

I N D E X

TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 6, 1990

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\* \* \*

Marlene Lewis  
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, February 6, 1990 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.

\* \* \*

Mayor Geissert announced with regret the passing of a long-time resident of the City, officer of the Gray Panthers, former member of the California PTA State Board and Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commission:

BERTHA MONTENEGRO.

The Mayor requested that adjournment be in memory of Ms. Montenegro.

\* \* \*

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION:

Doris Greene, outgoing president of the Rose Float Association, led the Flag Salute.

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The invocation for this meeting was provided by Father Terence Lynberg, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of January 9, 1990. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock. Councilman Nakano abstained from voting, having been absent on January 9. Roll call vote reflected majority approval with Councilman Nakano's abstention.

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 Mock 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 was seconded by Councilman Mock and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS:

None.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, March 14, 1990, 4:30 p.m.

Subject: Permit Process of Acutely Hazardous Material

Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 27, 1990, 6:00 p.m.

Subject: Mid-year Budget Review

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 1990, 6:00 p.m.

Subject: Budget

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8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:

8a. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS:

In recognition of their dedicated service to the City, Mayor Geissert presented service awards to the following City employees:

Richard Garcia, Street Maintenance Superintendent  
35 years of service

Ralph Gibson, Sanitation Supervisor  
30 years of service

William Becker Principal Building Inspector  
25 years of service.

8b. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK":

The week of February 11 through 17, 1990 was proclaimed "National Child Passenger Safety Week" by Mayor Geissert.

Present to receive this proclamation, Torrance Police Lieutenant Dennis Frandsen and Officer Dale Robbins, the department's spokesperson for child safety programs, provided a brief overview of the Police Department's participation in the Child Safety Seat Loan and "Buckleasaurus" programs. Officer Robbins acknowledged the Torrance Exchange Club's donation of 12 new child safety seats for use in the loan program.

8c. PROCLAMATION RE "VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK":

Mayor Geissert proclaimed February 11 to 17, 1990 to be "Vocational Education Week" in the City of Torrance. This proclamation was accepted by Dr. Elizabeth Nash, Superintendent of Southern California Regional Occupation Center, on behalf of "the SCROC Board of Trustees, staff, and 4,500 students enrolled in over 50 programs."

9. LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS:

9a. PRESENTATION OF 1990 "PRINCESSES' TROPHY" AWARD:

A brief history of the City's participation in the Tournament of Roses Parade was provided by Ms. Doris Greene, president of the Torrance Rose Float Association, who described the award-winning float entry, "World Tour."

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Introduced by Ms. Greene, Mr. Bob Monk of the Float Entries Committee of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses presented the City with the 1990 Princesses' Trophy.

On behalf of the entire City Council, Mayor Geissert congratulated Ms. Greene, the Association and volunteers on this achievement and expressed appreciation for their efforts. Councilman Mock, liaison to the Rose Float Association, personally thanked Ms. Greene for keeping the Council informed.

15. HEARINGS:

15a. CUP 89-49, MOBIL OIL:

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for City Council consideration of an applicant appeal of conditions relating to approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow construction of approximately 23,700 square feet of building area to house central control instrumentation systems for refinery operations on property located in the M-2 zone at 3700 190th Street, CUP 89-49, MOBIL OIL CORPORATION.

Proof of publication, as provided by the City Clerk's Office, was received and filed without comment.

A brief chronology of events to date was provided by Senior Principal Planner Gibson, who reported that four of five conditions originally appealed by the applicant were deleted or withdrawn with only the Code condition requiring an improvement bond for the construction of Del Amo Boulevard remaining.

Noted during Mr. Gibson's presentation was the Planning Commission's unanimous vote to require that the applicant provide street dedication and the Planning staff's recommendation for approval of the project as conditioned. Staff explained, however, that the Planning Commission's decision was made prior to the Council's enactment of an ordinance requiring that there be a nexus between the project and requirements for street dedication.

Senior Principal Planner Gibson responded to Council inquiries, following which the proponent was invited to speak.

Mr. Robert Break of the law firm of Latham and Watkins, 650 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, summarized Mobil's position (as set forth in correspondence dated February 6, 1990, of record) that the requirement for bond is not related to the use of the property for which the Permit is requested. Also referenced by Mr. Break was documentation sent to the City Attorney in substantiation of their stand.

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Members of the audience were invited to speak, to which there was no response.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to close the public hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to grant the appeal and approve the project with modifications as proposed. Councilman Mock seconded the motion.

