

April 17, 2007

**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 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 in the South High School Gymnasium.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember McIntyre.

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 Youth Council members Brad Moylan and Naghmeh Ghafourian.

Rabbi Yossi Hecht, Chabad of the South Bay, 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, April 12, 2007.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland 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 Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Scotto announced that flags at City buildings will be flown at half staff honoring the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech until sunset on Sunday, April 22, 2007.

Councilmember Witkowsky announced that the City Council Public Safety Committee would meet on Thursday, April 26, at 4:30 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room to discuss the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Expo, PTA emergency preparedness, residential evacuation plans, and critical facilities within the city.

Councilmember Witkowsky announced that a memorial service would be held for Tom Martin on April 21, at 9:30 a.m. at American Martyrs Church, Manhattan Beach.

City Clerk Herbers invited citizens to attend a City Council candidate information meeting on Monday, April 30, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., which will cover various aspects of seeking a City Council seat in June 2008. She noted that registration is required in order to provide materials for all in attendance.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 7:10 p.m. to 7:18 p.m.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK”

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 15 through April 21, 2007 as ***National Volunteer Week*** in the City of Torrance to Alan Ravine, longtime volunteer with the Farmers Market and Gudy Kimmel, longtime volunteer with the Henderson Library.

Mayor Scotto, with the assistance of Volunteer Coordinator Stacey Lewis, presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following volunteers: Shirley Turner, Virginia Greenhouse, Fran Arrowsmith, Linda Brown, Bill Forrest, Diane Gonzalves, Ron Libbrecht, David Moody, Ruth Dody, Jess Morton, Ellen Peterson, Jerry Phillips, Carol Roelen, Sue Schimke, Bob Shanman, Beth Shibata, Connie Vadheim, Gudy Kimmel, and Alan Ravine.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE “TORRANCE ON THE MOVE MONTH”

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of May 2007 as ***Torrance on the Move Month*** in the City of Torrance to Jennifer Smith, YMCA; Dr. Laurie Love, Torrance Unified School District; and Tara O'Brien, Kaiser Permanente.

Dr. Love explained that this event was designed by a collaboration of Torrance organizations to encourage elementary school children and their families to adopt a more active lifestyle and that free pedometers will be provided to all fourth grade students in the Torrance Unified School District to enable them to track their steps during the month of May. She presented pedometers to the Mayor and Council and encouraged them to track their steps along with the students.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Hazel Taniguchi, Torrance Sister City Association, invited everyone to attend the Japanese festival, Bunka Sai, on April 21 -22 at the Cultural Arts Center.

7B. Michael Wermers, Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, welcomed the Council to the south Torrance area.

7C. Jim Ellingson, resident, recommended that street parking on Vista del Parque be eliminated because it is creating a bottleneck for traffic.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 6, 2007

8B. REVISED CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR GRAPHICS DESIGNER

Recommendation

The **Human Resources Director** and the **Civil Service Commission** recommend that City Council approve the revised and retitled class specification for Graphics Designer.

8C. PURCHASE ORDER FOR SUMP PUMPS

Recommendation

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order with Mody Pumps, Inc. of Bakersfield, CA in the amount of \$76,857.50 (sales tax included) to furnish six (6) Mody sump pumps. (B2007-10)

8D. CHANGE ORDER RE CITYWIDE SIDEWALK GRINDING AND RAMPING PROJECT

Recommendation

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council authorize a change order in the amount of \$150,000 to the public works agreement with Hardy and Harper, Inc. (C2006-148) for a new not to exceed amount of \$445,510 in conjunction with the Citywide Sidewalk Grinding and Ramping Project, Phase IX, I-55.

8E. PURCHASE ORDER FOR CRACK SEALING MACHINE

Recommendation

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order with Crafcoc Inc. of Chandler, AZ, in the amount of \$38,466.75, for the sole source purchase of a Crafcoc SS125D crack sealing machine.

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

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. COMMUNITY BUDGET OUTREACH MEETING

Recommendation

The **City Manager** and **Finance Director** recommend that City Council conduct a community outreach meeting for the purpose of receiving public input related to the 2007-2009 Two-Year City Operating Budget.

Finance Director Tsao reported that staff was in the process of formulating the 2007-2009 Operating Budget and would welcome input from the public.

Mayor Scotto noted that there would be an opportunity for public comment at the conclusion of staff presentations on Agenda Items 15A, B, C and D.

15. OTHER

15A. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - UPDATE OF LIBRARY AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOUTH TORRANCE AREA

Community Services Department Director Barnett reviewed the responsibilities of the Community Services Department and introduced management staff: Bob Myers, Cultural Services Manager; Paula Weiner, City Librarian; Mike Wilson, Park Services Manager; and John Jones, Recreation Services Manager. He noted that a number of upgrades are scheduled for El Retiro and Walteria libraries and their adjacent parks.

15B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE OF DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Community Development Department Director Gibson reviewed the responsibilities of the Community Development Department and noted that the department is currently working on the General Plan Update and the Strategic Plan Renewal, which together will provide an overall Master Plan for the City. He introduced management staff: Linda Cessna, Deputy Community Development Director; Felipe Segovia, Building Regulations Administrator; Gregg Lodan, Planning Manager; and Ted Semaan, Manager, Transportation, Long-Range Planning and Redevelopment.

Councilmember Witkowsky requested, in conjunction with budget planning, that staff explore the possibility of offering more Section 8 housing vouchers.

15C. PUBLIC WORKS – INFORMATION ON FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH TORRANCE AREA

Public Works Director Beste reviewed the responsibilities of the Public Works Department and reported on current projects in the area, including a trial green waste program. He introduced management staff: Jack van der Linden, Deputy Public Works Director; Matt Knapp, Sanitation Services Manager; Judy Emerson, Streetscape Manager; Craig Bilezerian, Engineering Project Manager; and Steven Cooper, Street Operations Manager.

