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Torrance City Council - May 15, 1990

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MAY 15, 1990

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 1990, at 5:37 PM in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Mock, Nakano, Walker, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Nelson, City Clerk Bramhall, and Staff representatives.

3. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

Doris Greene led in the salute to the Flag.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by City Clerk Bramhall.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MOTION RE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of April 17, 1990 as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each

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Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

5. MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion, seconded by Councilman Mock, carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote.

6. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

After clarification from the City Manager it was agreed that Agenda Item 10c (Carson Street land acquisition) should be heard after 7:00 PM, to correspond with its advertising.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee

May 16, 1990, 4:30 PM

Council Conference Room

Subject: Review of June Ballot Propositions.

Armed Forces Day Parade & 10K Run

Announcements pertaining to the Armed Forces Day Parade, May 19, 1990 (1:00 PM) and the 5K & 10K Runs (8:00 AM) were made by Councilman Applegate.

Public Safety Committee

June 14, 1990, 4:30 PM

City Manager's Conference Room

Subject: Acutely Hazardous Materials Review and Permit Process.

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS

8a. RESOLUTION HONORING MS. ERMA WISEMAN

RESOLUTION NO. 90-75

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING MS. ERMA WISEMAN AS THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST TO NAME THE RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-75. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

This resolution was presented by Mayor Geissert who was assisted by Cable TV Assistant Writer Young. Ms. Erma Wiseman accepted the resolution with appreciation.

8b. PROCLAMATION observing "Police Week" beginning May 13, 1990, and City of Torrance observance of May 16, 1990, as "Police Memorial Day."

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and accepted with appreciation by Police Chief Nash.

8c. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM SOUTH BAY JUNIOR TENNIS LEAGUE

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director recommend that the City Council accept this most generous donation from the South Bay Junior Tennis League and transmit a letter of appreciation. It is also recommended that the money be appropriated for the Parks Special Events Account.

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and without objection it was so ordered by the Mayor.

8d. RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO VICE ADMIRAL CLYDE E. ROBBINS

RESOLUTION NO. 90-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION TO VICE ADMIRAL CLYDE E. ROBBINS, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD FOR SERVING AS GRAND MARSHAL OF THE THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE AND OBSERVANCE

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-69. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

9. LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS

9a. TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION 1989 ANNUAL REPORT (1990 FLOAT)

RECOMMENDATION

Acceptance and filing of the Annual Report of the Torrance Rose Float Association is recommended. Further; that the Association be commended for outstanding community service.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth and without objection it was so ordered.

10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

10a. USE OF CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY PARKING LOT DURING THE 1990 HOLLYWOOD BOWL SUMMER CONCERT SEASON

RESOLUTION NO. 90-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ASSOCIATION FOR A PARK-AND-RIDE FACILITY

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-76. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

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10b. AWARD OF CONTRACT - INSTALLATION OF REFLECTIVE PAVEMENT MARKERS (B 90-8)

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Transportation recommends that your Honorable Body 1. Adopt the resolution accepting the bid from and awarding a contract to Sterndahl Enterprises Inc. 2. Authorize the expenditure of funds up to the budgeted amount of \$52,000 to take advantage of the extremely low competitive unit costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-77

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO STERND AHL ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF REFLECTIVE MARKERS ON VARIOUS STREETS (B 90-08) AND AUTHORIZE ITS EXECUTION

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-77. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

After counsel from the City Attorney, the following was offered:

MOTION: Councilman Wirth moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Department of Transportation, including a notation that the initial contract shall be \$31,500, with the remaining expenditure of funds handled separately. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

10c. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS FOR CARSON STREET WIDENING

Deferred until the end of the meeting; see pages 10-13.

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13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS
- 13a. RECONSIDERATION OF SIGN CASE APPEAL (S 87-15) BANK OF AMERICA, 21615 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD

RECOMMENDATION

Building and Safety staff recommends denial of the (two) ground signs. If Council approves a ground sign, staff recommends that it be located on Carson Street. This conforms to the previous Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission's recommendation.

Staff presentation was provided by Environmental Quality Administrator McElroy and included the history to this reconsideration. Ms. McElroy affirmed that via supplementary letter of record from Bank of America dated May 14, 1990, the applicant had submitted a new option for consideration, as follows:

One ground sign 4-1/2' high and 5-1/2' long and located 80' north of Carson Street on Hawthorne Boulevard.

While responding to inquiries Ms. McElroy noted it was her understanding that at such time as a sign program were to be initiated for the center, the applicant would be removing the proposed ground sign, if approved.

Mr. Bill Polkinghorn, 555 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, presented the applicant's request and introduced a bevy of representatives seated in the audience. The representative reviewed past proposals, subsequently detailing the most recent submittal, including its proposed location and visibility from various angles.