While he did not completely concur in Mobil's conclusions, it was City Attorney Nelson's recommendation that Council adopt the motion taking into consideration the remoteness of the proposed construction from the public works project and the fact that a date had not been set for the subject street improvements.

Councilman Applegate noted the City's past practice of uniformly imposing street dedication requirements and the recent enactment of an ordinance, in keeping with current law, that changes the City's Policy. He clarified that it would be for this reason the appeal would be granted.

Roll call vote on the motion to grant the appeal and approve the project with modifications as proposed was unanimously favorable.

City Clerk Bramhall read number and title to:

SUPPLEMENTARY

RESOLUTION NO. 90-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 74.3.2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE FOR MOBIL OIL CORPORATION FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE PROPOSED ROUTE OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD, EAST OF MAPLE STREET,  
CUP 89-49

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-24. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

17a. PRE-BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR FY 1990-92:

City Manager Jackson explained the purpose of the pre-budget workshop, changes in the budget process, and highlighted information from the midyear budget report as set forth in the staff report of record.

The Council was asked to provide the City Manager with input regarding the level of City services, the base budget, the funding of mandated programs, possible revenue enhancements, and budget workshop procedures, to aid in the preparation of the fiscal year 1990-92 budget.

It was Councilman Mock's request to see projections on the impact to the budget and City services from implementation and enforcement of the Walker Initiative, should it pass.

Councilwoman Hardison indicated her opposition to the idea of tradeoffs or reductions. However, she was willing to "look at" increasing revenues as appropriate and requested an overview of revenue increases over the past five to ten years.

Of concern to this Councilwoman was the monitoring of priority green sheet items that had not been addressed in past years, such as the need for additional Parks and Recreation personnel to maintain acquired parkland and buildings. Other concerns expressed by Ms. Hardison included the possible need for additional funding in connection with the passage of the Walker Initiative and government mandates.

In favor of increasing salary levels to compete with the marketplace, Councilwoman Hardison felt there should be sufficient funding to meet commitments to employee groups. She asked that staff return with information regarding special adjustments and expenditures for City employees over past years.

Councilman Wirth noted his ongoing interest in the completion of the Civic Center Library basement. It was his request that the City continue to look for a major partner in connection with a child care program for employees. Indicating his willingness to "find funds" for a modified child care program, he asked that alternatives be explored if the City is not successful in locating a major partner.

In regard to legislative mandates, Councilman Wirth identified the need to monitor legislation on both state and federal levels relative to revenue sources, particularly with regard to Federal Transportation Funds.

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Once the availability of funds is determined, Councilman Applegate felt the system was in place to implement green sheet changes if the affordability is there.

Councilman Nakano indicated he would have comments to make later in the budget process.

Faced with unknown factors affecting the budget, Mayor Geissert said she was not ready to commit to new programs at this point in the process. However, were funding to be available, she felt the City should look at supplementing work forces that deal with added City facilities.

Mayor Geissert noted that public input on the budget would be entertained at the Town Hall meeting, Tuesday, February 13, in the City Council Chambers. City Manager Jackson urged citizens to address their needs and concerns regarding service levels either by attending this meeting or by writing to the City.

17b. REQUEST FOR TWO-DAY FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL AND  
THE WAIVING OF FEES:

Staff's recommendation that the Chamber of Commerce's request for a two-day festival be denied because of the drain on City resources and other concerns was related by City Manager Jackson. It was clarified by the City Manager that staff had no objection to a one-day program.

Favoring the proposal, Councilman Applegate felt a two-day festival would bring even greater attention to the Downtown area, represent a more effective use of manpower, and provide an inexpensive way for the City to create the opportunity for nonprofit organizations to earn money. He urged the Council to allow a two-day event with the knowledge that an adjustment could be made in the event it was not successful.

In response to staff concerns, Councilman Applegate suggested City resources could be spread over the two-day period, with Police and Fire personnel manning a booth on alternate days. He entertained the possibility that there would be volunteers from these departments.

Councilwoman Hardison felt it would have been better if the Chamber had surveyed residents and merchants and outlined resolutions to their concerns prior to approaching the Council. This Councilmember also voiced concerns regarding costs.

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Mr. Kevin Peterson, President, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, maintained that a two-day function would be "twice as good" relative to achieving the original Festival goals of bringing visibility to the Downtown area and providing a fund-raising opportunity for nonprofit organizations.

Noting there had been significant personnel changes within the Chamber, Mr. Peterson announced that Mark Conti of Mark Conti Productions had been engaged to help with this year's effort and commented on Mr. Conti's capabilities in this regard.

