

September 14, 1999

**MINUTES OF A 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, September 14, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

Agenda Item No. 16 was considered out of order at this time.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda on Thursday, September 9, 1999, City staff received information about facts and circumstances that staff believed presented a significant exposure to litigation against the City. Being necessary for the Council to take immediate action in order to provide instructions to the City Attorney, the Mayor stated she would take direction from Council.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Messerlian, seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell, and passed by a unanimous roll call vote to add the item to the executive session per Government Code Sections 54956.9(b)(1) and to consider the matter in Executive Session. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(a), 54957, and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda under Executive Session.

At 7:20 p.m., the Council returned to open session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

Boy Scout Troop #310, Bruce Maass, Scoutmaster, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Siegfried Neuendorff, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Chuck Gronke, a 39-year Torrance resident and participant in many of the Torrance Senior Recreation Programs; Mr. Jim Hagamann, Assistant Planning Director for the City of Torrance from 1965 to 1977; Ms. Selma Cindi Hammond, dedicated volunteer as with the League of Women Voters, City of Torrance Library Commission and on the

Commission on Aging, and the Torrance Coordinating Council; Ms. Peggy Lavery, a Minute Secretary for the City of Torrance from 1971 to 1992; Ms. Sumie Nakano, mother of Assemblyman and former City Councilman George Nakano; Mr. Phillip Scott Sheaffer, a 31-year Torrance resident and participant in many City organizations including the Jaycees, Armed Forces Parade, Rose Float Association, YMCA, Community Fair, Miss Torrance Pageant, Boy Scouts, and a Torrance Parks and Recreation Commissioner from 1974 to 1980; and Mr. Coleman Keith Smeltzer and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Smeltzer, parents of Ms. Rebecca (Becky) Smeltzer, Administrative Secretary in Information Systems.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember 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 Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilmember 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 Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Torrance Parks and Recreation Department Presents
7th Annual Fall Boutique
Saturday, September 18, 1999
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Dr.

Torrance Parks and Recreation Department Presents
Arts Alive Festival '99
Saturday & Sunday, September 25-26, 1999
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Dr.

Mayor Hardison announced that the Salvation Army would be having their annual Family Fun Fair on Saturday and Sunday.

City Clerk Herbers invited the public to see watercolors of Torrance Artist Guild member and Cultural Arts Commissioner Tom Tanza, this month's Art on View artist.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. **RECOMMENDATION RE RESOLUTION 99-98**

Recommendation to adopt Resolution 99-98 honoring and commending Liz Irwin upon her retirement from the City after 24 years of service.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-98

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING LIZ IRWIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-98. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Irwin thanked the City Council for their support and encouragement over her 24-year career with the City of Torrance.

6b. **PROCLAMATION RE COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Saturday, September 18, 1999 as ***Coastal Clean-Up Day*** in the City of Torrance to Wendell Johnson, Engineering Department; and Mr. Cam Paulsen, Torrance Beach Coordinator, 'Heal the Bay.'

6c. **PROCLAMATION RE FINANCIAL NETWORK DAY**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Tuesday, September 21, 1999 as ***Financial Network Day*** in the City of Torrance to Jackie Figliola, Executive Vice President of Financial Network Corporation.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 27, AUGUST 3, and AUGUST 10, 1999**

7b. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 47671**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 47671, located south of the Dominguez Flood Control Channel at 166th Street and Falda Avenue, which substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7c. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 52531**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 52531, located at 1830 - 1860 Torrance Boulevard, which

substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7d. **RECOMMENDATION RE TRACT MAP NO. 44962**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve the release of a \$10,000 cash bond for Tract Map No. 44962, located at 4401 Spencer Street.

7e. **AGREEMENT RE SOUTH BAY GALLERIA TRANSIT TERMINAL**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a three-year agreement with the City of Redondo Beach for use of the South Bay Galleria Transit Terminal by the Torrance Transit System.

7f. **WAIVER OF FEES FOR THE HANGAR AT ZAMPERINI FIELD**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council waive the rental fees and absorb the costs of the monthly electricity fees for the hangar at Zamperini Field that is being utilized by the Torrance Police Officers Association (TPOA) for the storage of their holiday float.

