

**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 6:31 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20, 2001, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember Messerlian.

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

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 16a) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8.

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:02 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 Clark Adams, Chair of the Community Services Commission.

Pastor Siegfried Neuendorff, Torrance Police Chaplain, 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; hearing no objections, Mayor Hardison so ordered (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

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; hearing no objections, Mayor Hardison so ordered (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hardison announced that the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee had met on Monday, November 19, and that an item would be brought to Council shortly.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. PROCLAMATION RE “KEY CLUB WEEK”

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of November 4-10, 2001 as “Key Club Week” in the City of Torrance to presidents of the Key Clubs: Faith Kato, North High; Marina Martos, West High; and Iris Dulay, Bishop Montgomery. Ivy Dulay, Bishop Montgomery High School, Governor of Division 19 South, and Larry Madick, President of Torrance Kiwanis, spoke on the accomplishments of the groups.

6b. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK”

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of November 18-24, 2001 as “National Family Week” in the City of Torrance to Bishop Fred Barlow, Torrance First Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Bishop Barlow commented on the importance of strong families as the foundation for a successful community.

6c. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF PORTABLE RADIOS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Fire Chief** that City Council accept a donation of one hundred Talkabout portable radios from Torrance Self Storage with an estimated value of \$2,200 to be used for Fire Department’s CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program. The radios will allow for communication in the field between CERT members during emergencies.

Mayor Hardison accepted the donation of 100 Talkabout portable radios from Bill Bromley and Doug Vines, Manager of Torrance Self Storage. Torrance Fire Department Public Education Officer Tad Friedman commended Torrance Self Storage.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to accept the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka; hearing no objections, Mayor Hardison so ordered (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

*

Mayor Hardison introduced League of California Cities Grassroots Coordinator Ann Marie Wallace.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 9 AND OCTOBER 23, 2001**

7b. **DONATION OF SCALE MODEL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council transfer ownership of a scale model steam locomotive to the Southern California Live Steamers Incorporated with the understanding that they will sell it and reinvest any funds resulting from the sale to improve the miniature railroad facilities and operations at Charles H. Wilson Park.

7c. **PURCHASE ORDER RE JOHN DEERE TRACTOR**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize the award of a purchase order to John Deere Company of Lenexa, Kansas, in the amount of \$38,493.36 including sales tax, for the purchase of a John Deere 5520 tractor.

7d. **PURCHASE ORDER RE AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council authorize the award of a purchase order to Direct A/V of Hawthorne, California in the amount of \$53,000 including sales tax to furnish, install, and maintain for 1 year audio/visual equipment for the Council Chambers for the City of Torrance, Office of Cable Communications. (B2001-36)

7e. **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION RE SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council accept, appropriate, and allocate a \$1,165 donation from Fujiko Ishikawa (Hank Ishikawa's widow) and Hawthorne Savings to be used for the development of the School Garden Program.

7f. **ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Librarian** that City Council accept and appropriate three (3) donations recently made to the Library: from ExxonMobil for the 2002 Summer Reading Program (\$5,000); from The Friends of the Torrance Library for the 2001 Summer Reading Program Space Camp prizes (\$864); and from Robert C. & Bettie A. Woldt for the Henderson Branch Library (\$50).

7g. PURCHASE ORDER RE TRUCK MOUNTED AERIAL DEVICE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize the award of a purchase order to Altec Industries, Inc. of Dixon, California, in the amount of \$90,596.88 for the purchase of one (1) Fort F550 36 foot truck mounted aerial device.

7h. APPROPRIATION OF CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FUND BALANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Acting General Services Director** that City Council approve an appropriation of \$64,000 from the Cultural Arts Center fund balance to be used for theater signage, facility maintenance and the purchase, repair and replacement of equipment throughout the Cultural Arts Center.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7h. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

8. COMMUNITY SERVICES

8a. APPROVAL OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Recommendation

- a. Recommendation of the **Veteran's Memorial Committee** that City Council:
- 1) Approve the design of the Veteran's Memorial; and
 - 2) Approve the recommendation of the committee regarding the development and construction of the Veteran's Memorial.

With the aid of slides, consultants from Land Concern, Landscape Architecture, reviewed the proposed design for the Veteran's Memorial.

Mayor Hardison commented favorably on the design.

Councilmember Scotto, Chair of the Veteran's Memorial Committee, outlined the schedule for the bidding process and construction of the memorial and reported that the projected completion date is March 15, 2002. He noted that the memorial will be located at the northwest corner of Torrance Boulevard and Maple Avenue and that it was made possible by a grant from the State of California obtained with the assistance of Assemblyman George Nakano.

Councilmember Witkowsky questioned whether there would be formal recognition of the memorial during the Armed Forces Day Parade, and Councilmember Scotto advised that military personnel will stop and salute the flags during the parade and that a flag-raising ceremony might also be included for this year's parade.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the Veteran Memorial Committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

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 March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

11b. RESOLUTION TO STATE LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR DAVIS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution which seeks to preserve funding to local governments in the 2003-2004 state budget, and recommends no reductions of vehicle license fees.