With the addition of professional help, Mr. Peterson said there would be more revenue needed. The following factors were related by the Chamber president in support of a two-day event:

- That Sunday typically draws the biggest crowd during a two-day festival.
- That the second day would be a "free day" as booths and equipment would be in place and there would be twice the number of people.
- That a two-day event would attract quality arts and crafts people to rent space.
- That sponsors would be more willing to underwrite the costs with this added identity.
- That the survey in agenda material (of record) does not reflect long-term benefits.
- That two days of income from vendors and sponsors is necessary to break even.

Responding to Council inquiries, Mr. Peterson indicated his willingness to change the dates of the festival to address Council concerns about the time frame.

Ms. Barbara Glennie, vice president and general manager of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce confirmed that the Chamber suffered a loss on last year's Festival.

Citing his past experience, Mr. Mark Conti, 2203 Curtis Avenue, Redondo Beach, projected the effectiveness of a two-day event and addressed concerns. Mr. Conti noted that most businesses in the Downtown area are closed on Sunday and would not be affected. He recommended the City work with the California Emergency Response Team to provide overnight security. The

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Council was apprised that a controlled amount of traffic would be able to pass through the area with the Festival equipment in place and that Mr. Conti did not anticipate a traffic problem.

Mayor Geissert invited the public to speak.

Having worked with the committee that set up the Festival two years ago, Ms. Linda Stockel, co-owner of Linda's World, 1614 Cravens, shared her concerns regarding financial practices; the lack of merchant involvement; inadequate notification; the benefit to Downtown businesses, particularly with the advent of outside vendors; and the need for access to the area.

Downtown merchant and member of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bill McCloud, 4484 Spencer Street, noted the poor response to their past efforts to contact merchants and obviate problems and concerns. This speaker reported that a meeting would be held and that letters had already been sent to the merchants regarding this year's Festival. Noting ways in which merchants could benefit from the exposure this event affords them, he supported a two-day event for reasons cited by other speakers.

Explaining how the Festival benefited his business, over a period of time, Mr. Gary Meyer, 22923 Fonthill, a merchant in the Downtown area and chairman/volunteer of the Festival group, supported the event and advised of extra efforts this year to contact merchants and develop programs to help them.

Scoutmaster of Troop 350, Richard Mossberg, 1743 Crenshaw Boulevard, supported the Festival as one of their successful, major fund-raising events.

Speaking in her own behalf, Ms. Janet Payne, 1318 Engracia Avenue, Festival volunteer and past president of the Historical Society, stated her opinion that the festival is a unique event that brings people together as a community. It was her concern that this year's effort was "rushed."

Identifying her concern to be "commercialization" of the Festival, Mayor Geissert questioned the ability of the Downtown area to handle an affair that would grow comparable to those held in the beach cities. She also questioned the benefit to nonprofit organizations.

City Clerk Bramhall commented on the success of two booths sponsored by the Kiwanis Club last year.

Councilman Applegate upheld his support of the request, commenting on the availability of areas to provide parking.

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In support of a two-day festival, Ms. Charlie Lambert, 2800 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, an employee of Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC), commented on the importance of the Festival in connection with their recruitment efforts.

Representing Torrance Holiday Inn, 21333 Hawthorne Boulevard, Ms. Margo Davis stressed that the Friendship Festival epitomizes what the City stands for -- a balanced community. There was assurance by this speaker that this event had been a primary focus of the Chamber of Commerce for months and that all of the underlying plans were in place. Money spent for this purpose, in her opinion, would be a good investment in the community.

With no clear-cut position from the people who live in the neighborhood, Councilman Walker said he would be willing to allow the two-day event to prove itself.

**MOTION:** Councilman Applegate moved to grant the Chamber's request to hold a two-day Friendship Festival with associated costs not to exceed the two-day projection indicated by the City Manager of \$8,234. It was clarified by Mr. Applegate that his motion included the waiving of fees, with the exception of safety fees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Councilwoman Hardison expressed her concern that the City had not been allowed to share in this process as in the past and did not know projected costs. She stated her desire to see a financial statement following the event and noted her opinion that this should be a "break even" event for the Chamber and not a profit-making venture. The Mayor's concern that the Festival might become too large was shared by this Councilmember.

With some concerns, the Mayor favored allowing the two-day Festival on a one-year trial basis, but likewise asked to see a financial statement as well as some response from participating nonprofit organizations.

Supporting the motion, Councilman Nakano stated his desire to see a projected budget and a financial statement following the Festival. Mr. Nakano felt the concerns of Downtown people should be surveyed and addressed prior to the event.

