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Torrance City Council - October 16, 1990

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Valerie Whippie
Minute Secretary

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OCTOBER 16, 1990

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, October 16, 1990 at 5:31 PM in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

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

* Mrs. Hardison arrived at 5:36 PM.

* Mr. Nakano and Mr. Wirth arrived at 5:35 PM.

Absent: None.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

Ms. Susan Gibbons led in the salute to the Flag.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Lura Wallace of Christian Science First Church.

*

Councilmen Nakano & Wirth arrived at 5:35 PM.

*

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of September 18, 1990, as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilwoman Hardison had not yet arrived.)

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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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilwoman Hardison had not yet arrived.)

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 with unanimous approval following roll call vote (Councilwoman Hardison had not yet arrived.)

*
Councilwoman Hardison arrived at 5:36 PM.
*

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

After clarification from the City Manager and a brief discussion it was moved by Councilman Nakano that agenda Item 17 (Guidelines to Expedite Council Meetings) be continued. Councilman Mock seconded the motion and roll call vote reflected all but Councilman Applegate's approval.

Mr. Applegate favored hearing the matter in view of the time and effort expended thus far in preparation of the Item.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance and Governmental Operations Committee
November 13, 1990, 5:30 PM
Third Floor Assembly Room
Subject: First Quarter Budget Review.

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8. COMMUNITY MATTERS

8a. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARD

Mayor Geissert presented a watch to Building Inspector Benjamin Piper in honor of his twenty-five years of service to the City.

8b. PROCLAMATION proclaiming October 18, 1990, as "International Credit Union Day" in the City of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Sue Gibbons, Manager of Licomto Federal Credit Union, and Jerry Snyder, Board Member of the Torrance Federal Credit Union.

10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

10a. REVISION OR ADDITION OF SPEED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL AID URBAN [FAU] STREETS

RECOMMENDATION

The City Attorney, Chief of Police and Director of Transportation recommend that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to amend the existing ordinance to revise or add speed limits for certain Federal Aid Urban [FAU] streets for the purpose of radar enforcement. Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance brought forth as supplementary material ((Option 1.)

Recommended revisions or additions to the speed limit ordinance:

	<u>Posted</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
190th Street		
west of Anza	35	45
east of Anza	40	45
Madrona Avenue		
Sepulveda to Carson	40	40
Carson to Torrance	30	40
Torrance to Del Amo	35	45
Prairie Avenue		
Del Amo to 190th	40	45
190th to Artesia	35	45
Artesia to Redondo Beach Boulevard	35	35

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Hawthorne south of Newton	45	45
Van Ness Avenue		
Torrance to Del Amo	35	40
190th to Redondo Beach		
Boulevard	35	40
Western Avenue	40	45
Crenshaw		
190th to Redondo Beach		
Boulevard	40	45
Del Amo to Torrance	35	45
Carson to Torrance	40	45

Options

1. Approve the proposed speed limits as recommended. This will enable the Police Department to enforce those speed limits with radar.
2. Adopt some, but not all, of the proposed speed limits.
3. Take no action. This would mean that streets under review at this time would not be enforceable with radar.
4. Refer all or part of the proposed speed limits to the Traffic Commission.
5. Initiate action to amend the California Vehicle Code to enable local jurisdictions to set speed limits as desired with radar enforcement.
6. Remove some or all of the streets involved from the FAU System. (Readers referred to FAU Route Map of record.) The City received about \$400,000 per year - 20 to 25 percent of annual funds for roadway improvements - from the FAU system. This does not eliminate the requirement to survey non-FAU streets every five years for radar enforcement; however, the Torrance courts have accepted older surveys on non-FAU streets. This practice could be subject to legal challenge.
7. Initiate a program to install speed limit pavement legends to augment the required signs.

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Staff presentation was provided jointly by City Attorney Nelson, Police Lt. Frandsen, Director of Transportation Horkay and Traffic Manager Vance.