City Manager Jackson advised that staff was recommending the adoption of this Resolution to emphasize the City's position that vehicle license fees should not be used to balance the State's budget, noting that the City could lose \$5.2 million in revenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-144

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING GOVERNOR DAVIS AND ALL STATE LEGISLATORS TO PRESERVE CITY'S REVENUE SOURCES AND NOT MAKE ANY REDUCTIONS IN THE VEHICLE LICENSE FEES, PROPERTY TAX, SALES TAX, OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUE SOURCES IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE STATE'S BUDGET

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 01-144. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

11c. RESOLUTION RE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution extending the City's supplemental health insurance program from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 at a maximum amount of \$551 per month per eligible employee.

City Manager Jackson reported that the supplement amount coincides with the monthly premium for most widely used Health Maintenance Organization among City employees.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-145

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$551 FOR THE CITY'S SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2002

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2001-145. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

11d. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL DARK NIGHT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council consider Tuesday, November 27, 2001, as a Council dark night.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka; hearing no objection Mayor Hardison so ordered.

14. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

14a. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3507

ORDINANCE NO. 3507

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4425 CALLE MAYOR FROM C-1 PP (RETAIL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, PRECISE PLAN) TO R-2 (TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT)

ZON01-00001: CALLE MAYOR, LLC (LYNN PROPERTIES) / SUBTEC-CHERYL VARGO

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3507. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by a 5-1 roll call vote, with Mayor Hardison dissenting (absent Councilmember Messerlian).

*

The Redevelopment Agency met from 7:42 p.m. to 7:46 p.m.

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. City Clerk Herbers announced that applications for various advisory commissions were being accepted with appointments to be made at the January 15, 2002 City Council meeting, noting that there are vacancies on the Civil Service, Cultural Arts, Library, Parks & Recreation, Planning, and Traffic Commissions.

15b. City Clerk Herbers also announced that the nomination period for the March 5, 2002 general municipal election for Mayor, three Councilmembers, City Clerk and City Treasurer was officially open and would continue through Friday, December 7. Anyone interested in seeking any of these seats should call the City Clerk's office at 618-2870 to make an appointment to review the material and/or receive nomination papers.

15c. Councilmember Cribbs commented on the Open House held on Saturday, November 17, at the Noise Abatement Center, stating that she thought it was very informative and wished more had attended, and thanked everyone involved.

15d. Mayor Hardison also commented on the Noise Abatement Center Open House and suggested that the Airport Commission Outreach Committee might consider a similar event as a program for the homeowner associations.

15e. Joni Gang, Friends of Torrance Animals, read the following letter into the record:

"I was pleased to learn yesterday, at the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee meeting, that the City has a carryover, or surplus, of more the \$7 million. The City's finance staff is to be congratulated for providing a cushion in case the City lost \$1 million in annual revenue as a result of Measure Q.

"Measure Q has been resolved. By a margin of 2,555 votes (fewer than the number of petition signatures you've seen in support of hiring our own animal control officers), that threat to the City's budget is gone. You've been able to approve a rebate of \$1 million in utility user's taxes on electricity. And on top of that, you have a \$7 million surplus – far more than even City staff would have estimated would be needed for startup of a City-based animal control program.

"Therefore, I look forward to seeing positive action from those of you who said you supported, in theory or philosophically, a City-based animal control program, but voted against it due to concerns about money and having a balanced budget. You know that relying on the County for animal control creates problems that affect the entire community. You know it's getting worse. You have tremendous community support for doing something different. You have the resources right now to develop a solution to this problem. With this \$7 million surplus, the question of what program should be cut, or what service should be decreased, goes away. You can develop a first-rate program for this essential City service, without cutting any other projects or subsidies. I encourage you to take action; given the lead time involved in developing and implementing a program, further delays will make the 30-day cancellation clause an irrelevant empty promise very soon.

"I also look forward to seeing positive action from those of you who didn't see any problems with County's service before, or stated an expectation that it would improve under the new contract. I take no pleasure in pointing out that service levels in Torrance have – almost unbelievably – worsened, according to their reports. The County, clearly, is unable to provide the level of service the City needs. With the County's recently announced hiring freeze, you would have to be more naïve than I am to hope for improvements in service from them now.

"You have not held the County's feet to the fire. The County knows the City has not developed any alternatives – they know this fire isn't lit. Holding their feet to an unlit fire isn't helping anybody. With worsening service, the County has left you no reasonable alternative but to do something different. Fortunately, at this point, you have the money to do it."

15f. Mayor Hardison recognized the West High School students in the audience.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:56 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 4, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Tuesday, November 27, 2001 will be a Council dark night.

Attest:

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on December 18, 2001