15D. POLICE – POLICE SAFETY INFORMATION RELATED TO CRIME TRENDS, CRIME PREVENTION, TRAFFIC, AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

Police Chief Neu introduced: Captain Brad Wilson, Patrol Bureau Commander; Lieutenant Steve Unglaug, Detective Division Commander; Lieutenant Rod Irvine, Community Affairs Division Commander; Officer Chad Farley, South Area Traffic Officer (ATO); Shane Brinkerhoff, Animal Control Supervisor; and Patrick Wren, Animal Control Staff Assistant.

At Councilmember Witkowsky's request, Chief Neu discussed the Police Department's efforts in conjunction with the Torrance Unified School District to ensure the safety of school children.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Rae Thrasher, president of Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, requested that consideration be given to repaving Anza between Pacific Coast Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard, and installing restrooms in the southwest corner of Lago Seco Park. She expressed appreciation for improvements at Lago Seco Park, noting that it is a heavily used park.

Jane Aull, Newton Street, urged that something be done about heavy traffic on Newton Street and voiced objections to the removal of mature trees to accommodate development.

Joe Arciuch, resident, expressed concerns that Torrance Airport was being ignored in the General Plan Update and submitted a summary of his recommendations.

Tom Rische, president of Seaside Homeowners Association, expressed concerns about the proliferation of condominium developments in Torrance and the lack of trees and landscaping to soften their appearance. He urged the Council to take a long-range view when considering new developments.

Rachelle Toti, Ronald Avenue, urged that a task force be formed to explore the feasibility of building another community swimming pool.

Joanne Pogue, representing the South High Swim Team, stressed the need for a swimming pool at the high school and read a letter from Torrance resident Bob Hoffman proposing a joint effort by the City of Torrance, the Torrance Unified School District, corporate sponsors and individual donors to accomplish this goal.

Ruth Franks, Via del Collado, expressed concerns about parking and traffic problems on Via del Collado associated with Riviera Elementary School and the YMCA after-school program.

Wes Pepper, Via del Collado, echoed concerns about traffic and parking problems on this street.

Rhey Lee, Andreo Avenue, commended the City for water reclamation and recycling efforts. She urged the development of a bike master plan to create more dedicated bike lanes connecting to major destinations, including schools, parks and bus stops. She called for all Torrance Transit buses to run on clean alternative fuels and the development of a “green building” program.

Jack Mitchell, Redbeam Avenue, requested information about replacement trees to be planted on Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Tim Cummings, Calle de Felipe, stressed the importance of scheduling street sweeping at a time when students at nearby schools are not arriving or leaving because parked vehicles block the path of sweepers.

Responding to audience member comments, Transit Director Turner reported on plans to replace 40 diesel buses with cleaner hybrid electric/gas buses over the next 4 years. Deputy Community Development Director Cessna discussed the recently adopted Green Building Program and the Council’s endorsement of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Community Services Director Barnett confirmed that the addition of a restroom to the southwest corner of Lago Sego Park is part of long-range plans.

Councilmember Witkowsky expressed concerns about the impact of after-school childcare programs on traffic and parking in nearby neighborhoods. Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that staff works together with the Torrance Unified School District to address such problems at schools where the City operates after-school programs.

Councilmember Brewer relayed a resident’s concern about the condition of Lomita Boulevard, and Project Manager Bilezerian advised that staff would review the condition of this street, as well as Anza Avenue, in conjunction with the updating of the Pavement Management Plan.

Mayor Scotto thanked residents for their input and advised that staff would follow up on any questions that remained unanswered.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

16A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3693

ORDINANCE NO. 3693

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 49.2.9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF VEHICLES IN PARKING AREAS SERVICING PUBLIC PARKS

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3693. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

17A. Councilmember Sutherland commended Torrance Fire Department for a rescue and the Streetscape Division for removal of a fallen 75-foot tall tree after recent high winds.

17B. Councilmember Witkowsky stated that her prayers were with family members of students and staff who were shot at Virginia Tech.

17C. Councilmember Witkowsky requested that staff look into the possibility of redesigning the city pin.

17D. Councilmember Brewer encouraged everyone to recycle plastic grocery bags, noting that bags can be recycled at various super markets.

17E. Councilmember Brewer commended Chief Deputy City Attorney Robert Acciani for winning a recent case.

17F. Councilmember Drevno noted that all nine of her children graduated from South High.

17G. Councilmember Drevno announced that a barbershop quartet that has performed at Dodger Stadium will sing the Star Spangled Banner at the May 8 City Council meeting.

17H. Referring to the Virginia Tech tragedy, Mayor Scotto suggested that students can provide valuable insight with regard to fellow students who are having problems thereby preventing such tragedies from happening.

17I. Mayor Scotto thanked South High School, students, and City staff for their work in putting together the off-site meeting.

17J. Michael Smith, Cable and Community Relations Manager, thanked City staff from various departments for their efforts in setting up the off-site meeting.

17K. City Manager Jackson thanked City departments for their presentations at tonight's meeting.

17L. Mayor Scotto encouraged residents to continue to bring their concerns to the City Council but cautioned that some problems will take time to resolve.

17M. Debbie Hays suggested that the mayor and councilmembers challenge each other to see who can rack up the most number of steps on their new pedometers.

17N. Scotto Gobble, Southern California Edison, reminded Torrance residents of Edison's summer discount program for customers who agree to have a device installed that shuts off air conditioners when there is a critical power shortage.

17O. South High School Principal Scott McDowell thanked his staff for their assistance in setting up tonight's meeting.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. for closed personnel hearing, 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 June 5, 2007

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary