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Torrance City Council - April 14, 1992

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... Adjourned in the memory of Judge William E. MacFaden ...

Valerie Whippie
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Torrance City Council was called to order by the City Clerk at 6:00 PM, however due to the lack of a quorum the session was deferred [agenda Item 15a, to have been heard at this time, was withdrawn]. The Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting at 7:05 PM, in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison,
Lee, Nakano, O'Donnell, Wirth and
Mayor Geissert.

Absent: None.

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

It was with great sadness that the Mayor noted the passing of Judge William E. MacFaden. She requested that this meeting be adjourned in his memory.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Flag salute was led by Boy Scout Troop 310, Michael St. Vincent, Scoutmaster.

Father Patrick McHugh, Nativity Catholic Church, provided the invocation for the meeting.

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3. MOTION RE FURTHER READING/POSTING OF AGENDA

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 Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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 Councilwoman Hardison, carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee
April 13, 1992, 4:30 PM - Third Floor Assembly Room
Subject: AYSO National Games.

Ad Hoc Rose Float Committee
April 22, 1992, 5:00 PM - Third Floor Assembly Room
Subject: 1993 Rose Float Selection

Finance and Governmental Operations Committee
May 12, 1992, 5:30 PM - West Annex Meeting Room
Subject: Third Quarter Budget Review

BUDGET WORKSHOPS

5:00 PM - May 18, May 20 and June 1

33RD ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1992, 1:00 PM

5k/10k RUN - 8:00 AM

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6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

- 6a. PROCLAMATION declaring the week of April 13 through 17, 1992, as "Building Safety Week."

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Acting Building & Safety Director Isomoto.

- 6b. PROCLAMATION declaring the week of April 20 through 26, 1992, as "Toastmasters International Week" in the City of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Toastmasters' representatives Norman Riggs and Marsha James.

- 6c. PROCLAMATION naming April 18, 1992, as the "14th Annual Police/Fire/Charity Bowl Day" in the City of Torrance.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Police Chief De Ladurantey and Fire Chief Adams.

- 6d. PROCLAMATION declaring April 14, 1992, as "Education Day" in the City of Torrance in honor of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson's birthday.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Rabbi Yisroel Hecht.

- 6e. RESOLUTION 92-47 honoring Ralph C. Grippo for seventeen years of dedicated service to the City of Torrance.

The Mayor read Resolution 92-47 and presented retiring Building and Safety Director Grippo with a plaque. Bouquets of praise were extended to Mr. Grippo from Councilmembers and the City Manager and he, in turn, expressed appreciation for his long-term association with the City. He was joined at the podium by his wife, Sally.

Note: The title to Resolution 92-47 was inadvertently not read by the City Clerk, nor was it adopted.

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6f. BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt criteria for the mission and operations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Charter Review (Resolution).

RESOLUTION NO. 92-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A CHARTER REVIEW BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FOR A FIXED TERM AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND ITS POWERS AND DUTIES

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-60. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison. [The motion was ultimately amended; see below.]

Prior to roll call, Councilman Wirth stated that he felt some concern about the requirement that the Committee meet every Thursday. Also of concern to Mr. Wirth was the inclusion of a sunset clause for the Committee, it being his feeling that the group would have additional issues of concern to study.

Councilwoman Hardison noted that a condition might be added stipulating that additional responsibility might be delegated to this Committee upon its expiration.

Councilman Applegate, objecting to any change in conditions at this point, suggested proceeding with action as proposed. He stated that many other members of the community may have applied for Committee membership had they known the issues of study and/or the time factor involved were to be expanded/modified. It was his suggestion that when issues assigned to this Committee for study are resolved, at that time a decision can be made should Council wish to pursue other matters. Mr. Applegate's sentiments were echoed by Councilwoman O'Donnell.

Voicing his support for the resolution as presented, Councilman Nakano observed the outstanding group of individuals

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who applied for the Committee and expressed his confidence that there would be no shortage of qualified candidates for future Committee appointments.

