

January 9, 2001

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2001, at the Wilson Park Sports Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Messerlian, Nowatka, Scotto, Walker,\* Witkowsky and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

\*Councilmember Walker arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Mayor Hardison announced that on January 8, 2001, subsequent to the posting of the agenda on January 5, 2001, the City Manager's office received information on a matter that required an immediate response from the City. The City Manager asked that the item be added to the agenda for the closed session in order to provide advice on how to proceed.

In order to take action on a matter that is not on the agenda, the California Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Council that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to add the item to the closed session agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilmember Walker.

The item was added to the closed session agenda, pursuant to Government Code Sections 54954.2(b)(2) and 54956.9(c)

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under items 16.a) Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.8.

The Redevelopment Agency convened at 5:40 p.m. for the purposes of an executive session.

The Council reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Hardison announced that CitiCable Channel 22 was moved to Channel 3 due to a realignment of channels on Time Warner and threw the ceremonial switch to begin the broadcast.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop #310, Bruce Maass, Scoutmaster.

The invocation was given by Reverend Mark Hong, Torrance First Presbyterian Church.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall 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 Councilmember Nowatka and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of William Schultz, a retired City Employee of the Traffic and Lighting Division/Street Services who provided over 41 years of service for the City of Torrance. She noted that he had passed away on December 22, 2000 and is survived by his wife and children.

Mayor Hardison announced that there was supplemental material available for items 7c and 7j and noted that as part of the community meeting, there would be a drawing for individuals who signed in and remained through the community input part of the meeting to win six Torrance monopoly games.

Councilmember Cribbs announced that a meeting of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee would be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at 4:30 p.m. in the Torrance Unified School District conference room at 2335 Plaza Del Amo.

City Clerk Herbers invited the public to view the watercolors and prints of Marty Trull, member of the Torrance Artist Guild.

City Clerk Herbers announced the deadline of January 10, 2001 for receipt of commission applications with appointments to be made by the City Council on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Herbers acknowledged the presence of more than anticipated Torrance High School government class students and asked that they sign in so they could receive appropriate credits from Mrs. Wright.

Mayor Hardison announced receipt of a letter from Mary Hoffman, president of the Torrance Rose Float Association noting that the Torrance Rose Float had won the Princess Trophy for the Most Outstanding Float of 35 Feet and Under and that it was the only float on the front page of the front section of the Los Angeles Times in all editions. Mayor Hardison acknowledged that the Daily Breeze had highlighted the float as well.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. PROCLAMATION RE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring January 2001 as California School Board Recognition Month in the City of Torrance to Torrance Board of Education President, Dr. Bill Blischke, Board Members Ashcraft, Wilson, and Kuwahara and Superintendent Plank. Dr. Blischke accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Board and noted they were looking forward to continuing to work together closely.

Mayor Hardison asked that item 7d be moved from the consent calendar for separate approval out of order as there was to be a presentation.

**7d. DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY FOR MICROCOMPUTERS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council accept and appropriate a donation of \$35,105 from the Friends of the Torrance Library for microcomputers for the lower level of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved for approval item 7d from the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Helen Ball, Friends of the Torrance Library presented a check in the amount of \$35,105 to Mayor Hardison to fund the purchase of microcomputers for the basement of the Central Library and Ms. Ball noted that it was their mission to support library services that patrons require. In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, City Librarian Buckley reported that the Friends had contributed a total of approximately \$250,000 for computers for the Torrance Libraries.

**6b. PRESENTATION RE CENSUS 2000 PARTNERSHIP**

Community Relations Officer Ghio presented the Census 2000 Partnership Award to the City Council, noting that they had received the award from the Los Angeles Region of the Census Bureau in appreciation of the contribution to the success of the census. She reported that the mail back response in 1990 was 70% and it had increased to 80% this time which was indicative of the hard work of the residents and the Complete Count Committee's hard work to reach all members of the community.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 7d was pulled for separate consideration and approved earlier (see page 3).

Councilmember Cribbs requested that item 7j be pulled for separate consideration and Councilmember Nowatka requested that item 7c be pulled for separate consideration as well.

