

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - May 16, 1989

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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, May 16, 1989, at 5:35 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Nelson, City Clerk Bramhall, and Staff representatives.

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION:

Mr. Michael Jackson led in the salute to the flag.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Reverend Jim Park, Seventh Day Adventist Church.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Wirth noted that Item 17c, Page 15 of the April 18, minutes should indicate that he ABSTAINED from voting.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of April 18, 1989, as above corrected. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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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 Councilman Wirth and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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 Councilwoman Hardison, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS:

City Attorney Nelson requested that Agenda Item 18a [Second Reading of Ordinance No. 3271] be WITHDRAWN, it being noted that this ordinance required only one reading.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Citizen Enrichment and Development Committee will meet with members of the Board of Education
Wednesday, May 17, 1989 - 4:30 p.m.
Subject: gangs and graffiti problems.

Budget Workshop
Thursday, May 18, 1989 - 5:00 p.m.

Budget Hearings
Tuesday, May 23, 1989 - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6, 1989 - 5:30 p.m.

Armed Forces Day Parade
Saturday, May 20, 1989 - 1:00 p.m.
5K and 10K Runs - 8:00 a.m.

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8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:

8a. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION - ADMIRAL LEON A. EDNEY:

RESOLUTION NO. 89-94

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION
TO ADMIRAL LEON A EDNEY, VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL
OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES NAVY, FOR SERVING
AS GRAND MARSHAL OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL
ARMED FORCES CELEBRATION

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution
No. 89-94. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison,
carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8b. PROCLAMATION proclaiming May 21 through 27, 1989, as
"National Public Works Week."

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted by City
Engineer Burttt.

8c. PROCLAMATION declaring May 19, 1989, as "Police
Memorial Day" in the City of Torrance and
recognizing the week of May 14, 1989, as "Police
Week" throughout the Nation.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and presented to Police
Chief Nash.

8d. PROCLAMATION proclaiming May 22, 1989, as "Tourism Day"
in the City of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert. This proclamation was
presented to Mr. Michael Jackson of the Visitors' Bureau. Mr.
Jackson was accompanied to the podium by Ms. Barbara Glennie, Ex-
ecutive Director/Manager of the Visitors' Bureau, Mr. Bill
Cooper, Ms. Margo Davis and Ms. Lili Miura, members of the
Bureau.

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10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:

10a. ENCROACHMENT OF FENCE IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 800 CALLE DE ARBOLES:

A brief history of this agenda item was provided by City Engineer Burttt who called attention to the following options which are presented for Council consideration [agenda material of record].

1. Deny request as recommended by the Encroachment Review Committee. This would require removal of wall footing.
2. Approve applicant's request to allow the wall as shown on Exhibit "A" with wrought iron fencing above a 3-foot block wall. The existing footing could remain with possible modifications.
3. Allow the proposed wrought iron fencing to be built at a compromise location with the face of the pilasters being six feet from the curb. This will provide clearance for any curb repair and will also leave space for a pedestrian access and the opening of car doors. All previous encroachments have provided space for sidewalks. The existing footing would be removed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that construction of a fence behind curb in the right-of-way of Via Pasqual south of Calle de Arboles be denied because it conflicts with street maintenance, pedestrian access, and vehicular access needs. If Your Honorable Body wishes to permit a fence, the location in Item 3 above is recommended.

In response to a question by Mayor Geissert, City Attorney Nelson provided clarification regarding the Encroachment Agreement [included in agenda packet], relative to its protection of the City's interest in this case.

Responding to Councilwoman Hardison, Building and Safety Director Grippo advised that field inspection has revealed that the existing footings will support the wall as proposed.

Proponent, Mr. Richard May, 800 Calle de Arboles, described efforts in working with the City's Building and Engineering Departments and indicated his belief that the proposed fence will have no effect on pedestrian traffic nor will it in-

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terfere with the opening of car doors. Neighborhood concurrence with the plans [as indicated by a signed petition] was noted by the proponent, and approval was requested.

Continued brief comments from the Council indicated a general concurrence with the request, particularly in light of the protection afforded by the Encroachment Agreement, and the following action was taken.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to allow the encroachment permit and Option #2. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Geissert confirmed that the above action includes the language of the City Attorney [Encroachment Agreement].

10b. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 44560

Subdivider: Future Estates & Development
Location: Between Newton Street & Via Val-
monte and West of Hawthorne Blvd.
No. of Lots: 6.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends that Final Tract Map 44560 be approved.