Mr. Bill Christian, General Manager of Del Amo Financial Center, 21515 Hawthorne Boulevard, voiced his support of the applicant's most recent proposal and discussed pending negotiations as they relate to the possibility of a sign program at the center. In response to Councilwoman Hardison various issues re such a program were addressed by this speaker.

In response to the Mayor, Mr. Polkinghorn indicated he would have no objection to an added condition requiring removal

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of the monument sign in the event that a comprehensive sign program were to be developed.

Councilman Applegate, noting that he had been satisfied that this is a limited request and that it would be set aside in the event a sign program were initiated, noted that his initial reservations had been assuaged and offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the third proposal submitted by the applicant, as presented in its May 14, 1990 letter of record [one ground sign 4-1/2' high and 5-1/2' long and located 80' north of Carson Street on Hawthorne Boulevard.] Further, that the sign shall be removed at the time a comprehensive sign program is developed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock.

Councilman Nakano stated that he felt the latest proposal to be reasonable and that he would therefore support the motion.

Roll call vote subsequently proved unanimously favorable.

15. HEARINGS

15a. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FY 1990-92

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for the first public hearing on the 1990-92 City Manager's proposed budget.

Proof of publication was provided by the City Clerk after which it was moved by Councilman Applegate that the affidavit of publication be received and filed. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

With no one responding to Mayor Geissert's invitation for public input, the following was offered:

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MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to continue the public hearing to May 22, 1990, 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mock.

Prior to roll call vote, the Mayor requested that the City Attorney's Office explore Chamber of Commerce opposition to the square footage tax on office buildings.

Councilwoman Hardison requested an information item regarding the status of the soils study in Southwood Riviera.

Councilman Applegate noted that he has requested information from the Fire Department regarding the potential for paramedic fees.

Roll call now taken on the above motion for continuance proved unanimously favorable.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

17a. SUPPORT OF HR 2380; ZIP CODE BOUNDARIES

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends the City Council take a position supporting HR 2380 (Stump): To provide that zip codes may be redrawn so that they do not cross the boundaries of any unit of local government.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

Mayor Geissert praised this proposed legislation.

17b. EXTENSION OF AUDIT CONTRACT FOR 1989-90

RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance Director be authorized to request Deloitte & Touche, Certified Public Accountants, to perform the 1989-90 annual general City audit at the previously agreed not-to-exceed fee of \$36,225.

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MOTION: Councilwoman Hardison moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Finance Director, with appropriation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

20. CONSENT CALENDAR

20a. INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY THROUGH APRIL, 1990

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Treasurer that the Council receive the investment reports for information only. (Supplementary material included a corrected investment report for the month of April, 1990.)

20b. AWARD OF CONTRACT - For hardware maintenance service for one VAX 8530 and two VAX 11/780 Computer Systems.  
Expenditure: \$ 128,923.20

RECOMMENDATION

The Purchasing Division and Information Systems Department recommend that Your Honorable Body authorize the renewal of a maintenance service contract with Digital Equipment Corporation of Culver City, CA, to provide required maintenance service for the City's computers in the total amount of \$128,923.20 or \$10,743.60 monthly.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 20a and 20b. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison.

Roll call vote, taken after clarification from City Treasurer Rupert regarding Consent Calendar Item 20a proved un-animously favorable.

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At 6:45 PM, the City Council recessed and met as the Redevelopment Agency. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency adjourned at 6:46 PM, with the City Council reconvening at this time.

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22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

22a. Councilman Applegate requested that the graffiti removal program include removal of graffiti from commercial trash bins by the responsible refuse haulers.

22b. Councilwoman Hardison commented on her attendance at the Fire Department's recent open house.

22c. Councilwoman Hardison commended the Planning Department for its recent report re the industrial zone on 166th Street and requested that the study be forwarded to the Planning Commission in a timely fashion.

22d. Councilman Nakano requested that staff inquire about recent action of the Manhattan Beach City Council regarding the cessation of work on a construction project in that City.

22e. Mayor Geissert commended Anza Elementary School's recognition as a National Distinguished School and requested that appropriate recognition be given the school before the end of the school year.

22f. Mayor Geissert noted a recent communication thanking the City for the recently installed drinking fountain for dogs at Miramar Park.

22g. Ms. Helen Doyle, 18626 Yukon Avenue, thanked the Council for its support during recent consideration of the ISCO proposal at 182nd Street and Yukon Avenue.

22h. Ms. Cynthia Paulsrud, 5019 Marion Avenue, addressed the Council re recent communications about problems associated with noise on Marion Avenue; an abandoned residence at 5032 Marion Avenue; and air conditioning equipment on the roof of Ralph's supermarket. At the request of the Mayor, cognizant staff members responded to this speaker's concerns.

...The Council now considered Agenda Item 10c...