**7a. AGREEMENT C1999-151 RE PACIFIC BELL INTERNET SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director that City Council approve the second year renewal option of Agreement C1999-151 with Pacific Bell Internet Services (PBI) and approve an increase of \$12,500 for the term of the agreement for a total amount not to exceed \$27,067.

**7b. THREE SUBDIVISION BONDS FOR TRACT MAP NO. 52407**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve the release of three subdivision bonds for Tract Map No. 52407 (14 condominium units), located at 2990 235th Street.

**7c. PURCHASE ORDER RE DOMIANO RVS, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$33,052.43 be issued to Domiano RVs, Inc., for the purchase of two 27-foot travel trailers.

Considered separately – See page 6.

**7d. DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY FOR MICROCOMPUTERS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council accept and appropriate a donation of \$35,105 from the Friends of the Torrance Library for microcomputers for the lower level of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

**7e. PURCHASE ORDER RE COOPERATIVE PURCHASE WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that the City Council authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$95,528.46 for the purchase of six (6) 2001 Chevrolet Lumina 4-Door Sedans as a cooperative purchase with the State of California and \$882.48 service charge to the State for use of their contracts.

**7f. CONTRACT RE AVIATION GYMNASTICS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council approve a contract with Aviation Gymnastics to provide gymnastics classes for the period of September 24, 2000 through September 24, 2001 for an amount not to exceed \$32,400.

**7g. MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2000**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for November 2000.

**7h. MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT RE CITIES OF TORRANCE AND GARDENA**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council authorize and execute a maintenance agreement between the City of Torrance and the City of Gardena for the maintenance of the traffic signals at the intersections of: 1) Van Ness Avenue and Redondo Beach Boulevard, and 2) Western Avenue and Artesia Boulevard.

**7i. CONTRACT AMENDMENT 2000-203, CONTINGENCY AND APPROPRIATIONS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that the City Council:

- 1) Authorize an amendment to Contract No. 2000-203 with California Pavement Management Company in the amount of \$48,805.15 for slurry seal construction on six additional streets, at the East T-Hanger area (Zamperini Field) and at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center parking lot;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency of \$2,440.25 for a total not to exceed change order amount of \$51,245.41 for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) No. I-6, 1999/2000 Residential Slurry Project;
- 3) Appropriate \$36,000 from the Fund balance of Non-Aeronautical Airport Fund and;
- 4) Appropriate \$1,200 from Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks Fund.

**7j. AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT C2000-116 RE ENGINEERING RESOURCES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

1. Approve an Amendment to Consulting Services Agreement C2000-116 with Engineering Resources of Southern California, Inc., in the amount of \$19,246 for the design of traffic mitigation measures at the intersection of 190th Street and Van Ness Avenue;
2. Approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$19,246 from developer funds to increase the overall project budget to \$4,611,246; and
3. Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said amendment.

Considered separately - See below.

**7k. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT RE NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council authorize the execution of a Consulting Services Agreement for \$50,000 with Network Operations Center, Inc. for computer network services at the One-Stop Career Centers.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Walker moved for the approval of Consent Calendar items 7a, b, e, f, g, h, i and k as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilmember Nowatka requested that staff bring back further information on item 7c.

Councilmember Cribbs asserted that 7j was a traffic mitigation item concerning 190<sup>th</sup> and Van Ness and asked Scott Gobble with Southern California Edison to speak on the issue of moving the poles.

Scott Gobble, Regional Manager for Southern California Edison, thanked Councilmember Cribbs for bringing the item to the attention of the public and noted that they had no reason not to do business as usual in terms of moving poles and that the project would go forward as scheduled. He pointed out that currently all they had were preliminary plans from the City and asked that the City provide the plan once they were within 3 to 4 months of the project going forward.

Mr. Gobble reported that they were using ratepayer funds, which they all pay into towards undergrounding utilities for Hawthorne Blvd. and he asked for two weeks to investigate the Artesia Project.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison regarding Hawthorne Blvd., Mr. Gobble explained that paving could go ahead as no additional digging was necessary in the right of way and he noted that he had instructed the contractors to complete the punchlist in the next 10 days. He added that business customers would continue to receive power and would be notified when the undergrounding and cabling started.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved for the approval of consent calendar item 7j. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**11a. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-02 RE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER**

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council adopt a resolution amending Section 3.6 of the Council Rules of Order regarding motions for reconsideration.