Councilwoman Hardison expressed concerns regarding the height of retaining walls on these lots and inquired as to the possibility of building in assurances that when a lot is subdivided it is truly "buildable". It was Ms. Hardison's suggestion that, in the future, consideration be given to requiring elevations of retaining walls with submittal of the Precise Plan application.

Planning Director Ferren advised that staff has worked with area residents who expressed concerns regarding the visual impact of the walls.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to concur with the Engineering Department recommendation. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was the request of Mayor Geissert that the construction on these parcels be closely monitored.

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10c. SENIOR RIDE PROGRAM PROPOSALS:

Staff presentation was provided by Transit Manager Schmidt who advised that the Request for Proposal for the provision of taxi service to senior citizens resulted in submittals from AM/PM Taxi and United Checker Cab Company [aka Wilmington Cab Company]. Mr. Schmidt noted, however, that neither proposal provided the City with the requested \$1,000,000 level of combined single limit liability insurance -- AM/PM carries a \$350,000 combined single limit liability policy and United Checker Cab is self-insured.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that Your Honorable Body reduce the insurance requirement of the RFP to the industry standard of \$300,000 for combined single limit liability and authorize staff to negotiate a six-month pilot contract for the Senior Ride Program with AM/PM Taxi.

Council discussion was directed to the question of insurance, with clarification and expansion as desired provided by members of staff, which included confirmation that the insurance carrier for AM/PM Taxi is not rated and is not California accepted. In comparing the proposals submitted, the Council discussed size of the firms, claims records, liability standards, etc.

Representatives of both companies were invited by Mayor Geissert to address the Council.

Identifying himself as the Secretary and Chief Financial Officer for the Wilmington Cab Company/United Checker Cab, Mr. David R. Koscielak addressed his company's strengths as represented by their assets [backed by audited financial statements] and their past records in responding to claims. This speaker pointed out that the current ordinance for the City of Torrance requires a Best Insurance Guide rating for the insurance carrier, a requirement not fulfilled by the AM/PM Taxi Company, and he requested, in light of staff's recommendation for a change in the RFP, that they be allowed to meet with staff to establish the strength of United Checker Cab's program.

Mr. Steve Kirby, Attorney for United Checker Cab Company, 2614 Artesia Boulevard, Redondo Beach, explained in some depth that company's self-insurance provisions and the protection represented thereby. On behalf of his client, Mr. Kirby re-

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requested an opportunity to respond to the modified RFP as proposed by staff and to demonstrate the quality of their operation in handling claims.

The General Operations Manager for AM/PM Taxi, Mr. Loren Dausener, explained that he was called to represent his company on an emergency basis and is unacquainted with the insurance system used by AM/PM.

Council discussion resumed.

Councilman Applegate indicated that, while he would have no problem with a self-insured company, he would have a problem with a new or inexperienced insurance company such as proposed by AM/PM Taxi. The following was then offered.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to award the six-month pilot senior ride program to United Checker Cab Company. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote, Mayor Geissert confirmed that the above action represents approval in concept and the contract will be returned to the Council at a later date for final approval.

It was the request of Councilwoman Hardison that the Council be given an opportunity to evaluate the program at the end of the six-month period, with the option of awarding the contract to more than one company at that time.

The above motion carried by way of the following roll call vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Nakano, Walker, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Councilman Mock [his legal firm represents an affiliate of United Checker Cab Company].

City Manager Jackson advised that the contract will be returned to Council in approximately three weeks.

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13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS:

13a. ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT AND FEE INCREASES:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Your Honorable Body:

1. Adopt the resolution enabling the City to award the contract to the SPCA for the years of 1989-91 for \$267,224 for the first year with the second year tied to C.P.I. increases.
2. Adopt the ordinance that increases impound fees to \$10 for first impounds and \$20 for second impounds within the year; increase board cost to \$4/day; and increase replacement tag fees to \$1.

Following desired clarification by Environmental Quality Administrator McElroy, Councilwoman Hardison suggested that when this matter is returned in two years, there be a detailed analysis of charges vs. actual cost for impounding of animals.

