

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - February 27, 1990

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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, February 27, 1990, at 7:12 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.

\* \* \*

It was with sadness that Mayor Geissert announced the recent passing of Terue Brown, wife of Doug Brown, former Torrance City Councilman. The Mayor directed that this meeting be adjourned in memory of Mrs. Brown.

\* \* \*

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The salute to the flag was led by Camp Fire boys and girls Starflight Club "Shooting Stars".

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Reverend Thomas Rothhaar, Walteria Methodist Church.

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of January 30, 1990, as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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.

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.

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

15a. PP 89-41, 2 89-25, STEVEN KAM: City Manager Jackson noted that the applicant has requested a continuation to April 3, 1990. [See Page 8.]

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee

Met this date  
Subject: Mid-Year Budget Review  
Report will be forthcoming.

Tuesday, March 27, 1990, 5:30 p.m.  
Subject: Capital Budget.

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, March 21, 1990, 4:30 p.m.  
Subject: Permit Process of Acutely Hazardous  
Material.

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8. COMMUNITY MATTERS

- 8a. PROCLAMATION declaring March 12 through 18, 1990, as  
Camp Fire Birthday Week in the City of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and received with appreciation by Ms. Susan Dworitz, Shooting Stars Camp Fire Club Leader.

8b. INTRODUCTION OF KASHIWA OFFICIALS

Mayor Geissert, assisted by Mikko Haggot-Henson, introduced the following members of the Kashiwa delegation.

Members of City Assembly:

Kiyomatsu Kaneko [group leader]  
Seita Ro Hodota  
Minoru Watanabe  
Kazuo Yamanaka.

Members of City Office:

Mikiho Hosono  
Tadaaki Tanaka  
Shigeo Terajima  
Toshihisa Tomoda  
Hiroyasu Watanabe  
Hiroshi Yabusaki.

There was an exchange of gifts between the representatives of the two cities. Mayor Geissert extended a warm welcome to the visitors and Mr. Kiyomatsu Kanedo responded with expressions of appreciation to the City of Torrance.

- 8c. PROCLAMATION naming the weekend of March 3rd and 4th  
1990, as the Torrance Orchid Weekend in the City  
of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted, with appreciation, by Ms. Lois Stoddard of the South Bay Orchid Society.

9. LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS

- 9a. FINE ARTS COMMISSION 1988/89 ANNUAL REPORT

Councilman Wirth moved to receive and file the 1988/89 Annual Report of the Fine Arts Commission. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and carried without objection.

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10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

10a. PARCEL MAP 20444 (D89-7)

SUBDIVIDER: Lanco Engineering (Jack Brooks,  
Trustee)  
LOCATION: 1720 Carson Street  
NUMBER OF LOTS: 2 Lots.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends the City Council approve Final Parcel Map 20444, the abandonment thereon, and that the dedication of right-of-way be accepted.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Engineering Department. His motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10b. LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (LACTC)  
HALF-CENT SALES TAX PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that your Honorable Body adopt a RESOLUTION which disapproves the LACTC Fight Gridlock Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, on the grounds that the distribution of funds to each local government is not proportional to the amount of sales tax revenues collected in its jurisdiction.

The same reason should be used to deny the request for designation of the LACTC by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors as the local Transportation Sales Tax Authority.

A brief staff presentation [per agenda material of record] was provided by Senior Administrative Analyst Hildebrand, with additional clarification and expansion furnished by Director of Transportation Horkay.

Members of Council voiced concurrence with staff's concerns regarding details of the proposal by the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission [LACTC]. Noted specifically was the City's unsatisfactory experience [Council meeting of August 22, 1989] with regard to consideration of a light rail system through the City of Torrance.

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Mayor Geissert noted that she personally has a philosophical problem with the imposition of a general sales tax for the financing of a specific service; however, she indicated her favor [in concept only] of a gas tax increase for the funding of transportation needs.

Present as a member of staff of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission was Ms. Mary Lou Echternach, 403 West 8th Street, Los Angeles. Ms. Echternach addressed some of the City's expressed concerns, explained funding disbursement, and provided a history of the Commission/staff considerations on this subject.

It was Ms. Echternach's ultimate suggestion that the City work with the County Transportation Commission and its staff in an effort to resolve issues of present controversy and concern.

Mayor Geissert returned to the subject of recent discussions regarding the light rail, emphasizing that the City of Torrance felt "shortchanged" in terms of long-range planning for any rapid transit.