Deputy City Attorney Whitham noted that a motion for reconsideration was a method by which the Council could vote again on a previous motion that had been considered. Currently the rules provide no time limit for which reconsideration can be made and she explained that the recommendation was that a motion for reconsideration may only be made once at the same meeting that the matter was considered and once at the next meeting.

Councilmember Nowatka pointed out that under normal circumstances there would be a total of 8 days to make a change and it would be possible that a member of the Council might be on vacation and unable to request a reconsideration. Deputy City Attorney Whitham noted that Council could propose something else and added that the recommendation being made was consistent with Robert's Rules of Order which states that one can only reconsider the motion at the same meeting or an adjourned next meeting. She added that the change would provide some finality and that way the applicant would know for sure when the decision was final.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Deputy City Attorney Whitham reported that many cities relied on Robert's Rules of Order, including Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach.

Councilmember Walker observed that he could not recall the rules causing any problem in the past 20 years and thought the present method allowed the community time to react to their actions and the Council time to absorb the reaction. He stated that he did not have a problem putting a finite date and time limit but he did not think it should be shorter than a month which would allow people a chance to react and communicate with the Council with regards to an item.

Mayor Hardison commented that she could not recall one recent instance of reconsideration, and she felt it was a good rule and one week was a good time and that she would not be in favor of extending any further. She noted that most potential reconsideration requests would be from development community who lobby councilmembers to change their minds.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Messerlian, Deputy City Attorney Whitham explained that Torrance had their own rules and did not look to Robert's Rules of Order and she added that the way it was now invited someone to keep it open indefinitely.

Councilmember Messerlian acknowledged the concern for Councilmembers who were absent or did not participate in the decision and suggested a compromise of 15 days.

Councilmember Witkowsky concurred with Councilmember Messerlian's recommendation noting it was a compromise on both sides.

Deputy City Attorney Whitham suggested that a 14-day period would encompass two meetings.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the City Attorney's recommendation provided that the date for consideration be extended to 14 days. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Councilmember Walker observed that the only time in 20 years that anything had come up was in regards to an internal matter with the council budget.

Deputy City Attorney Whitham indicated that Section 3.6 (c) would state "a motion to reconsider may only be made once at the meeting in which the matter was first considered and once within the succeeding 14 days."

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Deputy City Attorney Whitham explained that if the Council were to be dark twice, there would be no opportunity to reconsider the motion.

Councilmember Messerlian noted that the point was to give the community an opportunity to reconsider and felt the 14-day limit was adequate.

Assistant City Attorney Pohl suggested deleting the sentence that followed which states "A special meeting or emergency meeting, the agenda of which does not include the action that is sought to be reconsidered would not count as the next meeting."

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2001-02**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.6 OF THE COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER RELATING TO MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION AS AMENDED.**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-02 as amended. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

#### **11b. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING**

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Finance Director that City Council open and conduct a Community Outreach Meeting for the purpose of receiving public input related to the 2001-2003 City Operating Budget.

Mayor Hardison explained the procedures for public speaking.

City Manager Jackson noted they were seeking community input early on in the process as a result of a request from the City Council and he explained that this was the renewal of the two-year process of the two-year budget. He added that they were constrained by State Law as to the resources available and had no way of raising taxes in order to balance the budget which is required to be balanced. He commented that the process was to meet the priorities of the community as best expressed in relation to the strategic plan and he noted that they would bring the budget forward in spring and adopt it in June.

Finance Director Tsao stated that this was the first of two community outreach meetings and provided background on the budget indicating that there would be employee focus groups to discuss the budget, and the City Manager would submit the proposed budget in mid-April with budget workshops held May 1, May 15 and June 5.

He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive as much input as possible prior to putting the submittals together and he noted that they wanted assistance in identifying additional areas of focus and were also looking to educate the public on the process and the budget.