Staff members addressed numerous Council inquiries and expanded upon matters relating to legal background; criteria used to establish recommended speed limits; and enforcement of speed limits by radar. It was noted that a consultant was present to respond to any technical inquiries regarding specific surveys conducted in the City. Slides were utilized to enhance various points and set forth options available to the Council in its consideration of this matter.

Additional clarification was provided regarding the number and severity of collisions in the City and any impact radar enforcement would have thereon; current methods for enforcement of speed; and the adequacy of notification re this matter.

Ms. Sandi Monda, 21506 Talisman Street, expressed concern about the prospect of increased speed limits in areas of close proximity to schools, specifically, proposed changes for Madrona Avenue, Prairie Avenue and Van Ness Avenue.

During discussion, the City's consultant, Mr. Ray Davis [no address provided] addressed the criteria for posting speed limits in and around school areas.

Also expressing concern about increased traffic around schools was Ms. Helen Doyle, 18626 Yukon Avenue. In this vein, Ms. Doyle questioned the proposed change on Prairie Avenue [190th to Artesia].

The Mayor now requested Council direction regarding the recommended revisions or additions to the speed limit ordinance.

Councilman Wirth indicated that while some of the proposed changes are satisfactory to him, he would prefer that others undergo Traffic Commission consideration, with an expanded notification process.

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Councilman Walker urged favorable consideration of revised speed limits for all the streets set forth in tonight's agenda material. He stressed the importance of proper enforcement of traffic regulations to ensure a safer City and suggested that such measures should be in effect as quickly as possible, with discussions taking place later should specific problems develop.

Councilman Mock concurred with Mr. Wirth's position and offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Mock moved to concur with the proposed speed limits for Prairie Avenue [Artesia to Redondo Beach Boulevard; Hawthorne south of Newton; and Western Avenue,] and that the remainder of proposed speed limits be sent to the Traffic Commission for further review. Councilman Wirth seconded the motion.

The following was subsequently offered:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilman Walker moved to concur with Option 1 set forth above, approving the entire list of revisions to the speed limit ordinance, (thereby allowing for radar enforcement.) Councilman Applegate seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Hardison suggested adding Madrona Avenue [Sepulveda to Carson] to the main motion, and Councilman Mock, with the concurrence of Councilman Wirth, agreed to SO AMEND his motion. The Mayor indicated her preference for seeing the speed limit on Madrona Avenue consistent at 40 mph on all segments of the street.

Referring to remarks made during the discussion that raising the limits would create an even higher rate of speed, Councilman Applegate noted his finding that motorists tend to drive more safely because of the ability to enforce speed limits brought about by proposed action.

Roll call vote was now taken on the Substitute Motion to concur with Option 1. This 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.

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Roll call taken on the main motion to concur with the proposed speed limits for Madrona Avenue [Sepulveda to Carson]; Prairie Avenue [Artesia to Redondo Beach Boulevard]; Hawthorne south of Newton; and Western Avenue, with the remainder of proposed speed limits sent to the Traffic Commission for further review proved unanimously favorable, as follows:

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

Noes: Councilmembers Applegate and Walker.

Councilman Applegate clarified that his no vote was not because he was against the intent of the main motion but because his preference was to have all the streets included at this time.

Councilwoman Hardison indicated that she would also like to see speed limits on Madrona Avenue consistent; that attention needs to be given to residential areas with driveways; and that where there are schools, that appropriate notification be made.

At the request of various Councilmembers, the City Manager indicated that he would ensure adequate notification is made to all pertinent parties with an adequate explanation as to the rationale for any proposed changes. He agreed that further proposed changes to speed limits would be directed to the Traffic Commission prior to being brought forth for Council consideration.

12. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

12a. APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRACT AUTHORITY UNDER THE SECTION 8 EXISTING HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 90-208

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, RATIFYING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL VOUCHERS UNDER THE SECTION 8 EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 90-208. Councilman Mock seconded the motion which proved unanimously favorable after roll call vote.