There was no response to the Mayor's invitation for further audience input, and a brief Council discussion developed.

Councilman Wirth suggested that this item be held in a study mode, with the Council Transportation Committee or the Council as a whole to consider additional information when received.

MOTION: Councilman Mock moved to hold Agenda Item 10b, for referral to the Council Transportation Committee pending receipt of further information from the County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth.

It was suggested by Councilman Applegate that Council consider [per staff recommendation] adoption of the resolution disapproving the LACTC proposal in order that the Board of Supervisors and LACTC might immediately be put on notice that the City of Torrance, while not turning its back on transportation, finds the subject proposal to be unacceptable.

Mayor Geissert stated her preference that the matter be referred to Committee for study and the gathering of additional information. The Mayor suggested that by letter or resolution the City make it very clear to the Board of Supervisors the reason, including the inequitable return of the sales tax, for not supporting the proposal at this time.

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The Mayor also emphasized the strong concerns of the Council because there has been nothing of substance offered to the South Bay relative to rapid transit long-range planning.

Individual Councilmembers joined in expressing concern and strong disappointment in the conceptual light rail proposal which was before Council in August of 1989.

As discussion continued, Councilman Applegate expressed some concern regarding a timely return of the matter and offered a SUBSTITUTE MOTION to concur with the staff recommendation. This motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote, Mayor Geissert reiterated her desire for a study in order that the Council might be provided with more detail including a comparison with various related pending ballot measures.

The SUBSTITUTE MOTION failed to carry by way of the following roll call vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Applegate and Walker.

NOES: Councilmembers Hardison, Mock, Nakano, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

Roll call vote on the MAIN MOTION was unanimously favorable.

11. POLICE AND FIRE MATTERS

11a. JAIL REFURBISHMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Police Department recommends that your Honorable Body approve the refurbishing of the Police Department Jail Facility safety and detoxification cells in the amount of \$89,665. Since Marathon Engineering of Mountain Ranch is the only approved provider in the State it is recommended that the contract to perform the work be awarded to them on a sole-source basis.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Police Department. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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12. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

12a. EA 89-18: TORRANCE CRENSHAW PARTNERS

RESOLUTION NO. 90-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND ENVICOM CORPORATION FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-36. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote, Senior Principal Planner Gibson responded to Council questions, advising that the notification area for the subject scoping session will encompass an adequately expanded area and the meeting will likely be held in the evening.

Roll call vote on the above motion was unanimously favorable.

14. PERSONNEL MATTERS

14a. APPROVAL OF:

1. Revised Job Description for Senior Employment and Training Clerk
2. New Job Description for Employment Specialist II
3. Supplemental Resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Personnel Department recommends that your Honorable Body approve the revised and retitled job description for Senior Employment and Training Clerk and the new job description of Employment Specialist II. The Personnel Department also recommends adoption of the Supplemental Resolution modifying the Externally Funded and Limited Tenure Employees Resolution in order to establish the salary range for the Employment Specialist II.

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RESOLUTION NO. 90-37

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH CERTAIN  
CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND  
WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EXTERNALLY FUNDED  
AND LIMITED TENURE EMPLOYEES AMENDING  
RESOLUTION NO. 89-162

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-37. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15. HEARINGS

15a. PP 89-41, W 89-25: STEVEN KAM

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for City Council consideration of an appeal of a Planning Commission approval of a Precise Plan of Development and a Waiver to allow the construction of a second-story addition to an existing two-story single-family residence with less than the required twenty-foot average front yard setback on property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 4438 Vista Largo. PP 89-41, W 89-25; STEVEN KAM.

[See Page 2, for announcement of the requested continuance on this agenda item].

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to continue Agenda Item 15a to Tuesday, April 3, 1990, 5:30 p.m. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

15b. PP 89-48: PACIFIC BUILDERS

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for City Council consideration of a neighbor's appeal of a Planning Commission approval of a request for approval of a Precise Plan of Development to allow construction of a first- and second-story addition to an existing one-story residence at 5309 Paseo de Pablo in the R-1 zone located in the Hillside Overlay District. PP 89-48: PACIFIC BUILDERS.

Proof of publication, provided by the City Clerk, was filed without comment.

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Staff presentation was provided by Senior Principal Planner Gibson who pointed out that the Planning Commission and the Planning Department recommend denial of the appeal and approval of the project.