Finance Director Tsao clarified that expenditures were funded from taxes, services, permit and license fees, use of property, and fines and forfeitures. The largest sources for the general fund revenues are sales tax and utility users tax, with the rest derived from property tax,

DMV fees, business license tax, occupancy tax and miscellaneous. He stated that the City received 1% of the 8% sales tax which is the largest source of revenue for the City and noted that Torrance got 12.3% of the 1% property tax. The second largest source of revenue tax is the utility user's tax, the bulk of which comes from electricity.

Finance Director Tsao explained the breakdown of motor vehicle fees, sanitation, sewer, water and transit enterprise funds and sources, and indicated that a tax is levied on all visitors to Torrance with a hotel tax of 11%.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported on the preliminary identified areas of focus which include schools, economic development, e-government, human resource management and effective asset management.

She reported that they would like to use City resources and explore the joint use of facilities to provide a safe and secure program for youth, enhancing City provided services to include coverage for early dismissal, student free days, minor holidays and teacher conference days.

Assistant City Manager Giordano indicated that they would like to work with existing and new businesses to facilitate development and examine the effects of e-commerce on the City, including smaller office spaces, more electronic connections, and decreased numbers of employees necessary, in terms of the impact on the City's revenue base.

She explained that e-government referred to the business the City does over the Internet and noted that they were looking to use that to expand communication with citizens and businesses even further. It is currently possible to check on the status of a building permit or renew a library book over the Internet, but the City would like to expand services further and enable residents to register and pay for classes and business licenses over the Internet.

Assistant City Manager Giordano asserted that people were the greatest asset the City had and observed that there was a high demand for skilled labor with the healthy economy. She reported that the City was committed to enhanced wage and benefits packages to ensure the employee base and added that the City was continuing the classification plan defining the responsibilities of the employees, workforce training and organizational development within the City.

In terms of effective asset management, Assistant City Manager Giordano explained that the Southern California region would be faced with a series of challenges related to limited available resources including energy, water and housing, particularly affordable senior housing, and the City would be examining how to most effectively manage that for the two year budget cycle. She noted that they would be monitoring the effects of the increase in rates from Edison which would impact residents and increase revenue to the City.

Mayor Hardison thanked staff for the presentation, asked for community input and discussed procedures for public speaking.

Jane Aull, 3908 Newton Street, expressed concerns regarding traffic and speeding on Newton Street and asked that they put money aside to correct the problem. She noted that the street needed paving and suggested putting planters in at Ocean and Newton and Neece and Newton to help to decrease speeding.

Joni Gang, P.O. Box 7000-1194, Redondo Beach, encouraged the City to include funding in the 2001-2003 budget to improve animal control in the City of Torrance. She cited the many high quality services the City of Torrance provided and observed that the shelter did not provide the same type of high quality service that the citizens of Torrance have come to expect. Ms. Gang reported that the Carson shelter took in 20,000 animals last year and has a euthanasia rate of 70% for dogs and 80% for cats, whereas many city-based shelters have euthanasia rates of only 10%. Residents have expressed concerns about being discouraged to volunteer and unacceptable conditions at the shelter and she stated that the problems were systemic and predictable since the shelter services an area from Rolling Hills to Beverly Hills with only 7 officers on the street at any one time.

Ms. Gang reported that representatives from L.A. County Animal Control had attended a Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting on January 4, were unable to answer basic questions and shrugged off reports of accidental euthanasia responding that many animals looked alike. Reports furnished by the County indicate that they are not performing up to the requirements of their contract as they have fallen short by 1300 hours of service. Ms. Gang asserted that having Torrance based animal control officers was a basic measure which would contribute to public health and safety and she encouraged the Council to include it in the budget.

Venora Lee, Friends of the Madrona Marsh, expressed appreciation for the Nature Center and urged adequate support for the restoration of the preserve itself. She requested funding for grading, debris removal, berm reconstruction, access and safety measures, an irrigation system, anti-pollution measures for car wash run off and she noted that the fence needed to be repainted which would cost about \$10,000. Ms. Lee asked that the Council raise the level of funding for the current fiscal period to get the tasks done and then adjust back down based on a fully restored preserve. She invited everyone to the Friends of Madrona Marsh annual meeting on January 23.

Don Sherwood, 2400 Andrea, expressed concerns regarding train noise generated by the requirement that trains blow their horns when they approach intersections and explained that there was an automated horn system available which directed the noise down the street rather than through the neighborhoods. He provided handouts on the automated horns which cover a much smaller area and he noted that the Governor supported their use.