14. PERSONNEL MATTERS

14a. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED CLASS SPECIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/AIDE

RECOMMENDATION

The Personnel Department and the Civil Service Commission recommend that your Honorable Body review and approve the proposed revised class specification for Administrative Secretary/Aide.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Personnel Department and the Civil Service Commission. Councilman Mock seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

14b. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR TORRANCE POLICE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Held for Executive Session Matters; see pages 17-18.

15. HEARINGS

15a. CUP 90-37, D 99-24, ALBERTO BESADA

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place to hear an appeal of a Planning Commission approval of a Conditional Use Permit and a Division of Lot to allow the construction of two detached residential condominium units in the R-2 zone at 24240 Neece Avenue. CUP 90-37, D 90-24: Alberto Besada.

Proof of publication was filed without comment.

Staff presentation was provided by Sr. Principal Planner Gibson, wherein it was noted that the Planning Commission and the Planning Department recommend denial of the appeal and approval of the project.

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Mr. Gibson responded to inquiries about other condominium developments in the area; details relating to past consideration of a division of lot proposal at this site [considered by Council August 1, 1989]; the current request for division of lot [for condominium purposes only]; and width of other lots in the neighborhood.

Mr. Alberto Besada, 24240 Neece Avenue, defined the nature of his request noting that it would enhance the area in terms of appearance and home ownership. He stated that the project complies with all City standards and expressed his concurrence with all conditions of record.

In response to Councilwoman Hardison he reported that it would not be economically feasible for him to combine the two lots in question, resulting in a lot 75' in width for development purposes.

Supporting the quality of the proposed project and its worth to the area was Mr. James Forgie, 26339 Regent Avenue, Lomita.

Opponents to the project [listed below] based their objections upon issues related to incompatibility with the existing neighborhood; substandard lot size for each of two homes; increased density and traffic; and the precedent-setting nature of this request.

Those opposing the project included:

Mr. Ralph Moore, 24249 Neece Avenue.
Ms. Maureen Moore, 24249 Neece Avenue, who submitted a letter from Mr. Lance Jaakola, 24247 Neece Avenue.
Mr. John Howard, 24260 Neece Avenue.

Ms. Eleana Besada, 24240 Neece Avenue, described her attempts to communicate with neighbors and reminded those present that the project is proposed for an R-2 zone. She was followed to the podium by Mr. Ross Besada, Jr., 19928 Linda Drive, who addressed the quality of the project and voiced his opinion that private ownership is preferable to rental units.

Mr. Fred Bahramian, 24245 Neece Avenue, expressed his desire for a compatible neighborhood.

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Preferring that the property be developed with two single-family residences, Ms. Charlene Garabrand, 24405 Neece Avenue, opposed the project. She noted that she had signed a petition with the understanding that the property would be so developed and expressed concern about the increased density condominium development would create.

Ms. Maureen Moore returned to the podium to expand upon her earlier stated position.

Mr. Alberto Besada returned to clarify that the petition to which Ms. Garabrand referred was circulated last year under a different application.

It was moved by Councilman Applegate that the hearing be closed. Councilman Walker seconded the motion which proved unanimously favorable following roll call vote.

In response to an inquiry from Councilwoman Hardison, Planning staff defined the scope of the R-2 zone in its entirety.

Indicating his support of the project, Councilman Applegate discussed the values of "pride in ownership" accompanying condominium development and offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and the Planning Department, denying the appeal and approving the project. Councilman Walker seconded the motion.

Commenting on his support for the project, Councilman Walker stressed his position in favor of private ownership vs. rental property, and stated that should the project not go forward he would urge consideration of a way in which the lot could be split to provide for two homes.

Councilwoman Hardison, noted she would not be voting for the project in that she felt it would indeed change the character of the existing neighborhood. Drawing from her

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experiences in viewing other R-2 areas where similar developments have been approved she noted the chain reaction which almost always follows.