It was noted by Mr. Gibson that although the applicant's residence is in the Hillside Overlay zone, the appellant's residence is outside that zone, a factor which does not affect the rights of the appellant in any way, per City Attorney Nelson.

As discussion continued, Mayor Geissert pointed out a reference in the Planning Commission minutes on this case to "the 'original view' concept recently agreed to by the City Council". The Mayor pointed out that, while the concept of an original view as opposed to an acquired view was a point of Council discussion, this concept was not adopted by the Council as a firm policy.

Mr. Martin M. Jaconi, 16421 Martin Lane, Huntington Harbor, architect representing Pacific Builders and the owners of the subject property, Mr. and Mrs. Kendall, indicated their ability to lower the roof height by six inches. It was Mr. Jaconi's opinion that the impact to the view of the appellant's property, which view was acquired by way of an addition in 1987, is not significant.

Architect and designer for the additions at 5331 Via Del Valle [appellant's property], Mr. Steve Smith, 22850 Crenshaw Boulevard displayed drawings illustrating a possible rearrangement of components in the subject project in order to provide a view corridor which would accommodate his client. [NOTE: these drawings were not submitted for City records].

Photographs of the view from the appellant's residence were then submitted for the record and Mr. Smith expressed his desire to work with the builder or developer of this project in order to attain a design more in keeping with the wishes of his client. When questioned by Councilwoman Hardison, Mr. Smith advised that he had not sought to approach the appellant regarding a possible redesign during the nine-weeks since the Planning Commission hearing of this case.

Mr. Ray Saukkola, appellant, requested that the Council defer final judgment on this case in order that there might be some collaboration on design between the two architects involved.

The architect for the proponent, Mr. Jaconi, returned to explain that the design, as presented, was based on minimizing the cost impact to his client.

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There being no one else in the audience who wished to speak, Councilman Applegate moved to close the hearing. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Predicated on the fact that the appellant has an attained view, a substantial portion of which will remain following the proposed construction, and also observing that existing trees will soon be taller than most of the addition, Councilman Applegate indicated his wholehearted concurrence with the decision of the Planning Commission in this matter.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to deny the appeal and approve PP 89-48, PACIFIC BUILDERS. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING  
A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED  
FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 2  
OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW  
CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRST AND SECOND STORY  
ADDITION TO AN EXISTING ONE STORY RESIDENCE  
ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY  
DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 5309 PASEO DE PABLO  
PP 89-48: PACIFIC BUILDERS

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-38. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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At 9:12 p.m., Mayor Geissert called a recess. The Council reconvened at 9:42 p.m.

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17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

17a. RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION OF ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

RESOLUTION NO. 90-39

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE CALIFORNIA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A  
SAFETY EVALUATION OF RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION  
OF ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN AND THROUGH  
TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-39. This motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Prior to roll call vote, City Attorney Nelson responded to Council questions by describing the procedure to be followed in the conduct of the above investigation, noting that the City Attorney's office will monitor the appropriate time for City input in the process.

Following further elaboration by the City Attorney, the Mayor called for roll call vote on the above motion which proved unanimously favorable.

17b. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) INQUIRY ON  
CABLE TELEVISION (MM DOCKET NO. 89-600)

RECOMMENDATION:

A recommendation from the Acting Cable Television Administrator that the City of Torrance send comments [of written record] to the FCC concerning the Cable Television Inquiry (MM Docket No. 89-600).

SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City of Torrance, in addition to sending its formal comments to the FCC, also send those comments to the Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee regarding their hearing set for March 1 on cable television.

Acting Cable Television Administrator Smith provided a brief staff report on this agenda item.

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During the Council discussion which followed, Councilwoman Hardison voiced serious concerns regarding the quality of service represented by Paragon Cable in the City of Torrance.

Continuing problems regarding amplification, poor reception, and quality of signal were noted as concerns by Councilman Applegate.

The absence of incentive to perform quality service under the Cable Act of 1984, was pointed out by Councilman Nakano.

From the audience, Mr. Dick Johnson, 23059A Nadine Circle, related personal frustrations in not being able to reach Paragon Cable by telephone when a problem, such as loss of picture or audio, is apparent.

Mr. Robert Feuerstein, 20020 Donora Avenue, commented on the increase in basic fees coupled with service problems.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to accept the staff recommendation and to include the directive that comments be forwarded to all appropriate entities. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

17c. POSITION ON PROPOSITION 115: THE CRIME VICTIMS JUSTICE REFORM ACT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council concur with one of the following recommendations:

- 1) Support Proposition 115 and adopt the resolution.
- 2) Take no position at this time.
- 3) Refer Proposition 115 to the Council Ad Hoc Legislative Committee.

