

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - May 18, 1989

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Peggy Laverty
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 Thursday, May 18, 1989, at 5:09 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall for the purpose of conducting the Third Budget Workshop Session.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Hardison, Nakano, Walker, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.
Councilman Mock arrived at 5:12 p.m.

Absent: Councilman Applegate.

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

3. MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. His motion was seconded by Councilman Nakano and carried by unanimous roll call vote [Councilman Mock not as yet arrived; Councilman Applegate absent].

THIRD BUDGET WORKSHOP:

I. INTRODUCTION:

Mayor Geissert announced this as the last in the series of current budget workshop sessions and set forth the format to be followed.

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II. COMMUNITY INPUT:

Audience comments were invited by the Mayor.

Ms. Lynitta Schaffer, 1632 Torrance Boulevard, President of the Torrance League of Women Voters, read aloud a statement indicating the League's support of completion of the Civic Center Library basement and their endorsement of an application for grant monies for this purpose.

* * *

At 5:12 p.m., Councilman Mock arrived.

* * *

Ms. Shirley Turner, 23216 Juniper Avenue, inquired regarding interest on funds used to purchase Madrona Marsh property. The City Manager indicated he will provide a report in this regard.

* * *

Mr. Joe Arciuch, 23521 Kathryn Avenue, reviewed the functions and funding of the City's Noise Abatement operation and inquired regarding the adequacy of staffing provisions for this activity. Detailed information was provided by staff and it was noted by the City Manager that a personnel study is presently under way and will be submitted to the Council in the near future.

Describing personnel identification specifics regarding the City's Airport Programs Specialist as "confusing" in the budget document, Mr. Arciuch was informed by Director of Transportation Horkay that this classification is presently under study.

Mr. Arciuch next introduced a personal experience related to a street tree and was instructed to submit his documentation on this subject to the City Manager for follow up and a report to the Council.

An additional article entitled Cities Finding Public Services Better Run by Private Firm was presented to City Manager Jackson by this speaker.

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III. OLD BUSINESS (Continued below):

Mayor Geissert inquired regarding her request [May 8 Budget Workshop] for information regarding the possible hiring of another Deputy City Attorney in the Civil Division.

City Attorney Nelson advised that he will return in a short time with a report on this subject.

IV. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION:

The matter of the Transient Occupancy Tax was addressed by Councilman Wirth.

An update of the goals and an outline of the compromise reached in meetings with members of the hotel industry were provided by Finance Director Giordano [per memorandum dated May 18, 1989] with an illustration of a gradual phase-out schedule of the exemption plan.

Discussion developed along these lines, with acknowledgment of pending State legislation which, Mr. Wirth noted, would essentially cap the tax if adopted.

City Manager Jackson proposed the possibility of Council adopting a .5% increase at this time [to 9.5%], with another .5% increase to take place some time in the future -- increases could be adopted but not implemented if the legislation does not go through, per Mr. Jackson. Councilman Wirth indicated his preference for an increase to 10% at this time.

Mayor Geissert noted her personal preference for the adoption of 9.5% at this time, with the legislation then tracked very carefully and any needed adjustments made in the future.

The Council now returned to --

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Geissert noted inclusion in Council agenda packets of follow-up reports to the May 11 Workshop --

- A. Airport and Environmental functional charts
- B. Airport Income Statement

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- C. Finance Department follow up to citizen input
- D. Planning Department follow up to citizen input
- E. Police Department follow up to citizen input
- F. Street Department follow up to citizen input.

Councilwoman Hardison requested that the City Manager share information relative to the Analyst study with the Disaster Council.

City Manager Jackson referenced recent Council action in modifying certain reserves within the budget and requested that Council be aware of the impact represented thereby [reference May 16, adoption of the Capital Budget].

IV. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION:

Considered earlier - see Page 3.

V. "STRAW VOTES" AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUDGET HEARINGS:

The following series of motions was offered.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to adopt the base budget as proposed. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Applegate absent].

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to approve the City Manager's recommendations on reserves subject to the amendment as a result of the discussion on the Capital Improvement Budget. This motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Applegate absent].

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the recommendation on revenue modifications [other than the transient occupancy tax] -- sewer service fee, utility users tax on long distance phone calls and refuse pass through. This motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Applegate absent].

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MOTION: Relative to the transient occupancy tax, Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the modified proposal dated May 18, 1989, from Finance staff with the addition of the option of monitoring the legislation and, if it passes, having staff bring back to the Council the other .5% increase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock.

Prior to roll call vote, Councilman Mock requested that staff return to Council with a resolution opposing the above referenced legislation.

Roll call vote on the above motion was as follows.

AYES: Councilmembers Hardison, Mock, Walker, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Councilman Nakano.

ABSENT: Councilman Applegate.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved to fund an increase of \$20,000.00 to the Visitors' Bureau. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Applegate absent].

MOTION; Councilman Wirth moved to approve, in concept, "green sheets," Pages B-1 and B-2 of the budget document. This motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried unanimously by roll call vote [Councilman Applegate absent].

Councilwoman Hardison requested that, at mid-year budget review, "green sheet" priorities #1-5 be presented, with items #6-14 listed for informational purposes.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS:

Mayor Geissert announced scheduled budget hearing dates of May 23, 7:00 p.m., and June 6, 5:30 p.m.

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VII. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:10 p.m., this meeting was formally adjourned to
Tuesday, May 23, 1989, 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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