Echoing Mrs. Hardison, Councilman Mock offered the following:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilman Mock moved to grant the appeal and deny the project. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion, which ultimately carried, as reflected below:

Noting she would be supporting the Substitute Motion, Mayor Geissert stated that while the condominiums might represent more attractive structures and individual ownership, they would be larger and could ultimately set a trend in development which would negatively impact the Walteria area in terms of increased traffic. She noted that her position was also influenced by the fact that there is the potential of creating a single R-2 lot, complimented by two larger units.

Roll call vote on the Substitute Motion reflected the following:

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

Noes: Councilmembers Applegate, and Walker.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

17a. COUNCIL AGENDA FORMATTING.

Withdrawn; see page 2.

17b. OPTIONS AVAILABLE [RE THE PROSPECT OF PROPOSITION 136 PASSING] PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER 6, 1990 ELECTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Finance Department that the method of measuring inflation be changed from the Producers Price Index (PPI) to the Consumers Price Index (CPI) and that your Honorable Body direct the City Attorney to return before the November elections with the appropriate ordinances and resolutions.

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Staff presentation was provided by Revenue Administrator Murdoch who noted any action taken by the Council with regard to the possible passing of Proposition 136, must take place prior to the November election. As reflected in staff report, some of the options available to Council are to direct the City Attorney to prepare ordinances relating to the following:

- 1) Increase the utility users' tax. The current rate is 6%. A 1% increase will raise approximately \$3,000,000 for a full year and approximately \$1,750,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- 2) Change the business license tax from the current flat rate basis to a gross receipts basis. The amount of additional revenue that would be received would vary depending upon the rates set.
- 3) Take no action.

Per staff report, any action taken at this time can be rescinded if Proposition 136 fails on November 6.

After noting that he would be opposed to options 1 and 2 above, Councilman Wirth stated that he could support staff recommendation that the method of measuring inflation be changed from the Producers Price Index (PPI) to the Consumers Price Index (CPI), and that the City Attorney be directed to prepare the appropriate ordinances/resolutions. He SO MOVED, with Councilman Mock seconding the motion.

Prior to roll call, Councilman Applegate also opposed to options 1 and 2, added that he was against changing the method of measuring inflation, as well, stating that a more appropriate time to do this would be during the budget process. He subsequently offered the following:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that agenda Item 17b be received and filed. Councilman Walker seconded the motion which failed to carry, as reflected below:

Mayor Geissert noted that she would be supporting the main motion adding that Proposition 136 did not exist at the time of the budget process and that, to her knowledge, should

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the initiative pass -- it would be devastating to local government in terms of meeting the needs of the City. She further noted that any action taken could be rescinded in the event Proposition 136 did not pass.

Roll call now taken on the Substitute Motion revealed the following:

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

Roll call on the main motion, which carried, reflected the following vote:

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

The City Attorney reported that this matter would be returned for Council consideration October 23.

17c. COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO S.3094 (FORD); ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL NOISE POLICY

RESOLUTION NO. 90-209

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING S.3094 (FORD); LEGISLATION CREATING A NATIONAL NOISE POLICY

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 90-209. Councilman Wirth seconded the motion which proved unanimously favorable after roll call vote.

Councilman Wirth stated that he was pleased with this action reporting that the City needs to do all it possibly can to preserve local control.

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Considered out of order...

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

23a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The Mayor 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 subject:

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 vs. Mobil Oil Corporation, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 719953;

Pending litigation entitled Paul Martinez vs. City of Torrance and Kevin Kreager., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. SCC 21481;

Acquisition of property for right-of-way easement on Carson Street and Fire Station No. 1 expansion at 2525 Carson Street; person to negotiate with is executor Mrs. Hilda Martin.

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 7:30 PM, following a brief recess, the City Council recessed to executive session, returning at 8:35 PM. Action pertaining to this session was taken later in the meeting.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS CONTINUED, Pages 17-18.)

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Regular agenda order was resumed...