RESOLUTION NO. 89-100

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR POUND SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (SPCA) DOING BUSINESS AS THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HUMANE SOCIETY

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 89-100. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3272

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 41.2.10(a) OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING FEES FOR IMPOUNDING AND KEEPING ANIMALS AND SECTION 41.3.3 GOVERNING FEE FOR REPLACEMENT OF DOG TAGS

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to approve Ordinance No. 3272 at its first reading. This motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

17a. CAPITAL BUDGET:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance and Governmental Operations Committee recommends that the City Council, as a whole, approve the following and appropriate funds as allocated:

1. Adoption of the Capital Budget projects which deal with rehabilitation and renovation of existing facilities through General Fund carry-over monies.
2. Concur with the capital contribution from Water and Airport for the East Wing remodel.
3. Fund certain projects through the Parks and Recreation Facilities Fund.
4. Concur with the funding proposal for the completion of the library basement.
5. Concur with the use of uncommitted available capital budget monies as a new reserve for enhancements to the Theater Arts Complex.

As Chairman of the Council's Finance and Governmental Operations Committee, Councilman Nakano provided the committee report as above noted, and offered the following --

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to concur with the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee recommendation as stated, including appropriation of funds as allocated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote, Councilman Applegate [member of the committee] expanded on Recommendation #5, which he advised is slightly different from what had been proposed by the City Manager. Mr. Applegate explained that the committee's recommendation will provide additional funds to finish a quality Theater Arts project and, if not required for that purpose, those funds will then be available for future transfer for other use.

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Committee member Wirth commented favorably on the east annex and library basement projects, and urged that appropriate strategies be pursued in an effort to obtain grant monies to assist in the completion of the library basement.

Current status of the pay-back to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Fund was provided by Finance Director Giordano at the request of Mayor Geissert.

Roll call vote on the above motion proved unanimously favorable.

17b. FEES FOR POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES:

RESOLUTION NO. 89-101

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR
CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 89-101. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

17c. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEMS:

RECOMMENDATION:

The Information Systems Department recommends that Your Honorable Body award a contract to our current vendor, NEC Business Communications (NECBC), fdba API Telephone Systems, for the purchase and installation of a NEC Electra Mark II Electronic Key Telephone System for the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Attorney's office in the amount of \$21,349.98, and a second electronic Key Telephone System for Personnel, Civil Service, Manpower and Worker's Compensation in the amount of \$21,603.71 for a total of \$42,953.69.

Following clarification by the City's Communications Coordinator, Dana Scott, action was taken as indicated below.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with staff's recommendation on Agenda Item 17c. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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18. SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

18a. ORDINANCE NO. 3271:

WITHDRAWN - see Page 2.

* * *

At 7:00 p.m., the City Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency. The regular Council agenda was resumed at 7:01 p.m., the Agency/Council remaining in joint session for purposes of a joint executive session to be held later in the meeting - see Page 12.

* * *

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

22a. Councilman Applegate advised of the static displays at the Del Amo Center in conjunction with the Armed Forces Day celebration.

22b. Councilman Applegate requested that appropriate action be taken regarding a request from AYSO for participation in the celebration of their 25th anniversary.

City Manager Jackson/Parks and Recreation Director Barnett to follow through and report back to the Council.

22c. Councilwoman Hardison referenced recent correspondence relative to City-owned land on the south side of Plaza Del Amo. She was advised by the City Manager that the request expressed in that letter is no longer being pursued.

22d. Councilman Nakano expressed appreciation to Finance Director Giordano for her report on public debt financing in California.

22e. Councilman Wirth requested that staff investigate possible fines, etc. in connection with serious one-time noise violations from the Torrance Airport.

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22f. Mayor Geissert expressed appreciation to General Services Director White for recent developments in the graffiti program. It was the Mayor's suggestion that Torrance share some of these ideas with interested neighboring jurisdictions.

22g. Mayor Geissert extended congratulations to Councilman Applegate for his recent selection as a Senator of the Jaycees.

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

23a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS:

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency having remained in joint session [see Page 11], 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 on the following subjects:

- Salaries, salary schedules and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups as well as certain other personnel matters;
- Pending litigation entitled People of the State of California, ex rel., vs. Mobil Oil Corporation et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 719953;
- A request by Schwartz Investment Company for the extension of a lease of city-owned property located at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard.

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, will confer with Agency Counsel regarding:

- Pending litigation entitled City of Torrance vs. Walter J. Egan, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 694935.

Authority to hold an executive session for these purposes is contained in Government Code Sections 54957 & 54957.6(a); 54956.8; and 54956.9(a).

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At 7:13 p.m., the City Council/Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance recessed to joint executive session, returning at 8:04 p.m.

No action was required as a result of the executive session, and this meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to Thursday, May 18, 1989, 5:00 p.m. for purposes of the Third Budget Workshop Session.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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