Councilman Wirth noted comments he made during previous consideration of this issue pertaining to possible additional areas of study by the Committee. The Mayor, after noting that Council had voted to go forward with this issue as a focused study, suggested that when the Committee's final report is submitted in July, should there be sufficient interest in approaching other areas of the Charter, this might be included in the Committee's recommendation to Council.

The City Attorney clarified the intent of Condition 3, Section 1, to the satisfaction of Councilmembers and following clarification by the City Manager pertaining to vacation conflicts, it was ultimately agreed that Condition 4, Section 1, should be modified to reflect a date of July 21, 1992 for transmittal of the Committee's final report and recommendation to the City Council.

It was understood that the above motion would be modified to reflect adoption of Resolution No. 92-60, "AS AMENDED." Roll call vote was now taken and reflected the following:

Ayes: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Lee, Nakano, O'Donnell and Mayor Geissert.

Noes: Councilman Wirth.

6g. BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made by the Council following brief introductions [from the audience] of candidates representing four different groups:

Business Community Group

Mr. William Cook
Mr. Kevin Thompson
Mr. Steve Whitehead

Following the selection process, Councilman Wirth, seconded by Councilman Lee, moved for unanimous ballot. Without objection it was so ordered by the Mayor.

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Homeowner or Resident Groups

Mr. Jim Beezhold
Mr. Martin Gallagher
Ms. Sue Herbers
Ms. Iris Jacobs
Ms. Lenore Johnson

Following the selection process, Councilman Wirth, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, moved for unanimous ballot. Without objection it was so ordered by the Mayor.

Public Interest Groups

Mr. Harvey Horwich
Mr. Ron Littlefair
Ms. Jeanette Pierson

(The above candidates were appointed unanimously.)

At Large Group

Ms. Dorothy Miller
Mr. Sanford Orfila
Ms. Marla Shwartz
Ms. Helen Doyle

During consideration of candidates to be appointed from this group, Messrs. Jim Cavuoto and Tony Kriss withdrew their names.

Following the selection process Councilman Wirth, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, moved for unanimous ballot. Without objection it was so ordered by the Mayor.

Councilman Applegate noted the difficulty involved throughout the selection process citing the high caliber of individuals who submitted applications for appointment. He was echoed by Councilman Wirth.

*

The Mayor ordered a recess at 8:45 PM. Council reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

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7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. Approval of minutes for March 17, 1992.

7b. AMENDMENT OF VALDEZ/KEITH NELSON LEASE-TORRANCE AIRPORT
RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Land Management Team and the City Attorney that the lease amendment be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute and attest to the lease amendment on behalf of the City.

7c. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR CALLE MAYOR SIDEWALK AND
LANDSCAPING

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that your Honorable Body appropriate \$50,000 in Gas Tax Funds for Change Orders and continuing administration for the FAU project on Calle Mayor from Vanderhill Road to Carlos Road.

7d. PURCHASE OF RECYCLING BINS

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Street Services Department that Council authorize the purchase of 16,500 recycling bins in the total amount of \$59,502 to complete implementation of the City's residential curbside recycling program.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7d. Councilman Wirth seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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9. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS

9a. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REVISION TO THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 92-59

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IMPLEMENTING A 10% VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAM DEFINED AS PHASE I OF THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE NO. 3343

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-59. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison.

Prior to roll call, Sr. Division Engineer Perkins clarified pending action. Roll call vote on the above motion proved unanimously favorable.

ORDINANCE NO. 3352

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 76.4.10 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE DEALING WITH WATER FEE REBATES

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to approve Ordinance 3352 at its first reading. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

12. PERSONNEL MATTERS

12a. SUPPLEMENTAL MOU WITH TCEA IMPLEMENTING A PART-TIME LONG TERM DISABILITY PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 92-51

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
SUPPLEMENTAL #5

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 89-143
SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS,
WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES
REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-51. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and proved unanimously favorable following roll call vote.

At 9:10 PM, the City Council met in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. During that joint session, the following City Council Item was considered ...

