

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - January 7, 1992

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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, January 7, 1992, at 5:35 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

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 two long-time City employees...

Florence Gustafson, who worked for the City for 17 years [1959-1976], in the City Attorney's office and also as secretary in the Civil Service/Personnel Department; and,

Bruce Uchino, who worked in the Street Department for 20 years [1958-1978] and was also actively involved in the community, including the inception of the Sister City Association.

The Mayor directed that this meeting be adjourned in memory of these two individuals.

* * *

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2. FLAG SALUTE

The salute to the flag was led by Ms. Bamma McGhan.

INVOCATION

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Reverend George Johnson, Cathedral of Life.

3. MOTION RE FURTHER READING

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.

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.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None.

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6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

Considered together...

6a. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARD - WILLIAM HEISNER

6b. RESOLUTION HONORING WATER UTILITY DIRECTOR WILLIAM HEISNER

RESOLUTION NO. 92-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING WATER UTILITY DIRECTOR, WILLIAM G. HEISNER, FOR THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-4. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Geissert presented a clock to Water Utility Director Heisner in recognition of his thirty years of service to the City. The Mayor also presented Mr. Heisner with a framed copy of the above resolution and wished him well on his retirement from the City.

6c. RESOLUTION HONORING FIRE ENGINEER JACK MANGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 92-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING FIRE ENGINEER JACK C. MANGAN FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-8. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

This resolution will be presented at a later date.

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6d. RESOLUTION HONORING FIRE ENGINEER JULIAN MACK OETTING

RESOLUTION NO. 92-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING FIRE ENGINEER
JULIAN MACK OETTING FOR HIS DEDICATION,
PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Nakano, seconded by Councilwoman
Hardison, moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-9. Roll call vote
proved unanimously favorable.

This resolution will be presented at a later date.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 3, 1991.

7b. JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT [JTPA] CONTRACT EXTENSION
- EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Honorable Body authorize a
six-month extension to the El Camino Community College
District Basic Skills Contract to serve up to 40
participants at a cost of \$36,600.

7c. MODIFICATION OF FARMERS' MARKET PILOT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation
Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director that
the City Council approve the following revisions to
the Farmers' Market Pilot Program:

- o Change the pilot Market day from Thursday evening
to Saturday morning (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon);
- o Expand the pilot Market to March through September
(from May through September); and,

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- o Appropriate \$4,535 from revenues generated by the Saturday and Tuesday Markets for the related costs of this expansion.

7d. LEASE AMENDMENT WITH EXCELLON INDUSTRIES

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Third Amendment to Lease be approved, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute and to attest them on behalf of the City.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7d, inclusive. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

12. PERSONNEL MATTERS

12a. TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION
SUPPLEMENTAL

RESOLUTION NO. 92-13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION
NO. 91-100 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES
REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING
CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY
THE TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY
ASSOCIATION

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-13. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND AGREEMENT FOR RETENTION OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

RECOMMENDATION

The City Attorney recommends that your Honorable Body:

- 1) Approve the form of retention agreements with Hedges and Caldwell, and Pachulski, Stang and Ziehl, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest them on behalf of the City; and,
- 2) Appropriate the sum of \$225,000 to the agreement with Hedges and Caldwell and the sum of \$75,000 to the agreement with Pachulski, Stang and Ziehl, with appropriation to be made as follows:

\$200,000 from the Reserve for Litigation;
\$60,000 from the Water Revenue Fund;
\$20,000 from the Airport Fund;
\$20,000 from the Equipment Revolving Fund.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to concur with the recommendation, including appropriation of funds, on Agenda Item 13a. Her motion, seconded by Councilman Wirth, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

13b. ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATE: AIRPORT PLAZA

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the form of Estoppel Certificate be approved, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute it on behalf of the City.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the staff recommendation on Agenda Item 13b. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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14. HEARINGS

14a. VAR 91-0501: HARRY E. BRUMMETT

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for City Council consideration of a Variance of the R-1 Development Standards to allow the construction of an over-size accessory structure on property located in the R-1 zone at 1632 Maple Avenue. VAR 91-0501: HARRY E. BRUMMETT.

Proof of publication was filed without comment.

During his staff presentation, Senior Principal Planner Gibson advised that the Planning Department and Planning Commission recommend denial of the request. Mr. Gibson suggested that options available to the applicant include reducing the size of the addition or attaching the addition to the existing residence.

During the following Council discussion wherein response to questions and concerns was provided by staff, Councilwoman Hardison noted a concern relating to the illegal utilization, in some instances, of large accessory buildings as residential units. It was suggested by Councilman Wirth that a condition be added specifying that there shall be no plumbing to the accessory building.

Mr. Harry Brummett, 1632 Maple Avenue, described his need for the requested structure for his wood working hobby and agreed to a condition prohibiting the installation of plumbing. Mr. Brummett submitted, for the record, a letter from the Madrona Homeowners Association withdrawing that organization's previous opposition to the proposal. The impracticality of adding a facility of the size requested to the existing residence was noted because of the "dead" space this would create in the rear yard.

Mr. Doug Crawford, 1516 Acacia Avenue, spoke in support of the request, noting his opinion that adding the desired square footage to the residence [an option suggested by staff] would result in poor utilization of the property.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Councilman Applegate moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Wirth deemed this a unique situation with other similar structures backing up to this property. In Mr. Wirth's opinion, this accessory building, as requested, would not impact any other property.

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MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to approve Var 91-0501, with the condition that no plumbing shall be allowed to the structure. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker.

Councilman Walker, likewise, judged this to be a unique situation wherein no other method of construction on the site appears to be feasible and because of the way development has taken place around the site.

