

October 24, 2006

**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 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 in the North High School Library.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

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

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance led by North High School JROTC, Sergeant Major Duran.

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, October 19, 2006.

**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 Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fire Chief Bongard reminded everyone that ExxonMobil would be conducting their monthly siren testing on Wednesday, November 1, at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Councilmember McIntyre announced that the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee would meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 in the City Council Chambers for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Review.

City Clerk Herbers announced that applications were being accepted to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission with the appointment to be made at the November 14, 2006 City Council meeting.

City Clerk Herbers announced that early electronic voting would begin in Carson and Redondo Beach on October 25 and that those interested in serving as poll workers could still apply by calling the Registrar Recorder's office 1-800-815-2666 option #7.

City Clerk Herbers noted that parking for the November 7 City Council meeting may be limited because the parking lot directly in front of City Hall will be blocked for use by the L.A. County Registrar to receive ballot boxes.

Responding to Councilmember Nowatka, City Manager Jackson confirmed that the agenda would allow for election night, November 7, to be a dark night if the Council so desired and suggested that the change be made at the end of the meeting to adjourn to Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

Mayor Scotto thanked City staff for their efforts in preparing for tonight's community outreach meeting.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. PROCLAMATION RE "MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY"**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring October 28, 2006 as ***Make a Difference Day*** in the City of Torrance to Tracy Drake, Madrona Marsh naturalist.

**6B. PROCLAMATION RE "TORRANCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION MONTH"**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of November 2006 as ***Torrance Education Foundation Month*** in the City of Torrance to Torrance Education Foundation president Melissa Wright and board members Patrick Furey, Kevin O'Brien, Tom Brewer, Donna Belitz, Dee Hardison, Gene Drevno, Karen Greenberg and Carol Erickson.

**6C. APPOINTMENT OF 2006-07 TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Services Director** recommends that City Council confirm the appointments of seventeen (17) members of the 2006-2007 Torrance Youth Council members and have them officially sworn in by the City Clerk.

The City Council made the following appointments: California Academy of Math and Science: Tracy Abe, El Camino: Brad Moylan, North High: Tommy Nguyen and Dustin Tygret, Torrance High: Tanya Sepehrnia and Kyle Aguilar, South High: Chieny Shiau and Christina Kang, West High: Shreyasi Chosh and Bryan Wang, Torrance High Member at Large: Chie Akiba, South High Member at Large: Naghmeh Chafourian, and Members at Large: Quincy Venter, Nathan Lee, Blake Edwards, Trisha Tanigawa, and Chelsea Brewer.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to confirm the appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote, with Councilmember Brewer abstaining.

City Clerk Herbers gave the oath of office to members present.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Lenore Headly, Torrance, expressed concerns about the lack of a bus depot in Torrance since the one at Del Amo Fashion Center was eliminated due to mall renovations.

**7B.** Patrick Furey, President of Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association, welcomed the Council and invited the community to attend the HOA meeting on Thursday, October 26, which will include a presentation on emergency preparedness.

**7C.** Chris Fusco, Americans for Safe Access, expressed concerns about the closure of a medical marijuana facility in Torrance the previous week.

**7D.** Richards Kearns, AIDS activist, also expressed concerns about the closure of local medical marijuana facilities.

**7E.** Councilmember McIntyre requested that the Council reconsider action taken at the October 10, 2006 City Council meeting regarding Precise Plans of Development for the property at 3874 Newton Street (PRE06-00008, PRE06-00009: Jeffrey Dahl).

**MOTION:** Councilmember McIntyre moved to reconsider the above-mentioned item. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by a 5-1 roll call vote, with Councilmember Drevno dissenting and Councilmember Witkowsky abstaining.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that she abstained from consideration of this item because she lives within 500 feet of the subject property.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, AND SEPTEMBER 19, 2006**

**8B. APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 27043**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Development Director** recommends that City Council approve Final Parcel Map No. 27043, creating two (2) lots and abandoning several outdated, on-site, City easements. American Honda Motor Company is the record owner of Lot 1 and the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance is the record owner of Lot 2.

**8C. COMMISSION ON AGING 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Services and Commission on Aging** recommend that City Council accept and file the Commission on Aging 2005-2006 Annual Report.

**8D. CONTRACT FOR SOFTBALL/ BASEBALL INSTRUCTION**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Services Director** recommends that City Council approve a revenue sharing agreement with Murphy Su'a, dba South Bay Sports Academy, to provide baseball and softball instruction at Wilson Park, for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

**8E. ALLOCATION OF ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS TO SPECIAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

**Recommendation**

The **Chief of Police** recommends that City Council appropriate and allocate \$25,000 in earned interest from the Asset Forfeiture Special Program account to fund the ongoing operation of the Vice & Narcotics special programs.

**8F. PURCHASE ORDER FOR CRUSHED AGGREGATE BASE**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order to F.S.T. Sand & Gravel of Corona, CA in the amount of \$60,000, including sales tax, to furnish the City's requirement of crushed aggregate base for various street and sidewalk maintenance and repair projects (B2006-38) on an as needed basis for a one (1) year period, effective November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007.