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. CONTRACT WITH FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the City Attorney and the Finance Director to approve a contract with Rauscher Pierce Refsnes, Inc. for consulting services for the sale of bonds or general financial analysis and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

Further, it is recommended that the sum of \$16,523.00 be transferred and encumbered to this new contract from the original contract.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the City Attorney and the Finance Director. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

At 9:13 PM, The Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned and the City Council meeting continued in regular agenda order ...

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13b.

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF MITIGATING
TRAFFIC VOLUMES ON THE TORRANCE PORTION OF VIA VALMONTE

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council enter into a Memorandum of Cooperation with the cities of Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills Estates for the purpose of mitigating traffic volume on the Torrance portion of Via Valmonte. The City Manager further recommends that the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the termination of Via Valmonte be indefinitely deferred.

Staff presentation was provided by Sr. Management Assistant Sunshine who used overheads to illustrate various aspects about the proposed plan to reduce certain traffic volumes in relation to Via Valmonte.

Inquiries pertaining to costs associated with the traffic mitigation measures; periodic review of traffic conditions on Via Valmonte; and issues related to enforcement were addressed by cognizant staff members.

Ms. Mary Cooper, 3346 Dalemead Street, urged that utmost attention be given to ensure the welfare of the residents of Newton Street and requested that the Traffic Commission be provided with periodic updates of the situation on Via Valmonte.

Mr. Celso Devesa, 24710 Via Valmonte [followed later by his wife] and Mr. Alan Virgil, 24660 Via Valmonte, expressed appreciation for Council effort in this regard, however expressed general concern that the proposed measures are somewhat ineffective and should be more drastic to address the needs of residents on Via Valmonte.

Mr. Parke Hess, 333 Calle Mayor, stated that he felt the proposed measures would only create problems for residents of Calle Mayor and other surrounding streets.

Mr. Seung K. Choi, 24467 Hawthorne Boulevard [northwest corner of Hawthorne and Newton] discussed problems associated with access to his business and staff assured Council that this issue will be pursued through appropriate channels.

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The City Manager of Palos Verdes Estates, Mr. Jim Hendrickson, discussed negotiations behind this joint effort and addressed those issues to which Palos Verdes Estates has agreed.

Mr. David Carney, [Hillside Chevron] 24505 Hawthorne Boulevard, requested that the City aggressively pursue assisting Mr. Choi with his access problems and thanked the Mayor for her intervention with a problem he was experiencing at his service station.

Ms. Vicki Hess, 333 Calle Mayor, echoed much of what her husband previously stated regarding potential impact to residents of Calle Mayor as a result of pending action.

Mr. Michael Moody of the Palos Verdes Estates City Council noted that he had attended the Rolling Hills Estates City Council Meeting of this date and that there was unanimous agreement at that meeting with the proposed Memorandum of Cooperation.

The time and effort behind this endeavor as well as the spirit of cooperation apparent between all parties involved was noted by Councilman Applegate, who stated that while he feels optimistic about this proposal, Council reserves the right to reevaluate the situation should periodic reviews show that the problem has not been resolved. He then offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion. [This motion ultimately carried; see below.]

Prior to roll call, Councilman Lee requested that traffic counts be performed on Calle Mayor to determine if a problem arises on that street as a result of pending action. Transportation staff concurred and responded to additional inquiries including time frames involved as well as possible future review of data by the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Wirth requested that City staff informally monitor the situation when it goes into effect and report back to Council.

Roll call was now taken on the above motion and proved unanimously favorable.

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14. HEARINGS

14a. 1992 WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Mayor Geissert noted this was the time and place for City Council consideration of the 1992 Weed Abatement Program.

With no one wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Applegate and seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, that the hearing be closed. Roll call vote proved unanimously favorable and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-46

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF THE NUISANCE LOCATED ON OR IN FRONT OF PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS DESCRIBED IN RESOLUTION NO. 92-41

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-46. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and proved unanimously favorable following roll call vote.

