

**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, September 18, 2007 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

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

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Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Attorney and the City Manager on agenda matters listed under 18A) Public Employee Performance Evaluation, and 18B) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957 and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:18 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 City Attorney Fellows.

Councilmember Witkowsky 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, September 13, 2007.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer 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 passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

City Manager Jackson noted that Agenda Item 8A would be pulled from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of June Grinton, mother of former mayor Dee Hardison, who passed away on September 2.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Witkowsky announced that the City Council would be holding a joint meeting with the Commission on Aging on Tuesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Rooms A & B at the Cultural Arts Center.

City Clerk Herbers announced that Commission Certification classes were scheduled for Thursday, October 18, and Wednesday, November 14, and that pre-registration was required. She directed callers to the City Manager's office at 310.618.5880 or to contact the City Clerk's office at 310.618.2870.

Public Works Director Beste reminded everyone to continue conserving water and gave outdoor water saving tips.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends that City Council review applications and appoint members to fill two vacancies on the Civil Service Commission. The City Clerk will administer the oath of office to commissioners present.

City Clerk Herbers introduced the applicants and they were given an opportunity to address the Council.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to appoint Reva Skoll (term expiring 2011) and Rosalee Wood (term expiring 2008) to the Civil Service Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to the commissioners.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Robert Thompson, resident, expressed concerns about the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance, relating his belief that it was being misinterpreted to include camper shells on pick-up trucks.

**7B.** Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, invited everyone to attend a free walking tour of Old Torrance on Sunday, September 23, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. starting at the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Considered separately, see page 3.

**8B. PURCHASE OF WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK SYSTEM FOR TORRANCE AIRPORT**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager, Emergency Preparedness Team, and Communications and Information Technology Director** recommend that City Council authorize the purchase of a Ceragon 100Mbps Wireless Local Area Network system from Sun Wireless of Valley Center, CA, not to exceed \$34,986.04 (includes sales tax and shipping) from FEAP #570 – Alternate EOC Project.

**8C. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSOLETE VEHICLES**

**Recommendation**

The **General Services Director** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Authorize Ken Porter Auctions of Gardena, CA to facilitate the sale of four (4) surplus/obsolete vehicles; and
- 2) Authorize the sale of one (1) surplus/obsolete "totaled" vehicle to Schimmick's Auto Dismantlers Inc., for \$1,500.

**8D. CONSENT TO SUBLEASE PROPERTY – 3445, 3511 AND 5325 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council consent to a sublease on City-owned property located at 3445, 3511 and 3525 Pacific Coast Highway to Telecom Partners Group Corp., dba ATS Communications, a California Corporation and a sub-sublease to Royal Street Communications California, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability company (C-2738).

**8E. CONSULTING SERVICES RE PAYROLL TIMESHEET DATA ENTRY SYSTEM**

**Recommendation**

The **Information Technology Director** and **Finance Director** recommend that City Council authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$33,720 to Kronos, Inc. of Chelmsford, MA for needed software changes requiring additional consulting services to the Payroll Timesheet Data Entry System. The cost of purchase order brings the total project cost to \$200,029.

**8F. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION RE FLUORIDATED DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** and **Torrance Water Commission** recommend that City Council approve a public notification plan mandated by the Department of Health Services to notify Municipal water customers regarding the delivery of fluoridated water supplies, as a result of the Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) pending conversion.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8B through 8F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8A was considered separately at this time.

**8A. REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Safety Committee** recommends that City Council accept and file the report of the April 26, 2007 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine provided a summary of the April 26, 2007 Public Safety Committee meeting, which included an update on the City's Animal Control Program and newly formed Animal Disaster Team; information on the upcoming Disaster Preparedness Expo; and discussion of revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Police Lieutenant Megeff reported on the Disaster Preparedness Expo to be held on September 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Torrance Cultural Arts complex, noting that it will include demonstrations, training, and an earthquake simulator and over 30 vendors selling kits and supplies, with refreshments to be provided by In-N-Out Burger.

Councilmember Witkowsky, chair of the Public Safety Committee, encouraged attendance at the Disaster Preparedness Expo and thanked the E-Prep Team for their efforts in putting this event together.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to accept and file the report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous vote.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. PURCHASE OF CAMERAS FOR GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PILOT PROJECT**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council approve the implementation of a pilot project and appropriate \$15,000 from the Program Innovation Reserve Fund for the purchase of four (4) Tripwire camera units to be used for graffiti abatement.

Management Associate Fran Fulton reported that staff was recommending the approval of a pilot program utilizing Tripwire cameras to monitor graffiti trouble spots in the City an effort to curb vandalism. She explained that the cameras are activated by motion and heat and immediately transmit an image to an email address or cell phone, which will allow Community Lead Officers to act immediately instead of after the fact and give them a better chance of apprehending criminals in the act.

Mayor Scotto voiced support for the program, noting that Torrance spends a considerable amount of money cleaning up graffiti.

Councilmember Witkowsky also expressed support for the program, noting that she has been particularly dismayed by the defacement of the Tree house at Wilson Park and this would seem to be cost effective way to deal with the problem.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous vote.

**12B. AGREEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSULTING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. in the amount of \$62,880 for government consulting and advocacy services for the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

Assistant City Manager Giordano advised that staff was recommending the selection of Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. because they are well known for their ability to locate grants for funding public projects.

Christopher Townsend, President of Townsend Public Affairs, stated that he looked forward to a successful partnership with Torrance and noted that the company has secured \$389 million in funding for clients.

In response to Mayor Scotto's inquiry, Mr. Townsend reported that the company charges a fee for consulting services and does not receive a commission or bonus for securing grants, which is illegal.

Councilmember Brewer asked what happens when the company represents two cities competing for the same funds.

Mr. Townsend noted that the company's only other client in the South Bay is the City of Lomita and explained that even in Orange County, where the company represents several cities, this has not been a problem because well supported grant applications tend to be funded. As evidence, he reported that the company recently represented eight finalists for California Cultural and Historic Endowment funds and all eight received funding for a total of \$10 million.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 7:53 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated Linda Cessna and staff in putting together the 9th annual employee variety show and thanked everyone who participated.

**17B.** Councilmember Brewer, with the concurrence of Council, asked staff to look into re-wording the notice sent to homeowners regarding Planning Commission hearings on projects in their neighborhood in order to clarify the process so they know what to expect.

**17C.** Councilmember Sutherland thanked staff involved in setting up the new electronic voting system in the City Council Chambers.

**17D.** Councilmember Sutherland noted that Coastal Clean-up Day was a success with over 350 volunteers cleaning up Torrance Beach and thanked them for their efforts.

**17E.** Councilmember Sutherland requested an excused absence from the September 25 and October 2 City Council meetings.

**17F.** Mayor Scotto noted that he recently met the Governor of Nebraska, who extended best wishes to Torrance.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:02 p.m., the City Council recessed to closed session to continue consideration of items listed less than 18 Executive Session.

The City Council reconvened at 8:30 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:31 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. for a personnel hearing, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

***Adjourned in Memory of  
June Grinton***

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on October 16, 2007