

March 2 1999

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

(Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced aloud in Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. that a quorum was not present but was expected at 6:30 p.m.)

Present: Councilmembers Horwich, Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Councilwoman Cribbs.

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

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Agenda Item No. 20 was considered out of order at this time.

**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:30 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Section No. 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda.

At 7:10 p.m., the Council returned to Council Chambers and the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order. No formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

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**2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cultural Arts Vice Chairman Chris Aihara.

City Clerk Herbers gave the invocation for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee 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 Councilman Horwich and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee 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 Councilman Horwich and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee**

Wednesday, March 10, 1999, 5:00 p.m.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Joint Meeting with Torrance Unified School District

**Finance and Governmental Operations Committee**

Tuesday, March 16, 1999, 5:30 p.m.

West Annex Commission Meeting Room

Subject: Mid-Year Budget Review

**Ad Hoc Committee for Facility Naming & Signage Criteria**

Monday, March 22, 1999, 5:00 p.m.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Establishment of City Policy and Civic Center Signage

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. PROCLAMATION RE "TORRANCE ARTS ADVOCACY MONTH"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the month of March, 1999 as "Torrance Arts Advocacy Month," in the City of Torrance to Chris Aihara, Vice Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission, also present were Commission members, Mary Miller, Betty Kohler, and Tom Tanza; Owen Griffith and Yvonne Tressel, representing the Arts Council of Torrance; and Ann Gallagher of the Cultural Arts Center Foundation. Ms. Aihara thanked the many organizations in Torrance that are working together with the Cultural Arts Commission to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the arts in the community. Ms. Gallagher invited everyone to attend Doyle's Irish Cabaret at the Armstrong Theatre on March 26, 1999, sponsored by the Foundation; and Dr. Griffith called attention to the Torrance Symphony's presentation "Music from the Land of the Midnight Sun," to be held on March 6, 1999, featuring Esther Keel.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 1999**

**7b. INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 1999**

**Recommendation**

The City Treasure recommends that City Council accept and file the statement of investment activity for the month of January, 1999.

7c. **PURCHASE ORDER RE FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBSTATION TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

**Recommendation**

The Information Systems Director recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to NEC BNS for an anticipated amount not-to-exceed \$37,077.98 for the purchase of new telephone systems for the Fire Department's five substations.

7d. **LEASE AGREEMENT RE ENTRADERO SUMP LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD**

**Recommendation**

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to an agreement on behalf of the City of Torrance initiating a lease for the use of Entradero Sump Little League Field #4 by West Torrance Babe Ruth Baseball Organization for the period of March 2, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

7e. **FY 1999 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT'S CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS BUDGET**

**Recommendation**

The Transit Director recommends that City Council authorize the following:  
(1) An appropriation of \$669,400 in the Transit Department's FY 99 Capital Budget to help fund the purchase of eight 40-foot replacement buses; and  
(2) An amendment to Purchase Order 630 with Echelon Industries increasing the expendable amount by \$24,350 to \$120,000.

7f. **FY 1997-98 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5307 GRANT AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

The Transit Director recommends that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk attest to FY 1997-98 Section 5307 grant agreement for project CA-90-X887 with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the amount of \$2,047,279 to assist in the funding of four 40-ft. replacement buses, and transit facility improvements. Local project money will come from two sources: State Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Transit Assistance Funds (STAF).

7g. **1998 PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

The Planning Commission and the Planning Director recommend that City Council accept and file the 1998 Planning Commission Annual Report.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to approve the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**13a. SALE OF UNDEVELOPED ACCESS WAY TO TORRANCE BEACH**

**Recommendation**

The City Attorney and City Manager recommend that City Council consider any recommendation of the two residents adjacent to the beach access way located between 445 and 449 Paseo de la Playa regarding the disposition of the property and that if an acceptable compromise is not reached, the council direct staff to arrange for a sealed bid, with a minimum bid price of \$20,000, sell the property to the highest bidder over \$20,000, and distribute the net proceeds of the sale equally among the current owners of the lots from which the land was originally dedicated.