10c. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS FOR CARSON STREET WIDENING

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for a hearing on the adoption of a Resolution of Necessity to initiate condemnation proceedings for the purpose of acquiring 31 parcels of land needed to widen Carson Street between Maple Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard.

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### RECOMMENDATION

The City Attorney recommends the adoption of the Resolution of Necessity which authorizes the acquisition by eminent domain proceedings of street easements over portions of thirty-one parcels on the North and South sides of Carson Street between Maple Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard.

In response to the Mayor, City Engineer Burttt affirmed that the owners of the 31 parcels have been notified of tonight's meeting and of their opportunity to appear and be heard on this matter.

The Mayor announced that prior to initiation of the condemnation action, the City Council must make four findings:

- (1) That the public interest and necessity require the project;
- (2) That the project has been planned or located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury;
- (3) That the property sought to be acquired is necessary for the project; and
- (4) That the owners of the parcels have been offered the fair market value as determined by appraisal.

Sr. Division Engineer Bell provided staff presentation re this matter including its background and rationale. Summarizing staff material, Mr. Bell reported that it is felt by staff that each of the above four conditions has been met.

Audience input was invited and Ms. Patricia Williams, 2754 Carson Street, came forth to express her concerns about the proximity of her front door to the road as a result of widening Carson Street. This speaker aired her opinions that proposed action would create safety problems and negatively impact her property; that an updated EIR should be prepared; and that insufficient notification was made of this hearing.

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Cognizant staff members, some of whom indicated they would speak to Ms. Williams after the hearing, addressed the adequacy of the EIR; design options available to Ms. Williams in relocating her front door; the nature of a temporary construction easement; and notification procedures.

In response to this speaker's concerns about an updated EIR and inadequate notification, Councilwoman Hardison referred to minutes of record, noting the numerous occasions on which issues related to this matter have appeared before the Council [with public participation] in recent years.

Mr. Lyle Ray, 1645 Hickory Avenue, requested that parkways along Carson Street be maintenance-free. Staff agreed to explore the matter and Councilman Wirth suggested that the Water Department may have recommendations with respect to drought-tolerant vegetation.

Mr. William Swiheart, 1645 Iris Avenue, noted that he transmitted a letter to the Council dated February 7, 1990, that offered a less aggressive approach to the project, while still addressing the needs of the City.

After requesting a response to his letter, this speaker also requested that truck traffic and on-street parking be limited on Carson Street; that lower traffic speeds be established and enforced; that more clearly marked and designated pedestrian crosswalks be provided; and that a uniform appearance along the Carson Street corridor be maintained.

The City Manager noted that staff would be responding to Mr. Swiheart's letter, adding that many of his concerns (truck routes, striping, traffic control, etc.) would come forward in stages as the project proceeds and will be matters discussed and considered by the Council. The establishment of traffic speeds was also addressed by the City Manager.

Mr. David Mascarena, 2754 West Carson Street, discussed traffic and safety issues, expressing concerns about negative impacts to both during construction. The City Manager provided clarification in this regard.

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It was moved by Councilman Applegate that the hearing be closed. This motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Cognizant staff members responded to Councilman Applegate's inquiries [made on behalf of a concerned resident] related to the construction of replacement walls and reduced lot sizes.

At the request of Mayor Geissert, City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 90-78

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN OF AN EASEMENT FOR STREET PURPOSES IN EACH OF THIRTY-ONE PARCELS OF LAND LYING ALONG CARSON STREET BETWEEN MAPLE AVENUE AND CRENSHAW BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF SAID PROPERTIES BY EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 90-78. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and carried, with roll call vote reflecting unanimous approval.

...Regular agenda order was resumed...

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

23a. Mayor Geissert read the following statement into the record:

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney on the following subjects:

Salaries, salary schedules and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups as well as certain other personnel matters;

Lease amendment negotiations regarding Madison Park Ground Lease with Cohen and Torino; and,

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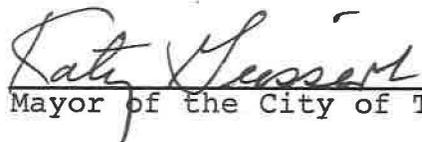
Negotiations for lease/purchase of Columbia School site with Torrance Board of Education.

Authority to hold an executive session for these purposes is contained in Government Code Sections 54957.6(a); 54956.9(a) and 54956.8.

At 7:55 PM, the City Council recessed to executive session, returning at 8:23 PM. No action was taken as a result of this Executive Session.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 PM, the meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to Thursday, May 17, 1990, 5:00 PM, for the purposes of conducting a Budget Workshop on the City Manager's proposed 1990-92 budget. (The next regular meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 1990 at 7:00 PM.)

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
Clerk of the City of Torrance

Valerie Whippie  
Minute Secretary

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