17d. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee that the City Council as a whole adopt the ballot positions as submitted in material of record.

Councilmembers' individual comments pertaining to the the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee's recommended positions on the November 6, 1990 ballot measures were as follows:

Councilman Wirth concurred with the Committee's recommendations with the exception of Proposition 139, Prison Inmate Labor [while the Committee recommended support, Mr. Wirth stated he would prefer that Council take "no position" on the issue.]

Councilman Walker expressed opposition to Proposition 134, Alcohol Surtax, due to its drafting and the financial impact it could have upon the State. [The Committee reflected "no position", while Mr. Walker would have preferred one of "oppose."]

Mayor Geissert commented on the November Ballot Measures in general, which she felt to be a "misuse" of the initiative process.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee Councilman Mock seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable, with individual comments noted below.

While supporting the Committee's recommendations, the following comments were offered:

Councilman Applegate noted that his differences were reflected in the report of record; Councilman Walker noted that he differed with the positions for Proposition 134 which he opposes, and Proposition 149 which he supports.

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Councilman Wirth clarified that while he voted for the recommended positions, they do not necessarily represent his sole position on some measures.

20. CONSENT CALENDAR

20a. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT ON 1989 GRANTS TO NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Resources Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department Staff recommend Your Honorable Body accept and file the narrative and financial reports of 1736 Family Crisis Center, South Bay Free Clinic, South Bay Senior Services, Switzer Center, and Wellness Community-South Bay Cities for the grants received from the City's 1989 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies.

20b. COUNCIL AWARD OF CONTRACT - Software and hardware services for City computers.

RECOMMENDATION

The Information Systems Department and the Purchasing Division recommend that your Honorable Body:

- Authorize the renewal and extension of a service contract with Digital equipment of Culver City, California, to provide required maintenance service for the City's computers in the total amount not-to-exceed: \$266,323.55.

- Authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$74,440 from Fiscal Year 1989-90 carry over.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved for approval of Consent Calendar Items 20a and 20b. Councilman Wirth seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

At 8:43 PM, the City Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was adjourned at 8:44 PM and regular Council agenda order was resumed.

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22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

22a. Councilman Applegate discussed details of his recent trip to the Pentagon and matters related to the 1991 Armed Forces Day Parade.

22b. Councilman Applegate suggested that the City, with the support of neighboring communities, contact Caltrans, and strongly urge the establishment of a graffiti removal program.

22c. Councilman Nakano noted that he has been appointed to the General Resolutions Committee of the League of California Cities and invited relevant input.

22d. Councilman Wirth requested that area residents be notified of the recent withdrawal of an appeal of Planning Commission action concerning a waiver request for undergrounding of utilities on Pacific Coast Highway. Staff concurred.

22e. Mayor Geissert announced the arrival of her tenth grandchild; Sarah Cathryn Geissert, born on October 12, 1990.

22f. Ms. Helen Doyle, 18626 Yukon Avenue, reported on the ordeals of serving as a juror at the Torrance Court House. It was clarified for this speaker's benefit that the problems to which she referred are the responsibility of the County.

Council returned to:

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

23a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS, CONTINUED [see page 14.]

At 9:00 PM, Executive Session matters having been read earlier, the Mayor announced that the City Council would resume its closed session. Returning at 9:20 PM, the following action was taken:

RESOLUTION NO. 90-210

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH THE WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 7, 1990 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1992

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 90-210. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion which proved unanimously favorable after roll call vote.

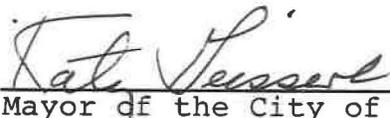
MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney relating to the following matter:

Pending litigation entitled Paul Martinez vs. City of Torrance and Kevin Kreager,, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. SCC 21481.

Councilman Walker seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned at 9:21 PM to Tuesday, October 23, 1990, 7:00 PM.



Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Valerie Whippie
Minute Secretary

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