Deputy City Attorney Whitham advised that subsequent to the continuance of this item at the February 23, 1999 City Council meeting, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Schreiber reached an agreement regarding the sale of the access way, and that a copy of the agreement was included in the supplemental agenda material. She explained that under the agreement, Mr. Bacon proposes to purchase the property for \$20,000 and to construct fencing along the property in accordance with Mr. Schreiber's wishes. She stated that the City Manager and the City Attorney were recommending that the property be sold to Mr. Bacon for \$20,000, with the requirement that there be a lot tie between his property at 445 Paseo de la Playa and the access way, and that the proceeds from the sale, minus the \$3900 spent for an appraisal and title report, be distributed equally among the current owners of the lots from which the land was originally dedicated.

Mr. Roger Bacon, 445 Paseo de la Playa, expressed his appreciation to the Council and City staff for helping him obtain this property.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**13b. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council concur with committee appointments made to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, the Municipal Area Express (MAX) Policy Steering Committee, and the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District.

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved to appoint Mayor Hardison, Voting Delegate; Councilman Lee, Alternate, to Los Angeles County Sanitation District; Councilwoman O'Donnell, as Chair, to Municipal Area Express Policy Steering Committee; and Councilwoman Cribbs, Voting Delegate to Los Angeles County West Vector Control District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

14. **HEARINGS**

14a. **PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT/WAIVER RE 22316 LINDA DRIVE**

**Recommendation**

The Planning Commission and the Planning Director recommend that City Council deny the appeal and approve PRE98-0021 and WAV98-0013 to allow a one-story addition that encroaches into the front yard setback and the addition of rear yard deck to an existing one-story, single-family residence with a condition that precludes the deck from encroaching into the required rear yard setback on property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 22316 Linda Drive. PRE98-0021, WAV98-0013: Vanderhoof/Burchfield

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date, and place for the public hearing on this matter.

City Clerk Herbers verified that the hearing was properly advertised.

Mr. Ron Reeve, owner of the property at 22316 Linda Drive, distributed copies of his presentation to Councilmembers, and explained that he was appealing Condition No. 8 of PRE98-0021 and No. 5 of WAV98-0013 that require that the rear deck be set back 15 feet from the rear property line. He advised that his proposed deck would be set back five feet from the rear property line; that it was designed to take full advantage of the view from his property while suppressing noise and blocking the unsightly view of the service alley and strip-mall roof below; and that he has the enthusiastic support of all of the neighbors on his street. He noted that there was no public opposition to the deck at the Planning Commission meeting and related his impression that Planning Commissioners may not have understood that these conditions were included when they voted to approve PRE98-0021 and WAV98-0013.

Responding to an inquiry from Councilman Walker, Mr. Robert Vanderhoof, 777 Silver Spur Road, Suite 135, Rolling Hills Estates, project architect, advised that staff's recommendation to terrace the slope would be more invasive and that building the deck as proposed would cause the least amount of disturbance to the hillside.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to grant the appeal and delete Condition No. 8 of PRE98-0021 and Condition No. 5 of WAV98-0013. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW A ONE-STORY ADDITION AND THE ADDITION OF A REAR YARD DECK TO AN EXISTING ONE-STORY, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 22316 LINDA DRIVE  
PRE98-0021: VANDERHOOF/BURCHFIELD**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-21 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-22**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A WAIVER AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW ENCROACHMENTS INTO THE REQUIRED FRONT AND REAR YARD SETBACK AREAS TO AN EXISTING ONE-STORY, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 22316 LINDA DRIVE  
WAV98-0013: VANDERHOOF/BURCHFIELD**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-22 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman Cribbs).

**18. ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

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The Council met as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency from 7:40 to 7:42 p.m.

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**19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**19a.** City Clerk Herbers invited the public to visit the Clerk's office to view oil paintings by Torrance Artist Guild member Betty Kohler.

**19b.** City Manager Jackson, responding to Councilwoman O'Donnell, stated that hypodermic needles should not be placed in the recycling bins and that information would be shared with residents to that effect.

**19c.** Mayor Hardison announced that as part of the budget outreach, the City Council will hold the March 23, 1999 Council meeting at the General Aviation Center at Torrance Airport, and the April 6, 1999 Council meeting in the Library at North High School. Public input will be welcome.

**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 9, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

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City Clerk of the City of Torrance