Mark Duda, 24235 Huber Ave., thanked Steve Finton and Wendell Johnson from the Engineering Department for acknowledging the bad drainage problem that was supposed to have been fixed last year and he sought assurances that it would be addressed this year.

Tina Lestelle, 2270 W. Sepulveda Blvd., spoke in support of a City based animal control program, and commented on the big difference between the quality of service they used to have and what they have now and noting that many people refuse to go to the Carson shelter. She expressed concern that Torrance was relying too much on private rescue groups who are not professionals and don't have training in animal care and spoke of the need for good field patrol to encourage spay and neutering and to prosecute people who violate the abandonment law.

Stephanie Terronez, 23930 Ocean Ave., spoke in support of a City based animal control program and submitted a letter from her veterinarian, Dr. Chris Hutson, to be read into the record:

"I have noticed that the "Carson" and "Downey" shelters have been adopting out pets which later are diagnosed with a trilogy of diseases: Kennel Cough, Parvo, and finally (if they survive those two diseases) Distemper. They also frequently are adopted with scabies. Please investigate new sanitation maneuvers to minimize disease. Please advise owners with a handout that these diseases may occur due to the overcrowding of these shelters.

It has become hearsay that these two shelters are not scanning the pets for microchips. I hope that this is not the case and that it is truly rumor."

Linda Gottshall-Sayed, 19332 Donora Ave., thanked the Engineering Department and the City Council for fixing the sidewalks, streets and gutters, but reported that as a result, they currently have no street numbers on Donora Ave. She observed a reluctance from homeowners to pay private groups to paint numbers and asked if street numbers on Donora and other areas which were improved could be looked into.

Owen Griffith, 3416 W. 229<sup>th</sup> St., stated that the Performing Arts Consortium thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their support of the Torrance Symphony and Summer Park Concerts, the South Bay Ballet Regional Dance America 2002, the Torrance School Outreach Program, and the South Bay Conservatory. He commented that the ongoing nurturing of the arts was appreciated and necessary and the Consortium thanked them for their continued support.

Joan Steinbacher, 2040 W. 234<sup>th</sup> St., spoke in support of a Torrance based animal shelter noting that as a neighborhood watch captain, she was aware of a total of 15 dogs and 8 cats on her block.

Scott Gobble, 5209 Calle de Arboles, urged the Council to provide funding for additional traffic officers to work expanded hours around schools, noting that he lives on a collector street and traffic is continually a problem.

Byron Stefferud, 833 W. Torrance Blvd., expressed concerns with the possible capital improvement project for the Joslyn Gallery. He questioned how much it would cost, where the funds would come from, when the project would start, how long it would take to complete and what the impact would be on the South Bay Conservatory's program for youth. He asked about the commitment to the arts overall and particularly to the Torrance non-profits in the budget.

John McGee, 22633 Felbar Ave., encouraged the Council to take Parks and Recreation into consideration when developing the budget as they were getting more requests for better services and additional facilities, and he noted that those facilities needed repair.

Rick Marshall, 2065 W. 235<sup>th</sup> St., expressed concern about the energy crisis and questioned what Torrance was doing about the soon to be escalating energy costs. He pointed out that Torrance had its own water utility and urged the Council to pursue its own power purchase arrangement or create its own power utility.

Mayor Hardison stated that they were aware that it was an issue for Torrance and were examining it.

Ann Beck with the Torrance League of Women Voters, encouraged the Council to improve Library Services and allocate a budget for a full time Youth Services Librarian for WALTERIA and a Junior Clerk for the North Branch.

Heather LaPohl, 3408 Redondo Beach Blvd., expressed support for a Torrance based animal shelter.

Tony Kriss, 18528 Gramercy Ave., asked for more information on policies for planning and development in Torrance and expressed support for those who addressed the issue of the energy crisis. He noted that the utility users tax generated money and requested a freeze on any portion of their increase.

Tara Unverzagt, 5016 Cathann Ave., asked the Council to eliminate video rental fees at the libraries, noting that one dollar per day per video was excessive and beyond what commercial stores charged.

