

March 9, 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 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

(City Clerk Herbers announced aloud in Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. that a quorum was not present but was expected at 6:00 p.m.)

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

Absent: Councilman Walker.

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Giordano, 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 6:04 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Section Nos. 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54956.8, and 54956.9(b)(3)(C), the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda.

At 7:24 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 Aaron Maass, Boy Scout Troop #310.

Reverend Taige Ronan, Calvary Chapel of South Bay, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of John Bramhall, retired City Clerk and past recipient of the City's most prestigious honor, the Jared Sidney Torrance Award.

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

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

**4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

Assistant City Manager Giordano announced that Item No. 13a (Amendment to the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center Lease) was withdrawn and that a request had been received to postpone the hearing for one week on Item No. 14a (Begonia Village).

**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

**Budget Outreach & Regular City Council Meeting**

Tuesday, March 23, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

Torrance Airport Zamperini Field

3301 Airport Drive

**Budget Outreach & Regular City Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 6, 1999

5:30 p.m. - Executive Session, 7:00 p.m. – Regular Business

North High School Library

3620 West 182<sup>nd</sup> Street

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. RESOLUTION NO. 99-23 RE POLICE OFFICER BRUCE HERBER BOTT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-23**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING  
POLICE OFFICER BRUCE HERBER BOTT UPON  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-TWO  
YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-23. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Walker).

**6b. RESOLUTION NO. 99-24 RE POLICE OFFICER KARL DENNIS YOUNG**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-24**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING POLICE OFFICER KARL DENNIS YOUNG UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-24. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Walker).

**6c. RESOLUTION NO. 99-25 RE POLICE OFFICER RICHARD THOMAS SILAGY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-25**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING POLICE OFFICER RICHARD THOMAS SILAGY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-25. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Walker).

Mayor Hardison noted that Resolution Nos. 99-23, 99-24, and 99-25 would be presented at a later date.

**6d. PROCLAMATION RE “PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER MONTH”**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the month of March, 1999 as “Professional Social Worker Month” in the City of Torrance to Janlee Wong, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers; Donna Fernandez, Director, California Chapter Region H; Kathy Sherman, Director, California Region I; and members Tamara Zwinak, Amy Blue, and Javier Contreras. Mr. Wong thanked the Council for recognizing the valuable service social workers provide to all segments of the community.

**6e. PROCLAMATION RE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP) OF THE SOUTH BAY**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation thanking and congratulating the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the South Bay, celebrating 25 years of volunteer service to the community, to Hope Witkowsky, Director of RSVP.

Ms. Witkowsky accepted the proclamation with appreciation and noted with pleasure the tremendous growth the program has had since its inception in 1974.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

The Human Resources Director of the City of Torrance recommends that City Council authorize the execution of an agreement for information technology services and support with InfoSystems Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$93,600.

**7b. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT DONATIONS**

**Recommendation**

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that City Council accept these generous donations from the Torrance Artists' Guild and Torrance Craftsmen's Guild. City Council is also asked to approve an appropriation of \$500 to the Park Services General Operations Fund (Miramar Park Improvement Account) and \$400 to the Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund (Learning Center Account).

**7c. 1999-2001 BUDGET WORKSHOP AND HEARING DATES**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager and Finance Director recommend that City Council approve dates and times to conduct workshops and public hearings for the 1999-2001 City Budget.

**7d. PURCHASE RE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPLACEMENT VEHICLES**

**Recommendation**

The General Services Director and the Fire Chief recommend that City Council authorize a purchase order to be issued for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$79,563.75 to Robert H. Loud, Pasadena, CA for the purchase of three (3) Ford F-350 Super Duty Cab and Chassis.

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

**8. LIBRARY / PARKS & RECREATION**

**8a. INCREASED FUNDING FOR ROSE PARADE FLOAT**

**Recommendation**

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that City Council increase the level of funding for the City's float in the 2000 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade in the amount of \$25,000 for a total City contribution of \$70,000.

Parks and Recreation Director Barnett advised that the additional \$25,000 can be funded out of General Fund salary savings on a one time only basis and that the Torrance Rose Float Association has committed to contributing \$30,000 in order to reach the minimum recommended for the special circumstances surrounding the year 2000 parade.

Councilman Messerlian voiced support for the increased funding, stating that since this year's parade marks the beginning of the new millenium, the City's participation merits special consideration.

Referring to agenda material, Councilman Horwich noted that although the cost of the float is expected to drop to \$80,000 in 2001, that represents an increase of \$20,000 from previous years. He stated that he favored funding the 2000 float but did not want to commit to spending \$80,000 in 2001.

Mayor Hardison noted that the recommendation requests approval of funding for the 2000 Rose Float and that funding for subsequent years will be considered by Council committee at a later date.

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

**13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**13a. AMENDMENT TO FOLLING HILLS PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER LEASE**

**Recommendation**

The Land Management Team recommends that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center Lease modifying provision 20A(4).

Withdrawn (see page 2).

**14. HEARINGS**

**14a. BEGONIA VILLAGE**

**Recommendation**

The Planning Commission recommends that City Council adopt a Negative Declaration, deny the appeal and deny the project as proposed in CUP97-0046 and TTM 52389 for the development of 44 residential condominium units designed as a "horizontally integrated" mixed use project with an adjacent commercial development (at 4140 Pacific Coast Highway) on property located in the C-2 zone at 4111 242<sup>nd</sup> Street and 4134-64 Pacific Coast Highway.

The Planning Director recommends that City Council adopt a Negative Declaration, uphold the appeal and approve the project as proposed in CUP97-0046 and TTM 52389 and as conditioned in Resolutions for the development of

44 residential condominium units designed as a “horizontally integrated” mixed use project with an adjacent commercial development (at 4140 Pacific Coast Highway) on property located in the C-2 zone at 4111 242<sup>nd</sup> Street and 4134-64 Pacific Coast Highway.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date, and place for the public hearing on this matter, and City Clerk Herbers verified that the hearing was properly advertised.

Mayor Hardison advised that a request had been received to postpone the hearing for one week as Councilman Walker was stranded on the East Coast due to inclement weather, and Councilmembers felt very strongly that the matter should be deliberated by the full Council. She noted that it had not become apparent until late in the afternoon that Councilman Walker would not make the meeting and expressed her regret that attempts to notify interested parties of the continuance had failed. She explained that there would be no staff presentation or applicant presentation at this meeting, but members of the audience unable to return next week would be allowed to make statements for the record.

On behalf of the many residents present at the meeting, Mr. Doug Shepardson, 4812 Newton Street, requested that the Council deliberate the matter at this meeting, stating that the seriousness of matter demands that it be addressed without delay; that a legal quorum of Councilmembers was present; and that it is a matter of public record that Councilman Walker has received campaign contributions from the developer and perhaps should disqualify himself from voting on this issue in any event.

Mr. Joseph Enfield, 4204 Newton Street, stated that the proposed high-density development is out of character with the residential neighborhood and would exacerbate existing noise and traffic problems in the area.

Ms. Watkins, 23628 Susana Avenue, expressed her opinion that high-density condominiums do not belong in the neighborhood and would increase the transient population and create over-crowding.

Ms. Lulabetti Parker, 4023 W. 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, #F11, related her opposition to the project, indicating that dust from construction would be damaging to her health and that the tall buildings would block fresh air and sunlight from her apartment and take away her view of the hills.

Ms. Jackie Drasco, 5321 Highgrove Street, commented that she believes the proposed development packs too many units in too small an area and should be denied.

Mr. Jim Gates, 142 Via Pasqual, stated that the residential development of the Begonia Farm property is incompatible with Torrance Airport operations and conflicts with the City’s Airport Master Plan, noting that in the last 12 months, 61 percent of the complaints regarding airport operations came from the areas on either side of Pacific Coast Highway and west of Hawthorne Boulevard, the area containing the Begonia Farm. He explained that the proposed development is only 2,600 feet from the airport and beneath the arrival/departure route for helicopters; that the majority of complaints from the area concern helicopters; and that a significant increase in helicopter traffic can

be expected from the expansion of Robinson Helicopter and training programs based at the airport. He questioned the wisdom of the City's spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to solicit and record complaints while failing to halt residential development in areas clearly incompatible with airport operations.

Mr. Tom Penland, 317 Avenida Atezada, voiced his opinion that the Environmental Impact Report erred in recommending that a Negative Declaration be adopted because it is apparent that proposed development will have a huge impact on the area. He urged the Council to deny the project.

Addressing Mr. Shepardson's request for immediate action, Mayor Hardison stated that she recognized the seriousness of the issue and that was why the Council wanted to have all members present during deliberations. She asked City Attorney Fellows to respond to Mr. Shepardson's other points.

City Attorney Fellows advised that the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Section 54955.1 expressly authorizes the continuance of regularly agendized items, and in addition, Section 7.3(b) of the Torrance City Council Rules of Order states that matters set for hearing may be withdrawn, continued or referred to a committee or a commission by the Council before, during or after a hearing. Noting that having the matter heard by six Councilmembers dramatically increases the potential for a tie vote which could then lead to a second hearing, he offered his opinion that there were legitimate reasons and legal authority to continue this hearing. With reference to Councilman Walker's participation, he explained that it is a clear First Amendment right of all citizens to make contributions to campaigns for elected officials, and that the Political Reform Act states that no elected official shall be precluded from participating in the consideration of a project such as this by reason of having received campaign contributions.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to continue the hearing on this matter to March 16, 1999. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Walker).

**18. ADDENDUM MATTERS**

Additional item to be considered under Agenda Item No. 20 Executive Session.

d. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
(California Government Code 54956.9(b)(3)(C))

1. Significant exposure to litigation (pursuant to subdivision (b)(3)(C) Section 54956.9):  
One case.

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The Council met as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency from 8:15 p.m. to 8:16 p.m.

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**19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**19a.** Councilwoman O'Donnell announced a fundraising performance of the Torrance Symphony, "Notables: Music of the 60's," on Saturday, April 10, 1999, at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center.

**19b.** Councilman Lee expressed concerns regarding recent incidents of vicious dogs attacking small children and requested that staff look into the issue.

**19c.** Mayor Hardison noted that the Presidential Primary will be held the first Tuesday of March, 2000, the same day that City Elections are scheduled. She requested that the Council Legislative Committee convene to discuss whether the Municipal Election date should be changed.

**19d.** Ms. Joanie Gang called attention to pending legislation concerning dogs, SB 103 Mischievous Animals and AB 72 Dog Bite Penalties.

**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting (see page 1).

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 16, 1999, at 7:00 p.m.

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***Adjourned in Memory of  
John Bramhall***

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

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City Clerk of the City of Torrance