It was Mayor Geissert's opinion that the necessary criteria for granting a Variance have been met in this case. Considering the traffic on Maple Avenue and the absence of on-street parking, the Mayor pointed out the importance of retaining on-site parking in the driveway and at the rear of the property. She further commented that strict enforcement of the ordinance would do great damage to the open space on the property.

Councilwoman Hardison noted that, although she would have preferred a smaller building, she was aware of structures of a similar size already existing on neighboring parcels. The possibility of conversion to a residential unit some years in the future was still of some concern to this Councilmember.

Roll call vote on the motion for approval was unanimously favorable.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

16a. ORDINANCE NO. 3344

ORDINANCE NO. 3344

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY AT 2300 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD FROM M-2 (HEAVY MANUFACTURING) TO C-3 (SOLELY COMMERCIAL) ZC 91-6: DON ROBINSON (SCOTT ROBINSON HONDA)

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3344 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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* * *

At 6:20 p.m., the City Council met in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency. At 6:21 p.m., the regular Council agenda order was resumed, the Council/Agency remaining in joint session for purposes of an executive session to be held later in the meeting [see Pages 11 and 12].

* * *

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. Councilman Applegate announced that a recently-dissolved organization known as the Active Citizens of Torrance, determined that disposition of their left-over funds should be half to the Friends of Madrona Marsh and half to the City of Torrance Public Library. Mr. Applegate then presented the Library's check in the amount of \$473.50 to Library Programs Administrator Reeder.

19b. Councilman Applegate wished Water Utility Director Heisner well upon his recent retirement. Those wishes were echoed by Councilwoman Hardison.

19c. Councilman Mock referenced the matter discussed by Council at its December 20, 1991, special meeting [Institutional Treasury Management (Wymer) matter] for which funds for special counsel were appropriated at this meeting [Page 6 of these minutes, Agenda Item 13a].

Acknowledging receipt by Council of a memorandum from City Treasurer Rupert suggesting the possibility of establishing an Investment Review Board, Councilman Mock requested that City Manager and City Attorney staff provide alternative strategies and suggestions for review prior to a Council decision.

City Manager Jackson suggested that his office would also provide Council with a survey of what is done by other agencies.

Mayor Geissert requested that review by the City Manager's and City Attorney's offices be in concert with the Finance Director.

A full public disclosure of "each and every step" taken was recommended by Councilman Walker.

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Councilman Applegate suggested that either a consultant be hired or the available talent and expertise be utilized from within the financial community. Mr. Applegate also cautioned that, in light of the present electronic age, the City be assured of sufficient protection and coverage, as well as the ability to trail all action taken.

It was Mayor Geissert's comment that when this matter is returned as a regular agenda item, the Council will hold an open discussion and will welcome comments and input from the financial community. The Mayor further noted that, should it seem appropriate, the Council will consider possible outside assistance from experts in municipal financing.

Councilman Nakano agreed with the Mayor's comments and concurred that a more in-depth review is appropriate.

19d. Councilman Nakano requested information as to whether or not the City is able to hold those individuals identified as involved in graffiti accountable for damages. City Attorney Nelson indicated that his office will research this matter and advise the Council.

Police Chief DeLadurantey advised that, to date, assessment by the courts has been primarily in the area of community service. General Services Director White indicated, in response to an inquiry from Councilwoman Hardison, that further input will be available shortly in the form of a report from his department.

19e. Councilman Wirth requested that a letter be forwarded to the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and also to the appropriate committee of the Commission reaffirming the position of the City of Torrance regarding the type of light rail cars for the Green Line and also encouraging the manufacture of those cars in Southern California. There were no objections and it was so ordered. [Planning Director Ferren to follow up].

19f. Councilman Wirth related his recent experience in utilizing the City's lunch-time shuttle service from City Hall to the Mall.

19g. Ms. Sara Horne, President of the Torrance League of Women Voters, 412 Via El Chico, read aloud a written statement [submitted for the record] urging review of the City Charter by

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a Council-appointed committee that would recommend a method of filling the City Treasurer's and City Clerk's positions by appointment, rather than election. Ms. Horne also suggested that the committee deal with sections of the Charter that are illegal and no longer applicable.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency having remained in joint session [see Page 9], Mayor/Chairwoman Geissert now 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.
- Litigation entitled Securities and Exchange Commission vs. Institutional Treasury Management, Inc., United States District Court, Central District of California Civil Action Case No. 91-6715RG (Ex) .
- Pending litigation entitled Derrick Anderson, et al. vs. City of Torrance, et al., United States District Court Case No. 91 3473 HLH (JRx) .
- Pending litigation entitled Adel Shoukry Sabry vs. Gilbert Gomez Correa III and City of Torrance, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. SEC 75952.

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

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, will recess to closed session for the following purpose:

- Discussion regarding the possible redevelopment efforts on property within the Meadow Park Redevelopment Project site.

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Authority to hold an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54956.8.

At 6:47 p.m., the City Council/Redevelopment Agency recessed to closed session, returning at 8:42 p.m. No action was required as a result of the executive session.

21. ADJOURNMENT

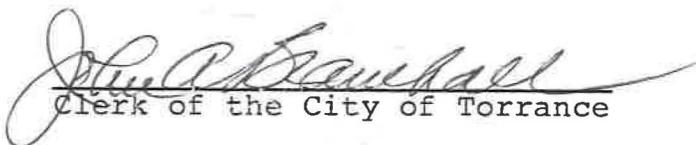
At 8:42 p.m., this meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to Tuesday, January 14, 1992, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment was dedicated to the memory of

Ms. Florence Gustafson
and
Mr. Bruce Uchino.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance


Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty
Minute Secretary

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