City Manager Jackson stated that residents could use the budget survey available on the webpage for additional input and he noted that there would be another outreach program at the North Torrance High School Library on January 23.

Mayor Hardison stated that they were familiar with some of the issues that were mentioned and she indicated that the Council was committed to research and would continue to look into them. She noted that there were several issues that she was not familiar with and explained that those would go back to the departments for investigation. She expressed hope that all who spoke left a card with a name and address in case the City needed additional information and stated that they would deal with all concerns and requests and she appreciated people taking time to share thoughts and listen.

Community Relations Officer Ghio announced the winners of the Torrance Monopoly game: Mel Glass, Michelle Estrada, Bea Vrobic, Linda Gottshall-Sayed, Kelly Pardo, and Stephanie Terronez.

Councilmember Cribbs thanked the large number of people who turned up to address the City Council, acknowledged that it was hard to come up and speak and noted that she was a proponent of coming out to the community.

Councilmember Witkowsky echoed that and added that she was looking forward to meeting North Torrance residents at the North High School meeting. She commented that it was nice to see a face with a request and encouraged residents to fill out budget surveys, available at libraries and City Hall, to express concerns and wishes for the next two years in terms of where priorities should be in the budget.

Mayor Hardison commented that she had been aware of the program to reduce railroad crossing noise brought up by Don Sherwood, but she had not been aware that the bill had been signed. She reported that the PUC had promised that they would come back to them and noted that was something they needed to examine but it would be about a year away. Mayor Hardison stated that about 90% of the trains and the 20 minute delays would be eliminated by the Alameda corridor, but acknowledged that that was over a year away. She asked staff to explore the possibility of trying one of the automatic horns to see if it worked and what the process would be to become a participating City in the project.

Mayor Hardison addressed the issue of curb markings noting that it continued to be a problem and it was not legal to get someone else to do it. She reported that they had offered

the project out to the scouts and the non-profits but no one was interested and suggested that perhaps the City needed to cover the service.

Mayor Hardison called a recess from 9:08 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

**11c. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS: JANUARY 30, MAY 29, JULY 31, OCTOBER 30 AND DECEMBER 25, 2001**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider the following days as Council dark nights, all of which occur on Tuesdays in 2001: January 30, May 29, July 31, October 30 and December 25.

In response to a suggestion by Councilmember Witkowsky that the Council be dark on March 13 as she was currently aware of three Councilmembers who would be attending the League of Cities Conference on that date, Mayor Hardison explained that they should wait until they knew that there would be a lack of a quorum in case they needed to meet to conduct certain business.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation declaring January 30, May 29, July 31, October 30 and December 25, 2001 as Council Dark nights. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**11d. SUFFICIENT INITIATIVE PETITIONS RE LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 99-1**

Declaration of the City Clerk declaring the sufficiency of initiative petitions submitted seeking to repeal Lighting Assessment District 99-1. The City Clerk requests further direction from the City Council.

The initiative petition to *Repeal All Assessments on Real Property Within the City of Torrance for Municipal Lighting, including the Assessment for the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 Starting the First Fiscal Year Following Passage of the Initiative and All Subsequent Fiscal Years* is hereby certified as sufficient. The City Clerk requests City Council direction based on the following options under California Elections Code:

- 1) Within 10 days adopt the ordinance as presented without alteration and repeal the Street Lighting District; or (EC § 9215)
- 2) Submit the measure to the voters at one of the next established election dates— June 5, 2001 or November 6, 2001; or (EC §1000)
- 3) Submit the measure to the voters at the next regular municipal election March 4, 2002 (EC §1405) ; or
- 4) Order report(s) on the effect of the proposed initiative (EC §9212 and 9215).

City Clerk Herbers reported that she had submitted the petitions to the Los Angeles County Registrar of the signatures required and she declared the initiative petition sufficient noting that the Council could take action as directed in the item.

Mayor Hardison observed that they had four options before them and asked for direction from Deputy City Attorney Whitham who noted that if Option 4 was selected, staff would have 30 days to develop reports and bring them back to Council, and at that time they would have to decide on Options 1, 2 or 3.

