

January 8, 2008

**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 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Drevno.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Barnett.

Councilmember Nowatka gave the non-sectarian invocation.

3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, January 3, 2008.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer 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 Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Scotto asked for City Council concurrence to excuse Councilmember Drevno for the next three scheduled meetings, and hearing no objection, so ordered.

City Clerk Herbers asked that the City Council meeting be adjourned in memory of City Clerk employee Claudia Roller who passed away on December 19. She noted that a memorial service was held on January 4; that donations were being accepted in her memory by the South Coast Rose Society; and that condolences could be sent to her husband Ed Hansen through the City Clerk's office.

Mayor Scotto thanked Councilmember Sutherland for serving as Mayor Pro Tem for the past six months and announced that Councilmember Brewer would serve as Mayor Pro Tem until June 30, 2008.

Mayor Scotto announced the Torrance Advantage Award 2007, which showcases innovative economic development strategies, best practices, and outstanding results, recognizing the numerous contributions of the thriving business community in Torrance.

He noted that applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2008. More information is available at www.torrnet.com/TAA.htm or to by contacting the Office of Economic Development at (310) 618-5807.

City Clerk Herbers announced that the deadline to register to vote in the state-wide presidential primary election is Tuesday, January 22. Registration forms may be obtained at city clerk offices, libraries, post offices. For more information contact City Clerk's office at 310.618.2870, the Los Angeles County Registrar at www.lavote.net or www.smarttvoters.org.

City Clerk Herbers invited staff and the public to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member Kellie Rountree Farajpour on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of January.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01 RE DAVID POLSTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING DAVID POLSTON UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
CITY AFTER THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

To be presented at a later date.

6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02 RE LARRY JOHNSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING LARRY JOHNSON UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
CITY AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

To be presented at a later date.

6C. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-03 RE KENNETH DAVIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-03

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING KENNETH DAVIS UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
CITY AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

To be presented at a later date.

6D. STATUS REPORT ON WATER SHORTAGE

With the aid of slides, Public Works Director Beste reported on the current water shortage and the potential impact on the City of Torrance. He explained that 2007 was the driest year in L.A. County since 1880; that all major watersheds are experiencing droughts, including the Colorado Rive Project and the State Water Project; and that the Metropolitan Water District has developed a contingency plan to ration imported water supplies if the situation warrants. He recommended that the City take the following actions: 1) Enact a revised Water Shortage Ordinance; 2) Implement community outreach and expanded conservation programs; 3) Minimize the City's use of water for parks and landscaped medians; 4) Establish customer baseline allocations and penalty rates for use above the baseline; and 5) Consider a temporary drought surcharge to offset loss of revenue. He discussed measures to be taken to mitigate future droughts, including re-drilling Well No. 6 to increase the local groundwater supply and diversifying local water resources to achieve greater reliability and water independence.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Ray Solley, Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, invited children aged 7-12 to attend Super Science Saturday at the Armstrong Theatre on January 11 celebrating the history of aviation, with displays from the Western Museum of Flight.

7B. Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, announced a SHOT meeting on Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. at West Presbyterian Church, which will include a showing of the life story of Louis Zamperini in honor of his upcoming 91st birthday.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Clerk** that City Council approve the City Council minutes of November 6, 2007.

8B. ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE RE 2955 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council authorize an Assignment, Assumption and Consent to Deemed Assignment of lease through a stock purchase from RAAMCO Motors Inc., to DCH TL Holding, LLC for a lease on City-owned property located at 2955 Pacific Coast Highway in the City of Torrance doing business as Torrance Toyota and Torrance Scion.

8C. ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE RE 24751 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council authorize an Assignment, Assumption and Consent to Deemed Assignment of sub-lease through a stock purchase from RAAMCO Motors Inc., to DCH TL Holding, LLC for a sub-lease on a portion of a leasehold on City-owned property located at 24751 Crenshaw Boulevard in the City of Torrance for vehicle storage.

8D. PURCHASE ORDERS RE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATED FUEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director**, the **Transit Director**, and the **Communications and Information Technology Director** that City Council authorize the issuance of a sole-source purchase order to Maximus, Inc. of La Jolla, CA in an amount not to exceed \$194,827.50, and a sole-source purchase order to Cordell Electric of Culver City, CA in an amount not to exceed \$24,150. Together, these vendors will furnish and install Maximus' FuelFocus™ automated fuel management system at the City's three (3) main fuel dispensing sites located at: the Torrance Airport, the City Yard, and the Torrance Transit Maintenance Facility. Total amount not to exceed \$218,977.50 (including 5% project contingency).

8E. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDERS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Police Chief** that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate and allocate \$63,174 of asset forfeiture funds;
- 2) Authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$87,390.23 to Versatile Information Products, Inc., of Riverside, CA for digital audio recorders and accessories; and
- 3) Authorize a 5% project contingency of \$4,369.77 for the purchase of spare batteries, USB cables, and related equipment.

8F. SUBSIDY OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR "AGING IN PLACE" PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council authorize the subsidy of building permit fees in the amount of \$332.30 for an "Aging in Place" renovation project at New Horizons.

8G. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH COMDYN GROUP

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager**, the **Information Technology Director**, and the **Economic Development Team** that City Council approve an amendment to the agreement with the Comdyn Group extending the term to December 31, 2008 to provide maintenance services for the economic development database. The not-to-exceed total for the system remains at \$63,838.

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8G. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT RE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH LATERAL TRANSFER PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council approve a tentative agreement with TME-AFSCME Local 1117 to implement a public safety dispatch lateral transfer program.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan advised that the proposed lateral transfer program would help the City attract experienced dispatchers from other agencies, noting that current Police Communication Operators would also qualify for the transfer incentive.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

13. **HEARINGS**

13A. **WAV07-00016: VICTOR OTTEN, TRUTANICH-MICHEL, LLP**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Planning Commission** and **Community Development Director** that City Council deny the appeal and adopt a Resolution approving a Waiver to allow a six-foot fence within 10 feet from the front property line on property located within the Hillside Overlay District of the R-1 Zone.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Councilmember Nowatka announced that he was recusing himself from this hearing due to a conflict of interest and exited the Council Chambers.

Two speakers were heard, Jim Harrigan, appellant, and Victor Otten, Turtanich-Michel, LLP, representing the applicant.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Drevno and Nowatka)

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to deny the appeal and approve the Waiver. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by a 4-1 roll call vote, with Councilmember Brewer dissenting (absent Councilmembers Drevno and Nowatka).

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A WAIVER AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW A SIX FOOT FENCE WITHIN 10 FEET OF THE FRONT PROPERTY LINE, ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE ON VIA LINDA VISTA (APN: 7524-014-030)

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-04. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by a 4-1 roll call vote, with Councilmember Brewer dissenting (absent Councilmembers Drevno and Nowatka).

Councilmember Nowatka returned to the dais.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:16 p.m. to 8:18 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Sutherland commented on the Rose Parade and the City of Torrance's award winning float.

17B. Councilmember Witkowsky commended the police department for work in apprehending terrorists.

17C. Councilmember Witkowsky displayed a new energy saving CFL light bulb, noting that if every household replaced 5 bulbs with the new bulb it would be equivalent to taking more than 400,000 cars off the road.

17D. Councilmember Barnett also commended the police department and thanked the Torrance Rose Float Association for honoring Torrance's Sister City Program.

17E. Councilmember Brewer wished everyone a Happy New Year.

17F. Mayor Scotto stated that he was honored to ride on the Torrance float along with former mayor Ken Miller. He reported that the City of Torrance won the Volunteers Trophy for the Best Floral Design of a float 35' or under. He thanked the 500 volunteers who spent over 3000 hours decorating the float, noting that it was evident when viewed up close that their work was far superior to commercially decorated floats.

17G. Philip Chen, resident, noted that the energy saving bulbs should be recycled due to the mercury content and asked about a law to that effect.

In response, City Manager Jackson confirmed that there is a California law prohibiting the disposal of fluorescent bulbs.

17H. Mayor Scotto noted that the energy saving bulbs Councilmember Witkowsky referred to were available free of charge at the Energy Saving Center located at 3838 West Carson Street.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:29 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on March 18, 2008