7g. **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE CITY**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council accept the following donations submitted by the listed departments:

- 1) \$5,000.00 to Parks and Recreation Department from American Youth Soccer Organization; and
- 2) \$1,000.00 to Parks and Recreation Department from Seaside Homeowners Association.

7h. **RECOMMENDATION RE AGREEMENT WITH CBM CONSULTING, INC.**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve an agreement with CBM Consulting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$88,200 for the project management services for:
 - a) 190th Street Improvement, Prairie Avenue to Van Ness Avenue, T-21 and T-28;
 - b) Maple Avenue Improvement, Maricopa Street to Carson Street, T-20; and
 - c) Prairie Avenue Improvement, Redondo Beach Boulevard to 0.4 miles south of 190th Street, I-4;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency for said agreement in the amount of \$4,410; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said agreement.

7i. **RECOMMENDATION RE COUNTY DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council accept a grant of \$29,069.66 from the County Delinquency Prevention Program for fiscal year July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 for professional counseling services.

MOTION: Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items a through i as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by a unanimous roll call vote with Councilmember Horwich abstaining on the minutes of July 27, 1999 (Item 7a).

9. **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

9a. **CITY COUNCIL REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A SPEED SURVEY**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Police Department and the Planning Department that City Council concur with staff recommendation to affirm Section 61.10.2 of the Torrance Municipal Code "Subsection d)," which identifies Palos Verdes Boulevard as a segment of roadway within the City with a maximum speed limit of thirty miles per hour, thereby allowing the use of radar equipment for speed enforcement.

Police Chief Herren indicated the need to enforce the speed law by utilizing radar in view of the fact that a school was located in this area. He further reminded the community that the speed limit near schools is 25 miles per hour.

Councilmember Walker commended the City Manager and Police Department for responding to the concerns of the people at the school.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to concur with staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. **PROPOSED UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT #15**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Underground Utility Committee that City Council set a date of September 28, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. for a public hearing, regarding proposed Underground Utility District #15; and direct the staff to notify all property owners affected by the proposed district.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the Underground Utility Committee recommendations regarding the proposed Underground Utility District #15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RE ARTESIA UNDERGROUND PROJECT**

Recommendation

Recommendation that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Torrance and Southern California Edison (SCE) for the utilization of Rule 20A funding for the proposed Artesia Underground Utility project.

In response to Mayor Hardison's request for clarification on whether the Memorandum of Understanding was an agreement, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine stipulated that it was an agreement.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to authorize the execution and attestation of the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. **ARTESIA STREETScape CONCEPT APPROVAL**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council concur with the proposed Artesia Streetscape concept.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine related that this project, which utilizes part of the \$2 million from the Mobil Oil Franchise for budget enhancement, would change the overall look of Artesia Boulevard.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to concur with the proposed concept with the appropriation of the \$2 million Mobil Oil Franchise budget enhancement funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11d. **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON OIL PIPELINE FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt an **ORDINANCE** renewing an oil pipeline franchise as originally authorized through Ordinance 1955 with SCE and approve publication of a summary of the Ordinance.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the number and title of Ordinance 3474.

ORDINANCE NO. 3474

GRANTING TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, LAY, OPERATE, TEST, MAINTAIN, USE, RENEW, REPAIR, REPLACE, MOVE, CHANGE THE SIZE AND NUMBER OF, AND REMOVE OR ABANDON IN PLACE A SYSTEM OF PIPELINES AND APPURTENANCES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING, TRANSPORTING, CONVEYING AND CARRYING GAS, OIL, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND WATER, ON, ALONG, IN, UNDER AND ACROSS PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS AND PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to the next step in the Artesia Boulevard project, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine related that Southern California Edison will move forward on the final designs, then the rehabilitation of the street, and finally, the streetscape.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to when the residents along Artesia Boulevard would be notified, Acting Transportation and Traffic Manager Sedadi related that as soon as the consultants confirm a scheduled date, a community meeting will be set to inform residents of the plan.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to the City of Gardena's participation in this plan, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine indicated that the City of Gardena is interested in participating in this project.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to whether underground work was included; Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine pointed out that it was not included at this time.

