

May 1, 2001

**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 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Messerlian, Nowatka, Scotto, Walker, Witkowsky, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

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

Agenda Item 16 was considered out of order at this time.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:30 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda under 16a) Conference with Labor Negotiator; and 16b) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator. Councilmember Scotto abstained from consideration of Item 16(b)(1).

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:50 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scott Gobble, Region Manager, Southern California Edison.

City Clerk Herbers gave the invocation for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs 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 Councilmember Nowatka, and hearing no objections, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs 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 Nowatka, and hearing no objections, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

4. **WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hardison announced the Budget Workshop on Tuesday, May 8, and the Budget Hearings on May 15, and June 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Cribbs announced the Armed Forces Day Celebration Parade at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 2001 with military exhibits on display at Del Amo Fashion Square May 18 – May 20, 2001.

Mayor Hardison announced National Fire Service day on Saturday, May 12, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at SCROC and noted that there will be an open house at all fire stations.

Mayor Hardison announced ExxonMobil's emergency preparedness testing on Wednesday, May 2. During the testing, Crenshaw Blvd. will be closed between Del Amo Blvd. and 190<sup>th</sup> Street from approximately 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Radio Alert Network will be tested at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 2.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **ACCEPTANCE OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMMENDATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council accept a Landscape Design Commendation from the California Garden Club for the Del Amo Business District Streetscape Project.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to accept the commendation from the California Garden Club. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs, and hearing no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

Ms. Gloria Jacobs, representing the California Garden Club, presented the Landscape Design Commendation to Mayor Hardison. Ms. Jacobs noted that the commendation was awarded for the Del Amo Business Streetscape Project, which included landscaping the medians with trees, shrubs and ground cover on Hawthorne Boulevard between Sepulveda Boulevard and Torrance Boulevard. She thanked the project manager, Henry Sakamoto, for supplying the necessary documentation and photographs for submittal to the garden club. Planning Director Gibson reported that plans for Phase II of the project, which encompasses Hawthorne Boulevard between Sepulveda Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway, were currently being reviewed by Caltrans.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **INVESTMENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2001**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Treasurer** that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for March 2001.

7b. **CONTRACT RE CIVIC CENTER LIGHTING RETROFIT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve a contract with California Retrofit, Inc. of Anaheim, CA for \$87,569.68 for the lighting retrofit of City Hall, East and West Annex, and the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.
- 2) Authorize a 10% project management fee of \$8,756.96.

7c. **AMENDMENT RE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MADRONA MARSH NATURE CENTER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** and **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the EMAE International, Inc. contract (C99-212) in the amount of \$39,418.66 for additional costs incurred during the construction of the Madrona Marsh Nature Center;
- 2) Approve an amendment to extend the contract term for EMAE International, Inc. from March 31, 2001 to June 30, 2001.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Walker moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7c. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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City Clerk Herbers announced that as part of the continuing Torrance Artist Guild Art on View Project, Douglas Castleman's oils and watercolors would be on display in the City Clerk's Office during the month of May

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**

11a. **CONTINUATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager and the City Attorney** that City Council continue the state of local emergency proclaimed on March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto reported on the status of the land movement on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive, noting that the movement of the hillside has slowed and that the affected homeowners have hired a geotechnical engineer to commence studies.

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

**11b. CITY OF TORRANCE ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council accept and file the status report on the City Manager's energy conservation plan.

Management Associate Wren reported on the City's energy conservation efforts (per written material of record). She stated the following: that the City has been able to reduce its consumption of electricity by 20%; that Councilmember Witkowsky met with a Public Utilities Commissioner urging earlier notification of customers when rolling blackouts occur; that Southern California Edison has indicated that the City will receive a credit for the streetlights that were disabled beginning in January; and that a task force has been established to address energy-related issues.

Mayor Hardison stated that she would like the City to find a way to recognize individuals and businesses that have made extra efforts to conserve energy and commented on the importance of conserving to avoid blackouts during the summer months. She reported that a second South Bay Energy Summit Workshop has been scheduled to review recent legislation and discuss regional issues and appointed Councilmember Scotto to serve as the City's representative. She expressed appreciation for Southern California Edison's commitment to rebate energy costs for the disabled streetlights, noting that the City instituted the program to save energy with no promise of any refunds.

Mr. Scott Gobble, Region Manager for Southern California Edison, reported that the plastic bags covering the disabled streetlights would be replaced with breathable burlap bags to protect electronic components and thanked the City and the community for their conservation efforts. He urged everyone to continue to conserve electricity, particularly during the peak hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hardison expressed an interest in finding out how the community is doing with regard to conservation. Mr. Gobble stated he receives monthly reports on electricity consumption in Torrance and offered to forward the reports to the City Manager's office. He noted that the March 2001 report indicated that consumption was down approximately 7% as compared to March of 2000.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Mr. Gobble explained how residents can compare their current usage with the previous year's using their Edison bills.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Walker moved to accept and file the report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**11c. INCREASE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS DUES**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council consider the increase of dues to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) from \$6,347 to \$10,017 for Fiscal Year 2001-02.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to approve the increase in dues. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Redevelopment Agency met from 5:30 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.

**15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Jackson thanked staff for their work on the Nature Center opening.

Police Chief Herren invited the Council and public to attend the Police Officers Memorial Service on Wednesday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m.

City Manager Jackson, responding to Councilmember Messerlian, stated that the Street Services Department would look into repairing the potholes at Calle Mayor and Monte de Oro.

Councilmember Messerlian thanked Tom Martin, Field Representative to Supervisor Knabe for the landscaping improvements in front of the courthouse.

Councilmember Nowatka added his congratulations and thanks to staff for their efforts on the Nature Center opening.

Councilmember Witkowsky asked that the City revisit the signage in downtown Torrance, and suggested that "Welcome to Historic Downtown Torrance" might be appropriate.

Councilmember Witkowsky welcomed her new grandson, Max Irving Witkowsky.

Mayor Hardison commented that the Nature Center opening was fantastic and she was pleased with the quality of exhibits and commended everyone involved.

Mayor Hardison also thanked Supervisor Don Knabe for restriping the driveway between City Hall and the courthouse for safety.

Mayor Hardison acknowledged Mrs. Wright's Torrance High School government students attending the Council meeting.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:35 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, May 8, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. for a Personnel Hearing, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attest:

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

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Sue Herbers  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 5, 2001