**8G. PAYMENT TO L.A. COUNTY FOR ELECTION SERVICES**

Considered separately, see page 5.

**8H. PURCHASE ORDER FOR TORRANCE SEASONS PUBLICATION**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council authorize a 2nd year renewal option for a purchase order with Southwest Offset Printing of Gardena, CA to print and deliver the Torrance Seasons publication.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Drevno moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8H, with the exception of 8G. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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

**8G. PAYMENT TO L.A. COUNTY FOR ELECTION SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

The **City Clerk** recommends that City Council approve payment to the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder a total of \$133,977.41 for election services at the June 6, 2006 General Municipal election.

Councilmember Brewer requested that City Clerk Herbers bring back a report detailing the various costs of previous consolidated and stand alone elections. In addition, Councilmember McIntyre requested a breakdown on per voter cost.

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

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. REASSIGNMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council concur with the reassignment of Chairpersons to the City Council Community Planning and Design Committee and the City Council Transportation Committee.

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

Committees are now constituted as follows:

Community Planning and Design Committee – Chairperson Gene Drevno, members Paul Nowatka and Pat McIntyre.

Transportation Committee – Chairperson Tom Brewer, members Bill Sutherland and Hope Witkowsky.

**12B. MODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE & MANAGEMENT PAY RESOLUTION**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council adopt a Resolution amending Executive & Management Employees pay Resolution No. 2006-54 modifying the salary of the City Attorney to reflect an increase of 5%.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-81**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2006-54 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING THE HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-81. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**15. OTHER**

**15A. REVIEW OF CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE NORTH TORRANCE AREA**

Public Works Director Beste introduced members of his staff – Judy Emerson, Streetscape Division; Steven Cooper, Street Operations; Jack van der Linden, Water; and Craig Bilezerian, Engineering. He briefly described each division's functions and reviewed recently completed and upcoming capital improvement projects in the North Torrance area per written material of record.

**15B. UPDATE ON NORTH TORRANCE LIBRARY AND PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Community Services Director Barnett introduced members of his staff – John Jones, Mike Wilson, Park Services; and Paula Wiener, Library. He provided an update on improvement projects scheduled for the North Torrance Library and Columbia, Descanso, El Nido, Guenser, La Carretera, McMaster and Pequeno parks.

**15C. NORTH TORRANCE PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION**

Police Chief Neu introduced members of his staff - Deputy Chief Mike Browne; Captain Mark Wilkins, Special Operations Bureau; and Sergeant Ron Connor, Community Lead Officer Detail. Deputy Chief Browne discussed focus-based policing and introduced police officers assigned to the North Torrance area.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Philip Lewis, Torrance, voiced concerns regarding the excessive volume and speed of traffic on 177<sup>th</sup> Street and asked for assistance from Traffic Enforcement.

Arthur Evans, Torrance, asked about the status of traffic improvements at the intersections of 190<sup>th</sup> Street/Anza and 190<sup>th</sup> Street/Inglewood Avenue and encouraged the extension of Del Amo Boulevard to relieve traffic congestion. He also asked about the possibility of extending the Green Line to Torrance.

Fred Casstevens, Vice President Northwest Torrance HOA, asked that McMaster Park rather than Columbia Park be considered as the location of a city dog park due to its closer proximity to apartments.

Debbie Lopez, Torrance, expressed concerns regarding speeding and inattentive traffic on Van Ness near Casimir and Lincoln schools and asked for assistance from Traffic Enforcement.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:35 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Drevno invited the public to attend the Halloween Carnival at Wilson Park on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**17B.** Councilmember McIntyre thanked everyone who attended the meeting and also staff for their work in organizing and presenting the off-site council meeting.

**17C.** Councilmember Sutherland announced Water Wise Landscape Workshops at Madrona Marsh, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, on two Saturdays, November 4 and November 18, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**17D.** Councilmember Witkowsky, with the concurrence of the City Council, requested that staff look into recognition at City Council meetings on a quarterly basis for Torrance residents returning from active military service.

**17E.** Councilmember Brewer, with the concurrence of the City Council, asked staff to look into the possibility of reinstating Officials Night with the Torrance Rose Float Association. City Manager Jackson noted that the matter may be brought back as a budget item as there may be charges for transportation.

**17F.** Mayor Scotto thanked Assemblyman Ted Lieu for his successful opposition to legislation that would have shifted the State's liability for flood damage to local governments; his refusal to support AB 1322 regarding super group homes, which was inconsistent with other planning and housing laws; and for his concern regarding city perspectives while working on green building legislation.

**17G.** City Clerk Herbers announced the success of the Commissioner Certification classes, noting that they hoped to schedule an additional class in December.

**17H.** Newton Young, Southwood Sunray Homeowners Association, submitted photos and expressed concerns about the lack of police response to a call on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. regarding possible health code violations at a local business.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None.**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. **Tuesday, October 31, and Tuesday, November 7, 2006 will be Council dark nights.**

Attest:

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on January 23, 2007

Sue Sweet  
Recording Secretary

City Council  
October 24, 2006