Mr. Albert MacKenzie [author of Proposition 115], 800 West First Street, Los Angeles, was present. There were no Council questions.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to refer Proposition 115 to the Council Ad Hoc Legislative Committee. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth.

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Mayor Geissert requested that, when this matter is returned to the Council, information regarding all proposals be made available.

Roll call vote on the above motion was unanimously favorable.

18. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

18a. ORDINANCE NO. 3296

ORDINANCE NO. 3296

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THAT CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED BETWEEN THE CITY AND TORRANCE INVESTMENT COMPANY ON DECEMBER 5, 1983 PERTAINING TO CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY LYING BETWEEN SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD, CRENSHAW BOULEVARD, PLAZA DEL AMO AND MAPLE AVENUE

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3296 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried by way of the following roll call vote.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers Applegate and Nakano.

20. CONSENT CALENDAR

20a. NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS - CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND PARKWAY LANDSCAPING AT THE EL DORADO RETENTION BASIN LOCATED AT MAPLE AVENUE AND EL DORADO STREET (B89-67).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends that the City Council: 1) accept the work; 2) file a Notice of Completion; and 3) appropriate \$1,000.00 in Drainage Improvement Funds to cover the final costs.

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20b. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED FISCAL SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$371,820.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Director and the Information Systems Director recommend that your Honorable Body approve the contract for the purchase of the KPMG Peat Marwick FAMIS integrated fiscal system in an amount not to exceed \$371,820.00.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with staff recommendations on Agenda Items 20a and 20b. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

\* \* \*

At 10:03 p.m., the City Council convened in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. The regular City Council agenda order was resumed at 10:05 p.m., the Council/Agency remaining in joint session for purposes of a joint executive session later in the meeting -- see Page 15.

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22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

22a. City Clerk Bramhall provided an update on absentee ballot statistics for the March 6 Municipal Election.

22b. Minute Secretary Peggy Laverty proudly announced the arrival of her granddaughter, Amanda Lee Laverty, Monday evening, February 26.

22c. Councilman Applegate expressed personal condolences to former Councilman Doug Brown in the recent loss of his wife, Terue.

22d. Councilwoman Hardison congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department for receipt of an award for the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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22e. Councilwoman Hardison expressed concerns that conditions regarding bonding for signalization were not placed on the project across from the Torrance Drive-In property consistent with those imposed on the Drive-In development. She requested that the first project be returned to Council for consideration of appropriate modification of conditions.

22f. Councilman Walker discussed the significant sum of money being expended by Mobil Oil in an attempt to defeat the Dan Walker Initiative on the March 6 ballot, and expressed appreciation to those who have demonstrated support for his initiative.

22g. Mayor Geissert commented on the confusion surrounding the hydrofluoric acid/Mobil Oil issue and the City's position in that regard.

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

23a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency having remained in joint session [see Page 14] 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; lease negotiations; potential litigation and property acquisition.
- Pending litigation entitled People of the State of California vs. Mobil Oil Corporation, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 719953;
- Pending litigation entitled Susan Ledesma, et al. v. City of Torrance, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. SWC 103199;
- Lease amendment negotiations regarding Madison Park Ground Lease with Cohen and Torino;
- Negotiations for lease/purchase of Columbia School site with Torrance Board of Education;

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- Potential litigation regarding a claim that has been filed by Julia Gudino, and;
- Property acquisition at 1860 Torrance Boulevard (Old Shoe Factory) involving Dan Stumpus and Nicholas Peters.

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

At 10:18 p.m., the City Council/Redevelopment Agency recessed to executive session, returning at 10:44 p.m., to take the following Council-related action.

City Attorney Nelson requested that the Council concur with recommendations of staff in the claim filed by Julia Gudino and in the pending litigation entitled Susan Ledesma, et al. v. City of Torrance, et al., SWC 103199.

Councilman Nakano SO MOVED. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 p.m., this meeting of the City Council and the Redevelopment Agency was formally adjourned to Tuesday, March 13, 1990, 7:00 p.m. [Tuesday, March 6, 1990, having been declared a "dark night".]

\* \* \*

Adjournment was dedicated to the memory of  
Terue Brown.

# # # # #

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty  
Minute Secretary

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