of \$500.00] from the Dog Obedience Club and transmit a letter of appreciation. It is also recommended that the money be appropriated for the Parks Special Event Account.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation on Agenda Item 9a. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

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10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:

10a. TRAFFIC COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that your Honorable Body accept and file the 1987-88 Annual Report of the Traffic Commission.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Department of Transportation. His motion, seconded by Councilman Nakano, carried without objection [Councilman Wirth absent].

10b. REQUEST FOR COUNTY AID-TO-CITIES FUNDS (1988-89 MAINTENANCE):

RESOLUTION NO. 88-190

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING AN ALLOCATION AND PAYMENT OF COUNTY AID-TO-CITIES FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SELECT SYSTEM STREETS

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-190. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, was unanimously approved by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

10c. CROSSING GUARD - AINSWORTH AT 168TH STREET [ST. CATHERINE LABOURE SCHOOL]:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the Traffic Commission recommendation to place an adult crossing guard at the school crossing on Ainsworth at 168th Street serving St. Catherine Laboure School during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times beginning in August 1988.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation on Agenda Item 10c. This motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

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10d. CROSSING GUARD - MADISON STREET NORTH OF NEWTON STREET
[WALTERIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL]:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the Traffic Commission recommendation to place an adult crossing guard at the mid-block crossing on Madison Street north of Newton serving Walteria Elementary School during the morning arrival hours and the various dismissal times in the afternoon beginning in September 1988.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation on Agenda Item 10d. This motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

10e. STREET LIGHTING MODIFICATION - ELLINWOOD AREA/RIVIERA
CONDOMINIUMS:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that the work be accepted as complete and final payment be made to Steiny and Company.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Department of Transportation. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

11. POLICE AND FIRE MATTERS:

11a. PENALTY FOR PARKING IN EXCESS OF 72 HOURS:

RESOLUTION NO. 88-191

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING THE PARKING
PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF TORRANCE MUNICIPAL
CODE SECTION 61.6.4, WHICH PROHIBITS THE
PARKING OF VEHICLES ON CITY STREETS FOR 72
OR MORE CONSECUTIVE HOURS

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 88-191. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

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13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS;

13a. SB 1741 RELATING TO VICIOUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS:

RECOMMENDATION:

Building and Safety Department staff recommend that the Mayor forward correspondence to members of the Assembly asking that the Bill [SB 1741] be amended to define a dangerous animal as one which has attacked or bitten any person or domestic or farm animal without reasonable provocation. This definition conforms to the present Code of the City of Torrance relating to the regulation of dangerous animals.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation on Agenda Item 13a. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

16. APPEALS:

16a. APPEAL OF LEFT TURN CHANNELIZATION AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON 182ND STREET EAST AND WEST OF YUKON AVENUE:

Mayor Geissert announced that this was a citizen appeal of a May 2, 1988 Traffic Commission recommendation regarding left-turn channelization and parking restrictions on 182nd Street east and west of Yukon Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council deny the appeal and uphold the recommendation of the Department of Transportation and the Traffic Commission to install left turn channelization and parking restrictions on 182nd Street, east and west of Yukon Avenue.

Staff presentation was provided by Traffic Manager Vance, who deemed the proposed action to be the simplest and most cost-effective solution to the extraordinarily high number of east/west left-turn accidents at the subject intersection.

Following his formal presentation, Mr. Vance reviewed [at the request of Councilwoman Hardison] the accident pattern at the subject intersection, confirming that a large percentage of those accidents have involved east/west left-turning movements.

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Mr. Vance also advised that approximately 70 feet of red curbing on the Yukon service road [west side] could be removed, thus providing some additional on-street parking.

Audience comments were then invited by Mayor Geissert.

Mr. Max Schiller, [appellant] 3613 West 182nd Street, expressed concerns regarding relocation of traffic closer to the residences; loss of on-street parking; possible difficulties caused by the existing drainage depression; and excessive speeding. Mr. Schiller opined that the proposed parking restrictions will represent a severe hardship to those homes affected in that there is no parking allowed [per Code] in the alley at the rear of these residences.

Mr. Gordon Phillips, 3617 West 182nd Street, stressed the need to control the speed of traffic.

Ms. Marlene Schiller, 3613 West 182nd Street, pointed out potential traffic problems and urged that left-turn signalization be installed.

Careful consideration so as not to encourage increased traffic was urged by Mr. John Hydo, 3621 West 182nd Street.

The matter of left-turn signalization, as suggested by Mrs. Schiller, was addressed by Traffic Manager Vance, who advised that channelization would still be required as would the on-street parking restrictions. Mr. Vance then described the drainage depression mentioned by Mr. Schiller and noted that this configuration is similar to many other areas in the City.

Various alternative approaches to the existing problem were discussed, and liability aspects were reviewed by the City Attorney. The eventual widening of 182nd Street was considered and inclusion in the City's Action Plan for that purpose was deemed appropriate.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that the City Council concur with the recommendation of the Department of Transportation and Traffic Commission; and further to request the eventual inclusion of this item in the Action Plan with prioritization per the City Engineer and Director of Transportation.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock.

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Mr. Max Schiller, 3613 west 182nd returned to the podium to continue the discussion favoring ultimate street widening. He advised the Council that there is sufficient space in the alley behind his home to allow for parking outside of the traffic lane, and he suggested that parking be allowed in this particular alley.

Extreme caution was urged by Fire Chief Adams and Police Chief Nash because of the required clear safety vehicle access, precedent-setting considerations, etc. Possible interference with trash pickup was also noted.

It was ultimately requested by Councilman Applegate that staff investigate the configuration of power poles, easements, setbacks, etc. in this alley and report back to the Council.

Councilwoman Hardison requested timely action in removal of the red curbing on the Yukon service road, as earlier discussed, and also requested an updated accident report on the subject intersection at the end of one year.

Roll call vote on the motion was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

It was the specific request of Mayor Geissert that within 30 days, the Police, Fire, Transportation and Street Departments submit an information item to Council regarding alley width and parking possibilities behind the homes that will lose on-street parking because of the above Council action.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

17a. CITY HALL EAST WING REMODELING:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Director and the Planning Director recommend that your Honorable Body approve two contracts, in the total amount of not to exceed \$16,500, for the space planning architectural services of Daniel C. Lawrence.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation on Agenda Item 17a. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

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17b. REFURBISHMENT OF CABLE TELEVISION PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Cable Television Administrator that your Honorable Body approve the retubing of the three Sharp 800 cameras by Sharp, Inc. in New Jersey and authorize the work to be done at a cost of \$12,041.64 and approve the refurbishment of two Broadcaster I automated playback units by Channelmatic, Inc. at a total cost of \$7,500.00.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Cable Television Administrator. This motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

17c. SEISMIC SAFETY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 88-1:

Mayor Geissert noted the earlier request for continuance of this agenda item for one week [see Page 2].

Ms. Mary Perry, 4214 Cravens Avenue, approached the podium and requested information regarding the payment schedule to be imposed on her property. Ms. Perry was informed of the anticipated continuance of this item in order to allow for further staff investigation and analysis.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to continue Agenda Item 17c, SEISMIC SAFETY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 88-1, to the City Council meeting of August 2, 1988, 5:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Wirth absent].

20. CONSENT CALENDAR:

20a. COUNCIL AWARD OF TWO (2) ANNUAL CONTRACTS - For the procurement of Miscellaneous Library Books "As Needed" for the Torrance Public Library System, F/Y 1988-89.

Total Expenditure: \$230,000.00 including tax.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended by the City Librarian that your Honorable Body award two (2) Annual Contracts for the procurement of library books, on an "as requested" basis to the following companies.

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1. It is recommended that Council award a one-year contract to the Baker and Taylor Company of Reno, Nevada for the procurement of Miscellaneous Library Books, not to exceed \$115,000.00 including tax, with the understanding that expenditures will reflect only actual titles purchased.
2. It is recommended that Council award a one (1) year contract to the Ingram Book Company, of City of Commerce, for the procurement of Miscellaneous Library Books, not to exceed \$115,000.00 including tax with the understanding that expenditures will reflect only the actual titles purchased.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with staff's recommendation on Agenda Item 20a. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, was unanimously approved by roll call vote [Councilman Wirth absent].

* * *

At 8:26 p.m., the City Council met in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance, returning to the Council agenda at 8:27 p.m., but remaining in joint session for purposes of a joint executive session later in the meeting - see Page 11.

* * *

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

22a. See Page 3.

22b. Councilman Applegate recognized young Mr. James Buckley [son of Torrance's City Librarian] who was present in the audience and is soon to leave for Japan as a Rotary Exchange Student. Mr. Applegate extended best wishes to this student.

22c. Councilwoman Hardison commented on the recent interesting article about Mayor Geissert which appeared in the Daily Breeze.

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22d. Councilwoman Hardison noted receipt of information from Ms. Mary Cooper, Traffic Commissioner, regarding Johnny Morton, a student of South High School who was recognized by a football scout from the Houston area.

22e. Councilwoman Hardison requested a staff report on demolitions in the City of Torrance. Building and Safety Department will follow through.

22f. Councilman Nakano congratulated the Mayor and her husband, Bill, on the recent celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

22g. Mr. Dick Johnson, 23059A Nadine Circle, urged timely activation of left-turn signalization on Maple Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard.

Difficulties encountered at that intersection were affirmed by Councilman Nakano, and Mayor Geissert. Traffic Manager Vance explained the pros and cons involved with the activation of that signal, and advised that a delay study will be accomplished at that location in the near future, with appropriate action to follow as indicated by the study.

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

23a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS;

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance having remained in joint session [see Page 10], Mayor/Chairwoman Geissert read the following statement into the record.

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney regarding salaries, salary schedules and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups as well as certain personnel matters. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54957.6 (a) and 54957.

The City Council will also confer with the City Manager regarding renegotiation of the lease of City-owned airport property known as Specialty Restaurants which is currently occupied by Doolittle's Raiders.

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Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, will confer with Agency Counsel and Executive Director regarding negotiations with The Knickerbocker & Barsom Group for the sale or lease of City and Agency-owned property at the southwest corner of Cabrillo and El Prado Avenues. Authority for holding an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

At 8:40 p.m., the City Council/Redevelopment Agency recessed to joint executive session, returning at 10:26 p.m.

No action was required as a result of the executive session and both Bodies were formally adjourned to Tuesday, August 2, 1988, at 5:30 p.m.

* * *

Adjournment was dedicated to the memory of

Mr. Harold Carter

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Mayor of the City of Torrance


Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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