The City Manger agreed to provide a report on the City's expenditures, to work with the Chamber to provide a financial statement following the Festival, and to use City resources to survey the Downtown area.

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Roll call vote on the motion to grant the request for a two-day festival not to exceed costs projected by the City Manager and including the waiving of fees (except safety fees) was unanimously favorable.

20. CONSENT CALENDAR:

20a. AWARD OF CONTRACT to fabricate and install wrought iron fencing and gates around the perimeter of the Madrona Marsh

Reference: Bid No. B90-05

Expenditure: \$142,803.00, including sales tax

RECOMMENDATION:

The Purchasing Department and the Parks and Recreation Department request that Council authorize the award of a contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Lightning Fence Company of Poway, California in the amount of \$142,803.00.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, moved to approve Consent Calendar Item 20a. Approval by roll call vote was unanimous.

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At 7:56 p.m., the City Council recessed and met in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. Regular Council agenda order was resumed at 7:57 p.m., with both bodies remaining in joint session for the purpose of a joint executive session to be held later in the evening.

\* \* \*

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

22a. Councilwoman Hardison asked for direction concerning information (correspondence dated January 15, 1990, of record) received from the City Attorney on the matter of full-stop, taxi-back operations at the Airport. There was no objection to Mayor Geissert's suggestion that the matter be sent to committee.

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22b. Councilman Mock transmitted to staff information concerning the Crimes Victim Justice Format initiative, which he received from the author, and asked that this matter be returned as an agenda item.

22c Mobil Oil information appearing in recent articles and ads in one of the local newspapers was refuted by Councilman Walker, who commented on efforts to defeat his hydrofluoric acid initiative. Mr. Walker related his dismay that he would be unable to present arguments supporting his initiative at many of the local campaign forums because of format changes.

22d. Councilman Wirth mentioned the arrival of the first MAX bus for the Torrance to El Segundo route.

22e. Voicing his concern regarding affordable housing in the City, Councilman Wirth asked that staff investigate possible areas in the City where increased density might be acceptable in conjunction with the current revision to the Land Use Element of the General Plan and return to Council with information regarding locations and feasibility.

22f. Responding to earlier comments by Councilman Walker, Sandi Monda, 21506 Talisman, related the position of her homeowners group relative to the format of their recent candidates' forum and advised of their plans for a subsequent forum on March 5, to which Mr. Walker was invited.

22g. The intent of his earlier address was clarified by Councilman Walker, who explained that his comments were directed at the desirability of gaining early public exposure in connection with the hydrofluoric acid issue.

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 at this time.

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney on the following subjects:

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- Salaries, salary schedules, and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups, as well as certain other personnel matters; pending litigation; and lease negotiations;
- Pending litigation entitled John Rastello, et al., vs. Rollo Green, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. SWC 74882;
- Pending litigation entitled People of the State of California, vs. Mobil Oil Corporation et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 719953;
- Lease amendment negotiations regarding Madison Park Ground Lease;
- Negotiations for lease/purchase of Columbia School site with Torrance Board of Education;
- Lease negotiations with nonprofit corporation regarding Greenwood School site;
- As the Redevelopment Agency Board, Council will confer with Agency Counsel regarding eminent domain litigation entitled Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance vs. Thomas G. Woolson, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number C 544910;
- Temporary use of Nagel Building by Robinson Helicopter Corporation; and
- Pending litigation entitled Maxine Hayes v. City of Torrance, Municipal Court of California, Long Beach Judicial District Case No. 88C08844.

Authority to hold an executive session for these purposes is contained in Government Code sections 54957.6(a), 54956.9(a), and 54956.8.

At 8:20 p.m. Mayor Geissert called a brief recess to be followed immediately by a joint, closed executive session for the purposes noted above.

Upon reconvening at 10:05 p.m., the City Council took the following action.

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RESOLUTION NO. 90-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION NO. 89-157.

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-25. Councilwoman Hardison seconded his motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

City Attorney Nelson recommended the Council concur with his recommendation in the matter of pending litigation entitled Maxine Hayes v. City of Torrance, Municipal Court of California, Long Beach Judicial District Case No. 88C08844. Councilman Applegate SO MOVED and his motion was seconded by Councilman Mock. Roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

24. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: At 10:07 p.m., Councilman Applegate moved to adjourn both the City Council and the Redevelopment Agency to Tuesday, February 13, 1990, at 7:00 p.m. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Geissert.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of:

Bertha Montenegro.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
Clerk of the City of Torrance

Marlene Lewis  
Minute Secretary

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