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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – JANUARY 19, 2010**

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<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

At 9:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

January 19, 2010

**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 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

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

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**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Brewer.

Councilmember Rhilinger 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 14, 2010.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Furey 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 Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Public Works Director Beste provided an update on the water conservation efforts, noting that the City was 14% below target and reminded residents to turn off automatic sprinklers during the rainy season.

Councilmember Numark announced that unrestricted donations may be made to the International Response Fund at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or by calling 1-800-Red-Cross and that people could also text "Haiti" to 90999 to make a \$10 donation that will be added to their phone bills. He noted that the Radium will be matching donations collected at the swap meet on January 23 and January 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Public Works Director Beste reported that damage has been minimal from recent heavy rains, noting that potholes will be filled as soon as possible and sand bags are available at the City Yard.

Community Development Director Gibson reported that grading inspectors have been out to inspect various slopes throughout the City and have found no instances of significant movement.

City Manager Jackson noted that there may be standing water on streets that takes a little longer to drain due to storm cells producing large amounts of rain in a short period of time.

Fire Chief Racowski encouraged the public to use caution and drive slowly during the rain and avoid standing water. He also reminded elderly residents to call 911 if they experience flooding.

## **6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

### **6A. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council review applications and appoint members to fill vacancies on various commissions. The City Clerk will administer the oath of office to commissioners present.

Mayor Scotto announced that appointments to the following commissions will be delayed until the February 23, 2010 Council meeting due to an insufficient number of applicants: Cable TV Advisory Board, Civil Service, Commission on Aging, Library, and Traffic.

Candidates were introduced and given an opportunity to address the Council.

The following appointments were made with terms expiring on 1-15-14 unless otherwise stated:

**Commission on Aging** – Chet Craft and **Traffic Commission** – Richard Tsao

**Airport Commission** – Steven Hsiao and Howard Orpe

**Cable TV Advisory Board** – Bonnie Mae Barnard

**Cultural Arts Commission** – Benito Miranda, Dale A. Korman, and Marla Shwarts (term expires 1-15-13)

**Disaster Council** – Sue Siani

**Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission** – Michael Griffiths and Tim Cunningham (term expires 1-15-12)

**Parks and Recreation Commission** – Dean Mayeda and Todd Hays

**Planning Commission** – Kurt Weideman

**Water Commission** – Kay White (term expires 1-15-11) and Russell Lefevre

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to commissioners present.

The Council recessed from 7:42 p.m. to 7:58 p.m.

## **7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Kurt Weideman, president of Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, invited everyone to attend a fundraiser for the TCAF and the Torrance Symphony entitled, “Four Bitchin Babes in Hormonal Imbalance” on February 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Armstrong Theatre, with additional information available at 310.781.7171 or [www.torrancearts.org](http://www.torrancearts.org) .

**7B.** Bonnie Mae Barnard, Torrance, announced that Hope Chapel Torrance would like to share its building/parking with another church or non-profit organization, with information available by contacting Pastor Shoji at 310.539.2896.

**7C.** Bonnie Mae Barnard noted that The Treasure Box offers a discounted box of groceries for \$30 that is distributed through local faith-based organizations, with additional information available at [www.thetreasurebox.org](http://www.thetreasurebox.org).

**7D.** Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, announced that SHOT will be holding a fundraiser “Wine and Win” on March 16 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Toyota Automobile Museum, with additional information available at 310.320.0269 or [www.savehistoricoldtorrance.com](http://www.savehistoricoldtorrance.com).

**7E.** Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, announced that volunteers were being sought to help with researching the life story of Torrance military personnel listed on the Torrance Memorial Wall and that research training will be held at the historical museum on January 25, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., and January 31, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. She noted that the training is optional and additional information about the project is available at [www.torrancehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.torrancehistoricalsociety.org) .

**7F.** Tom Rische, Torrance, announced that Seaside Elementary School will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, March 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROPRIATION FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS TO CITY HALL**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from the Program Contingency Reserve to fund additional security enhancements to City Hall.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to approve Consent Calendar Item

8A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**10A. PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON DRAFT GENERAL PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council continue a public workshop to allow additional input from the public and provide City Council direction to staff on the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

With the aid of slides, Deputy Community Development Director Cessna provided an overview of the Circulation and Infrastructure, Community Resources, Safety, and Noise Elements of the Draft General Plan. She noted that changes recommended at earlier workshops will be incorporated into the General Plan and a public hearing will be held on February 23, 2010 for the certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan.

Councilmembers Rhilinger and Numark offered additions/corrections to the Circulation and Infrastructure Element.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Gladys Garcia, Save Historic Old Torrance, reported on the organization's efforts to preserve historic structures and protect the character of the old Torrance neighborhood through education and advocacy and urged that the changes outlined in Bonnie Mae Barnard's letter, dated January 17, 2010 be incorporated into the Community Resources Element.

Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, reviewed proposed changes to the Community Resources Element concerning the involvement of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., in the original design of Torrance and highlighted other changes detailed in her letter related to historic preservation.

Mayor Scotto directed the Community Development Department to work with the City Attorney's office to determine which of the changes proposed by Ms. Barnard could be incorporated into the General Plan.

Ann O'Brien, Save Historic Old Torrance, noted that Torrance has a wealth of historical assets and urged that more emphasis be placed on historic preservation. She reported that several cities throughout the country have protected Olmsted neighborhoods that serve as a tourist draw.

Councilmember Numark stated that Torrance has made a lot of progress in the area of historic preservation, however, he believes it's time to move from investigation to implementation and supports including language to that effect in the General Plan.

Councilmember Barnett related his understanding that open space at school sites should be included in statistics regarding the City's total open space/recreational acreage, and Community Development Director Gibson agreed to look into this issue.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to schedule the public hearing on the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for February 23, 2010. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

## **12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **12A. APPROVAL OF 2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY PROJECTS**

#### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve the 2010 Federal Legislative Priority Projects.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that executive staff met with each City department and came up with 22 priority projects; that the City's lobbyist, David Turch and Associates, has recommended that the City select 5 or 6 of the projects in order to focus efforts for obtaining federal appropriations; and that staff was recommending the following priority projects: Regional Transit Center; Crime Lab; Emergency Operations Center Computer Operations; Juvenile and Victim Assistance Programs; and the Bishop Sump. She noted that staff will continue to seek other sources of funding for the remaining projects.

Referring to the Crime Lab Project, Councilmember Rhilinger questioned whether there was room within the Police Department's existing facility to accommodate a regional crime lab.

Police Chief Neu confirmed that there was room for the crime lab and related his belief that it would benefit both Torrance and surrounding cities to have the ability to process DNA evidence locally.

Responding to questions from the Council, Assistant City Manager Giordano discussed how the projects were prioritized.

Mayor Scotto expressed support for the five priority projects recommended by staff.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Furey moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Furey announced that raffle tickets are now available for the 2010 Toyota Prius donated by Toyota Motor Sales, USA to benefit the Torrance Education Foundation, noting that \$10.00 of the \$20.00 ticket price can be designated for a specific school or school organization.

**17B.** Councilmember Numark announced that the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Torrance Community Television Awards will be held on Friday, January 22, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Toyota meeting hall.

**17C.** Councilmember Numark announced that Tracy McCubbin, founder of dClutterfly, will offer practical tips on how to organize your life on Saturday, January 23, at 2:00 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

**17D.** Charles Deemer, Torrance, requested information regarding the implementation of new transit routes, which was provided by Transit Director Turner.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:22 p.m., the City Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened in open session at 9:30 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business 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 9, 2010