Mayor Hardison stated that they would have to look at funding and reallocation of funds as the District currently brings in \$1.2 million not counting the \$600,000 that the City puts in.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved to order report(s) on the effect of the proposed initiative (EC §9212 and 9215). Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval

Mayor Hardison asked that Councilmembers be specific on what they would like to see addressed in the report, noting that, fiscal impact was important, and \$1.2 million could not be taken out of the budget without an impact. She asked that staff address where the funds would come from and noted that she thought the figure was higher due to the increases in electricity costs.

Finance Director Tsao acknowledged that they only had rate increases for 90 days and agreed to try to anticipate what those additional costs would be as it would also have an effect on the City's General and Specific Plans.

Mayor Hardison questioned whether they needed to look at reconfiguring their lighting patterns and examine whether it was more important that they have lighting on the main streets and not the residential streets if they could not support that. She noted that would get into land use issues which could affect funding from infrastructure and questioned whether additional money could come from capital projects or ongoing general fund projects that are not funded.

Mayor Hardison observed that there may be an impact on the community's ability to retain and attract businesses and questioned the possible effect on businesses that run third shifts. She noted that lighting had an effect on looking at areas for revitalization and asked that information be brought back in a study form to examine those impacts. She observed that the business community and other governmental agencies paid for just over 41% of it and added that under current fee structures they would not be able to go back to the business communities and capture that.

Mayor Hardison asked City Clerk Herbers to provide information on time frames and costs of one election versus another.

Councilmember Witkowsky commented that they did not know what was going to happen with SCE and expressed concerns regarding safety, noting that the police have always maintained that there is a direct correlation between lighting and the safety of the community. She questioned how they would mitigate the problem with homeowners and businesses and how they were going to keep the lights on for safety in the community.

Councilmember Messerlian asked Finance Director Tsao to try to estimate the windfall from the increase in taxes and City Manager Jackson agreed to look at that as well.

Councilmember Nowatka noted that during the previous attempt to repeal the Lighting Assessment, there were comments that it was illegal and he wanted that addressed in the report.

Mayor Hardison received clarification from City Clerk Herbers that the law only provided for a 30 day period, so the item will be brought forward on February 6, 2001 with action required to be taken 10 days after that, so the item would need to be acted upon by February 13, 2001.

**11e. ORDINANCE 3492 RE STORM WATER PERMIT**

Recommendation of the Building and Safety Director, Engineering Director and Planning Director that City Council adopt an Ordinance amending the Torrance Municipal Code by adding new language enabling the City to comply with the new requirements of the Storm Water Permit approved by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto provided a brief presentation noting that the plan was a mandate by the State Regional Water Quality Board mandating cities in Los Angeles County and unincorporated areas to bring forth a storm water mitigation plan requiring private property developments to reduce pollutants and treat them prior to entering the storm drains.

He reported that the mandate required that the City enforce the new provisions by February 15, 2001 and noted that implementation would effect development review procedures and requirements of the Engineering, Building and Safety, and Planning Departments. He indicated that information on the item had been available for public review since late December and was sent to applicants who would be impacted by the requirements.

Building and Safety Manager Isomoto recommended approval of the ordinance which adopts the mandated requirements by reference and places the new requirements into effect by February 15, 2001.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Building and Safety Manager Isomoto reported that notices had been sent out to local builders and anyone who had an application with the City and the City received four phone calls from local developers asking how they would be affected.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Messerlian regarding who was included in the ordinance, Building and Safety Manager Isomoto indicated that those projects who had approved planning and entitlement had put enough time in and the new requirements would not apply.

City Manager Jackson indicated that anyone who placed an application would be notified and Building and Safety Manager Isomoto added that signage would be at the counter.

In response to concerns from Councilmember Messerlian that language within the body of the ordinance was missing, City Manager Jackson explained that it was designed to apply to all projects that fell within the guidelines and Rufus C. Young, Jr., an attorney with Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP, who wrote the ordinance clarified that it must first be a discretionary project and it must be submitted to the City on or after the effective date and unless it falls within those two categories it is not subject to the charter.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3492**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARD URBAN STORM WATER MITIGATION PLAN OF THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION BY AMENDING THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD NEW**

**CHAPTER 11 TO DIVISION 4 TITLED, "STANDARD URBAN WATER  
MITIGATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION."**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3492. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval for first reading of the Ordinance.

**12. HEARINGS**

**12a. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-03 RE VACATION STREET EASEMENT**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that following the Public Hearing City Council approve and adopt a resolution ordering the vacation of a portion of a street easement located on the south side of Sepulveda Boulevard west of Warmside Avenue.

Mayor Hardison opened the public hearing at 9:50 p.m.

Engineering Director Perkins reported that the hearing was on a small portion of land adjacent to residential property on the south side of the street with the hearing and the vacation initiated by the property owner. He added that staff recommended approval with a requirement that the underlying vacated area be tied to the proponent's property with a Lot Tie agreement for use as one parcel as part of the conditions for vacation.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Engineering Director Perkins clarified that three property owners had initially approached them but that two had chosen not to go forward.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Engineering Director Perkins indicated that the property owner on the south side of Sepulveda would extend their fence and grass out about 25 feet and he noted that there was not public need for that land so they were removing some of the maintenance of the area by the slope from the City's responsibility.

Street Services Director Bell clarified that Street Services maintained the area but they contracted out to Parks and Recreation for mowing of the grass.

**MOTION:** At 9:54 p.m. Councilmember Messerlian moved to close the public hearing. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2001-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD WEST OF WARMSIDE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-03. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call reflected unanimous approval.

**14. SECOND READING ORDINANCES**

**14a. ORDINANCE 3491 RE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT RE CAL PERS**

Submitted for second and final reading of ordinance 3491 authorizing an Amendment to the Contract between the City Council of the City of Torrance and the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3491**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO AMEND THE CITY'S CONTRACT WITH CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CALPERS) ADDING SECTION 21363.1 (3% AT 55 FULL FORMULA) FOR LOCAL FIRE MEMBERS ONLY.**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3491. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 9:58 p.m. to 9:59 p.m.

\*

**15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**15a.** City Manager Jackson thanked all involved for the outstanding job in the preparation for the meeting.

**15b.** Councilmember Cribbs thanked staff for meeting preparations and the public for attending and congratulated the Torrance Rose Float Association for winning the Princess Award. She also noted that the City needed to continue to monitor developments on Artesia and Hawthorne Blvds. and pointed out the need for improved lighting at the Katy Geissert Library suggesting that funds might be available from the capital budget.

**15c.** Councilmember Messerlian commented on overheads for the budget presentation noting that they were real life examples that people could relate to which explained where the money goes. He asked that the phasing of the signal at the intersection of Lomita and Crenshaw be examined at noon and 5 p.m. and observed that there were some fairly new potholes at that intersection. Councilmember Messerlian announced the next concert of the Torrance Symphony on January 20 at 8:00 p.m. presented as a community service at the Armstrong Theatre.

**15d.** Councilmember Nowatka thanked staff for the event planning and stated that he was impressed with the dignity of the presenters and that they did not abuse the time limit for speaking.

**15e.** Councilmember Scotto commented on road conditions at the intersections of Arlington and Sepulveda, and Carson and Western and asked that information be brought forward on the bingo ordinance.

**15f.** Councilmember Witkowsky observed that the meeting was a great way to showcase the new gymnasium and commended the cable television staff. She also called attention to the Rose Float Association and the great work that all the volunteers did and noted that the Mayor got to ride on the float for the entire parade. Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she had received complaints from North Torrance residents about odors generated from eucalyptus clippings on Prairie Avenue and expressed hope that they would be dealt with soon.

**15g.** Mayor Hardison expressed appreciation on the courtesy of the speakers during the meeting and thanked staff, including cable personnel. She noted that some of the issues brought up in the budget discussion could be coming forward at the mid-year budget review. She suggested that background be provided to some of the newer Councilmembers pertaining to Mrs. Aull's comments regarding Newton and asked staff to bring back information on traffic calming issues raised by Scott Gobble

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, City Manager Jackson noted that the issue of video rental fees would be coming forward to them mid-year and noted that they would respond to each item which did not apply to this budget as some were capital budget items.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:14 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 5:30 p.m., for an executive session in the Council Chamber, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

\*\*

*Adjourned in memory of  
William Schultz*

\*\*

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Herbers  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on February 27, 2001