14b. KELT OIL AND GAS COMPANY

Mayor Geissert noted this was the time and place for City Council review of the Conditions of Approval of Planning Commission Resolution 82-74, which modified PP 79-6 and Planning Commission Resolution 86-99, which modified CUP 79-12, which permitted a Secondary Oil Recovery Operation on property located in the C-3 (PP) zone with an O-1 (Combined Oil District) Overlay on the south side of Torrance Boulevard approximately 500 feet west of Madrona Avenue (KELT OIL AND GAS COMPANY, GREG E. MARTIN)

Proof of publication was filed without comment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Department recommends that The City Council take testimony from all interested parties at its April 14, 1992, meeting. It is further recommended that the public hearing then be closed and staff be directed to bring the matter back to the City Council

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on June 9, 1992. At that time, a staff report addressing all concerns and questions raised at the April 14 hearing would be prepared.

Staff presentation was provided by Senior Principal Planner Gibson after which Mr. Greg Martin of Kelt Oil and Gas Company, 3520 Torrance Boulevard, came forth to clarify the reason for consideration of this matter.

Attorney Milan D. Smith, 21515 Hawthorne Boulevard, representing The Torrance Company, submitted a communication dated April 14, 1992, as well as a map of the project area.

Upon the advice of the City Attorney, Councilman Applegate announced his intent to abstain from this matter due to a potential conflict as it relates to an adjacent property. He then exited Council Chambers.

Mr. Smith summarized his communication of record, focusing extensively on environmental matters and related issues pertaining to the Kelt operation.

During consideration by the Council, Environmental Quality Administrator McElroy and the applicant, Mr. Martin, provided clarification pertaining to the capping of specific wells associated with this project and insurance coverage.

Cognizant staff members noted that thorough analyses would be prepared and returned to Council for consideration regarding all issues of concern.

Ms. Eileen Hawkins, 1303 Date Avenue, requested and received clarification pertaining to the screening of service equipment at this location.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hardison and seconded by Councilman Nakano, that the hearing be closed. Roll call vote proved unanimously favorable and it was so ordered (Councilman Applegate abstained).

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MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Planning Department. Councilman Lee seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote (Councilman Applegate abstained).

Mr. Applegate re-entered Chambers and took his seat upon the dais.

15. APPEALS

15a. APPEAL OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION DECISION UPHOLDING THE DISMISSAL OF FIRE FIGHTER MARTIN WILLIAMS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Formally withdrawn by the appellant as certified by a signed waiver of record.

17. MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED

17a. AWARD OF CONTRACT - 1992 WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM (B92-14)

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that your Honorable Body award a contract to Arsaka Research Co., Inc. for the 1992 Weed Abatement Program in the amount of \$25,871.00.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the recommendation of the Engineering Department. Councilwoman Hardison seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote.

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. Councilman Nakano commended the announcement of "The First Annual Torrance Awards" program made possible through the efforts of DOW USA. Related discussion ensued.

19b. Ms. Eileen Hawkins, 1303 Date Avenue, requested and received clarification regarding issues related to pending litigation entitled City of Torrance vs. Walter J. Egan.

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19c. Ms. Helen Doyle, 18626 Yukon Avenue, expressed her appreciation at having been appointed to the Blue Ribbon Committee [ref. agenda Item 6g].

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Mayor 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.

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 Artistic Landscape and Engineering, Inc. vs. City of Torrance, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 750048.

Pending litigation entitled City of Torrance vs. Walter J. Egan., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 013630.

Pending litigation entitled Ann Gross vs. City of Torrance, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. YC 007430.

Potential litigation by the City against Integrated Resources and/or its successors.

Lease update regarding undeveloped portion of property adjacent to Madison Park site.

Lease update on Robinson Helicopter Service Center at Torrance Municipal Airport.

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

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At 10:55 PM, the City Council recessed to executive session, returning at 12:50 AM [April 15th]. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:50 AM (April 15th), the meeting was formally adjourned to April 21, 1992, 5:30 PM.

... Adjourned in the memory of Judge William E. MacFaden ...



Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Valerie Whippie
Minute Secretary

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