Councilmember Messerlian indicated that this is one project that we all feel good about and feel proud to finally be able to upgrade Artesia Boulevard. He further pointed out that this street was formerly under the jurisdiction of CalTrans, but now that the City of Torrance has taken over, we can commend the City Manager and all staff involved in this fine effort.

Councilmember Lee pointed out that this is a major project that will change the entire look of that street. In response to Councilmember Lee's inquiry as to whether the City will continue to maintain the parkways, City Manager Jackson related that this was still part of the City's responsibility.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine thanked the project team and Scott Gobble, Southern California Edison Company, for all of their hard work and support.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for approval of Ordinance 3474. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for approval of the publication of a Summary of Ordinance 3474. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

14. **2ND READING ORDINANCES**

14a. **SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 3473**

Recommendation

Second and Final Reading of **ORDINANCE NO. 3473** amending Sections 61.10.1 and 61.10.3 of Division 6 of the Torrance Municipal Code related to posted speed limits within the City.

ORDINANCE NO. 3473

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 61.10.1 AND 61.10.3**

**OF DIVISION 6 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE
RELATED TO POSTED SPEED LIMITS WITHIN THE CITY**

MOTION: City Clerk Herbers read aloud the number and title of Ordinance 3473 and Councilmember Messerlian moved for its adoption, second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. Councilmember O'Donnell announced that in honor of Transit Appreciation Day, Torrance would be offering 1,000 free tokens at the Del Amo Transit Station September 15 from 9:00 –11:30 a.m. with a valid California Driver's license.

15b. Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine commended the City Attorney's office for their efforts in the Artesia Project.

15c. Mayor Hardison stated that there was a nice turnout at the recent community meeting organized by Mary Giordano focusing on the Y2K issue featuring a panel of seven speakers. She announced that a videotape of this presentation could be viewed at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Channel 57.

15d. Mayor Hardison thanked Councilmember Messerlian for his six months' service as Mayor Pro-Tem and indicated that Councilmember Walker would serve as the next Mayor Pro-Tem.

15e. Mayor Hardison asked if Councilmembers wished to comment or take action on the Taxicab Ordinance issue that had been brought to Council's attention at the August 24, 1999 meeting.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that the Committee had taken all information into consideration and there was no reason to undo what has been done. He further suggested that at the end of year, a review could be conducted at that time.

Councilmember Lee indicated that he understood the reasons for these stipulations and felt it was fine as approved.

City Attorney Fellows pointed out that the supplemental item consisting of the results of the survey was discussed at the last Committee meeting concerning whether or not to impose the 50-cab minimum in response to a concern of Councilmember Messerlian.

Councilmember Messerlian pointed out that a total of nine cities were surveyed with five of the nine having no minimum requirement. He further requested that this issue be explored further.

Councilmember Cribbs indicated that she had no problem with looking at this issue again.

Councilmember Horwich indicated that he had no need to look at it again, and, in his opinion, no minimum requirement was far too lax. He further added that one of his sons had 18 cabs and did not find this economically sound; therefore, 50 is not too high for a minimum number.

Councilmember O'Donnell related that the taxi industry is of special interest today, and that it was previously decided to settle at 50 because it was considered economically viable with the attainment of insurance a clearer certainty. She further added that she had no desire to revisit this issue.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that the discussion was centered upon businesses with a 50-cab minimum, not the entire South Bay and not just in Torrance. He further added that the issue should be revisited in a reasonable period of time, which would be one year, during which time staff could gather additional data.

Councilmember Lee pointed out that a small taxicab business could attain insurance and further questioned the possibility of setting up a barrier to small businesses. He further added that the same criteria should be for everyone no matter what the size of the organization.

Mayor Hardison requested an agenda item be brought forward on this item.

15f. In response to Councilmember Horwich's inquiry of the status of the steel barriers approved for placement on Wayne in May 1999, Planning Director Gibson related that staff would follow up on this project.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20 p.m., City Council and Redevelopment Agency adjourned to Tuesday, September 21, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an Executive Session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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**Adjourned in Memory of
Chuck Gronke, Jim Hagamann,
Selma Cindi Hammond, Peggy Laverty,
Sumie Nakano, Phillip Scott Sheaffer,
Coleman Keith Smeltzer and Mary Elizabeth Smeltzer**

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance