

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, McIntyre, Mauno, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky, and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

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

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

Councilmember Lieu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rabbi Marsha Plafkin, Congregation Beth Torah, gave an inspiration for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lieu 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 passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lieu 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 passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired Police Sergeant William Poling who passed away on Monday, February 24, 2003.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. PROCLAMATION - KEN ROBERTS**

Councilmember Scotto read a proclamation of commendation for Ken Roberts honoring him for his role in rescuing an Elder Care Home resident from a structure fire, for demonstrating courage, commitment and compassion towards his fellow neighbors. Mayor Walker presented the proclamation and congratulated Mr. Roberts.

**6b. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council review applications and make appointments to fill vacancies on the Civil Service Commission and the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. The City Clerk further recommends that the City Clerk administer the Oath of Office to commissioners present at the meeting.

City Council appointed by unanimous ballot Tom Brewer to the Civil Service Commission (term expiring January 15, 2004) and Frances Castillo to the Environmental and Energy Conservation Commission (term expiring January 15, 2005). City Clerk Herbers gave the oath of office to both commissioners.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2003**

Approval of minutes of January 14, 2003.

**7b. INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2003**

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of January 2003.

**7c. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 53349 – 3120 SEPULVEDA BLVD.**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve final Tract Map No. 53349, creating 61 senior citizen residential condominiums on one lot, located at 3120 Sepulveda Boulevard, which substantially conforms to and meets all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map; and
- 2) Accept a 12 foot wide street easement for the length of the project frontage.

**7d. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSOLETE VEHICLES**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Street Services Director that City Council authorize Ken Porter Auction to facilitate the sale of sixteen (16) surplus/obsolete vehicles.

**7e. ANNUAL REPORT - TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL 2001-2002**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director and the Youth Council that City Council accept and file the 2001-2002 Torrance Youth Council Annual Report.

**7f. STORM DRAIN EASEMENT TO JCC HOMES AND DONATION ACCEPTANCE**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve an easement allowing JCC Homes to construct, operate and maintain a storm water drain line under and across a portion of Columbia Park;
- 2) Ask the Mayor to execute and City Clerk to attest to the easement deed; and
- 3) Accept a donation from JCC Homes in the amount of \$5,000, for future improvements at Columbia Park.

**7g. AMENDMENT TO SUBLEASE C2002-213 MAXIMUS**

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council accept and ratify the administrative changes made to the MAXIMUS sublease agreement C2002-213.

7h. **WAIVE LABOR COSTS FOR PORTABLE STAGE FOR TUSD RELAY FOR LIFE**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council waive the labor costs associated with the transport and set up of the City's portable stage in support of Torrance Unified School District's First Annual South Torrance Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

7i. **AGREEMENT WITH CALTROP FOR STREET/WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve a contract services agreement in the amount of \$55,000 with Caltrop Engineering Corporation ("Caltrop") to provide construction inspection services for the Street/Water Main Improvement Project, I-5/I-23 (B2003-49); and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7j. **APPROVE PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS FOR HAWTHORNE BLVD. INTERSECTION CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT, T-39 AGREEMENT WITH GMC ENGINEERING, INC.**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the Plans and Specifications for the Hawthorne/Del Amo Intersection Capacity Enhancement Project, T-39 (B2003-03);
- 2) Award a public works agreement to GMC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$329,188 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$16,460 for this project; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7k. **AMENDMENT - AGREEMENT WITH EDAW, INC. (C2000-246)**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve a second amendment to consulting services agreement C2000-246 with EDAW, Inc. (formerly KEA Environmental, Inc.) to extend the term of the agreement to September 30, 2003 in conjunction with the Del Amo Boulevard Extension (T-30); and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest the agreement.

7l. **AGREEMENT – BEYLIK DRILLING, INC. WELL NO. 6**

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve a contract services agreement with Beylik Drilling, Inc., in the amount of \$24,898 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$1,247 to rehabilitate and refurbish Well No. 6; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest the agreement.

7m. **CONTRACT EXTENSION - WARD NORTH AMERICAN FOR LIABILITY CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION**

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council approve a one-year contract extension C2000-040 with Ward North American for liability claims administration services, at an annual cost of \$100,734. The contract extension will be from March 1, 2003 to March 1, 2004.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**11a. PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA STORM DRAIN PROJECT**

Recommendation of the **Engineering Director** that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving the Plans and Specifications for the Palos Verdes-Walteria Storm Drain Project prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works;
- 2) Grant the County use of and rights to City streets along the alignment of the drain located within the City of Torrance; and
- 3) Upon the request of the County, assign rights over utilities from the City to the County.

Councilmembers Lieu and Witkowsky excused themselves from consideration of this matter as both live within 500 feet of the project and exited the chambers.

Engineering Director Burt provided background on the project and the benefits to Torrance by constructing new storm drains and catch basins within the City. He cited numerous meetings attended by staff and the County to obtain community input into the project and stated that when the project is completed, the County will assume responsibility for maintenance and operation of this entire system.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved for approval with Councilmember McIntyre seconding the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous, absent Councilmember Lieu and Witkowsky.

City Clerk Herbers read a number and a title to

**RESOLUTION NO. 2003-17.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PALOS VERDES-WALTERIA STORM DRAIN PROJECT AND GRANTING LOS ANGELES COUNTY USE OF CITY STREETS AND ASSIGNING RIGHTS OVER UTILITIES**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved for approval with Councilmember Nowatka seconding with a favorable roll call vote, absent Councilmembers Lieu and Witkowsky.

Councilmembers Lieu and Witkowsky returned to the meeting.

**11b. STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - CAROLWOOD DRIVE AND SINGINGWOOD DRIVE**

Recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney that City Council continue the state of local emergency proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto discussed the recent rains noting that the landslide area commenced moving again and was fairly significant and that the eastern part of the slide dropped approximately three feet and the bottom portion forced the walls to be knocked down and three vacant homes in that area were damaged.

He stated that some construction had started with repairs on the upper seven homes above this area and that this construction had protected those homes and they did not appear to have received any additional damage due to this movement.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to concur the with staff recommendation; Councilmember Scotto seconded and a unanimous roll call vote followed.

#### **11c. MID-YEAR BUDGET AND PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS**

Recommendation of the **Finance and Governmental Operations Committee** that City Council:

- 1) Accept and file the Mid-Year (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2002-03) Financial Report;
- 2) Accept and file the City Treasurer's Investment Report;
- 3) Defer filling the Fire Captain for Community Outreach; and
- 4) Carry forward the discussion on the program modifications for in-house animal control to the March 18<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop.

Finance Director Tsao stated that the budget outlook for the current 2002/2003 fiscal year appeared to be stable. He note that staff is concerned that external factors that may adversely effect the City's budget forecast and that the 2004/2005 fiscal year budget will be challenging as the City is projecting a deficit of approximately \$11-12 million.

Councilmember Witkowsky requested Finance Director Tsao to provide information and a breakdown of costs relating to the animal shelter for the March 18<sup>th</sup> workshop.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to accept and file the Mid-Year (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2002-2003) Financial Report; Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to accept and file the City Treasurer's Investment Report; Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to defer the Fire Captain for Community Outreach; Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with staff recommendation to carry forward the discussion on program modifications for in-house animal control to the March 18<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop; Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Mayor Walker stated that the March 18, 2003 the meeting would start at 5:30 p.m. for a Budget Workshop followed by the regular City Council meeting and that any interested residents should attend the meeting at 5:30 p.m. for any budget matters.

#### **12. HEARINGS**

**12a. PUBLIC HEARING – 2003 PHA ANNUAL PLAN FOR SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Recommendation of the Planning Director that City Council conduct a public hearing, consider any comments received during the hearing and approve the 2003 PHA Annual Plan for the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

Mayor Walker opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Planning Manager Bihn provided a brief presentation for the City Council

Responding to Councilmember Witkowsky, Planning Manager Bihn, stated hat the City is looking for additional funds to revise Section 8 but that it did not appear that there would be any in the next several years.

There were no speakers from the public.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to close the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.; Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to approved the 2003 PHA Annual Plan for the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program; Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**12b. CITIZENS OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS) GRANT FUNDING**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council convene a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant funding; receive input from public hearing - staff on programs of interest to the Chief of Police and City Council as well as the public on the use of the grant funds; and at the close of the hearing, appropriate \$282,254 to the recommended projects.

Mayor Walker opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 p.m.

Sergeant Chase of the Torrance Police Department Research and Training Division made a presentation of the material of record.

There were no speakers from the public.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved to close the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.; Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved to concur with the staff recommendation and approved \$100,000 for Records Imaging Project FEAP385; \$ 30,700 for Funding for the North Torrance PCC FEAP379, \$50,000 for Funding for the Victim Assistance Program FEAP380, \$40,000 for Professional Consultants FEAP386, \$15, 000 for Dispute Resolution FEAP381, \$9, 054 for Electronic Dosimeters and \$37, 500 Recruitment FEAP387. Councilmember McIntyre seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

**15. 2<sup>ND</sup> READING ORDINANCES**

**15a.** Second and Final Reading of **ORDINANCE NO. 3530** amending Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code to reclassify certain property located at 22520 Ocean Avenue from R-3 (Limited Multiple-Family Residential District) to PU (Public Use District).

City Clerk Herbers read the number and title to

**ORDINANCE NO. 3530**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 22520 OCEAN AVENUE FROM R-3 (LIMITED MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO PU (PUBLIC USE DISTRICT ZON02-00004: CITY OF TORRANCE**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for second and final reading of Ordinance 3530; Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met at 6:30 p.m.; reconvened at 7:34 p.m. and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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**16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Fire Chief Bongard announced that on February 11, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has designated Torrance fire stations as Safe Havens for abandoned newborn infants. Chief Bongard extended his thanks to Firefighter Mike Salcido the hard work he put into the project. He also thanked the Torrance Fire Fighters Association for providing the Safe Surrender kits for all stations.

Councilmember Lieu expressed condolences to the two families of those that lost loved ones this past week, especially Mike Wilson and his family.

Councilmember Lieu stated that he had been contacted by the California State of Equalization regarding the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program. He noted that under this program, members of the public can receive a payment from the state based on a percentage of how much they pay on property taxes, either directly as a homeowner or indirectly as a renter, that in order to qualify, one must be at least 62 years of age, or if under the age of 62 one must qualify based on other criteria. He asked for the concurrence of the City Council for staff to look into the possibility of showing a Board of Equalization public service announcement on Torrance CitiCable.

Councilmember Mauno stated that one of the hallmarks of our community has always been public safety and asked for City Council concurrence to have staff look into the possibility of working with developers to build affordable housing for public safety personnel to make it more desirable and financially viable them to live in our City in light of the heightened emergency situation.

Mayor Walker stated that he found the concept very interesting.

Councilmember McIntyre expressed condolences to Mike Wilson and his family.

Councilmember Nowatka expressed his condolences to Mike Wilson and his family for the passing of Mike's dad and to Sergeant Bill Poling's family, noting he and Bill Poling were once partners on the Police Department.

Councilmember Scotto commented on the current rains, stating that the Street Services Department had done a great job trying to maintain the streets in certain areas.

Councilmember Scotto asked staff for an update on the repairs to Artesia Boulevard.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine responded, stating that the City has had some issues with CalTrans regarding the overpass and where Artesia Boulevard meets Hawthorne Boulevard and that they hoped to have them resolved shortly. He stated that they are preparing to go to bid in late March with construction start by June. He noted that underground infrastructure work was already completed including Edison's electrical work and other underground structures such as reclaimed water lines and new water mains.

Councilmember Scotto stated that he had recommended that every other streetlight be bagged and turned off and asked staff to now remove the bags due to their poor condition.

Assistant City Manager Sunshine stated that the City was working out the final details with Edison to remove the bags.

Councilmember Witkowsky commented on rental assistance program noting that assistance was available for seniors.

Councilmember Witkowsky expressed condolences to Mike Wilson and his family for the loss of his father.

Mayor Walker expressed condolences to Mike Wilson and his family.

Shirley Turner representing Friends of Madrona Marsh invited everyone to attend the Madrona Marsh on Saturday, March 1 reading by the National Education Association with the Read Across America program on Dr. Seuss' books on the environment.

Alan Lee, AFSCME, shared thoughts on employee/employer relations and asked the City Council Employee Relations Committee to meet with them to hear first hand the positive way the relations are working. He also invited the councilmembers to attend a grand opening of the on-site AFSCME office.

## **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council Closed Session

### **a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

(California Government Code § 54956.9 (a):

1. Shell Chemical Company, et al., vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.,  
USDC Case No. CV-00-1917MRP; CV-00-1938MRP and CV-00-6420MRP

No formal action was taken on any item considered in Closed Session

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:54 p.m., Councilmember Lieu moved to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and it was so ordered.

/s/ Dan Walker

Attest:

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

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Sue Herbers, CMC  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 3, 2003

Robin Ford  
Recording Secretary