

April 24, 2001

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2001, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under items 16.a) Conference with Labor Negotiator; and 16.b) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Torrance High School Navy JROTC, Lieutenant Commander Treude.

The invocation was given by Pastor Milton Herring, The Living Word Christian Center.

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 and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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 and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Los Angeles City Councilmember John Ferraro who was a team player and well-liked throughout the community.

She also asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Vernie Vanderpool, a 60 year Torrance resident who was instrumental in setting up the first YMCA and many youth programs in Torrance.

Mayor Hardison noted that there was additional information available on items 11d and 11e.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Cribbs announced that the Armed Forces Committee met on Monday, April 23 and that the Armed Forces Day Parade would be held on Saturday, May 19 at 1:30 p.m. and will feature a fly-over and a parachute jump.

Mayor Hardison announced the opening of the Madrona Marsh Nature Center at 3201 Plaza Del Amo at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28 with the public invited.

Mayor Hardison announced that the date of the City Council Budget Workshop had been changed from May 1 to Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m., and that the public hearings on the budget workshop would be held on Tuesday, May 15 and June 5 at 7:00 p.m.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-39 RE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICER DAVID ROELEN

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICER DAVID ROELEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-39. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

To be presented at a later date.

6b. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-40 RE MARY DAVIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-40

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING MARY DAVIS UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-40. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

To be presented at a later date.

6c. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-41 RE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICER MAUREEN KANEEN

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICER MAUREEN KANEEN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-41. Councilmember Messerlian seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Mayor Hardison presented the resolution to Senior Environmental Quality Officer Maureen Kaneen. Building and Safety Manager Isomoto noted that Ms. Kaneen always had the best interests of the City in mind and had left her mark on the City through her hard work. Ms. Kaneen thanked the City for all the opportunities it had given her over the years, and for the friendships and the community who helped her get the job done.

6d. PROCLAMATION RE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mayor Hardison issued a proclamation declaring the week of April 22-28, 2001 as National Volunteer Week to Mary Lou Weiss. Ms. Weiss noted that she was honored to accept the proclamation for the volunteers and provided background on Parks and Recreation volunteers, noting that Youth Basketball was one of their largest programs. She reported that her youngest volunteer is 70 and the oldest is 89 and she added that there is no age limit to volunteer in the City of Torrance.

Mayor Hardison stated that as they could not present to all the volunteers, they had selected a few to represent organizations and certificates were presented to Cindi Alvear, Police Department; Renae Carmichael, Torrance Fire Prevention Department; Margaret Kramer, the James Armstrong Theater; Rajani Shantharam, Information

Systems; Michele Song, Torrance Libraries; Bea Vrobik, Focal Point; and Yu Hoon Yoon, with the City Attorney's Office.

6e. RECOGNITION RE BISHOP MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS

Mayor Hardison recognized Bishop Montgomery High School's Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls Basketball Teams as the 2000-2001 State Champions with certificates for Doug Mitchell, Varsity Boys' Coach and Lisa Cooper, Varsity Girls' Coach. Mr. Mitchell introduced four players and thanked the Mayor, noting that they had won the State Championship and were the first school in the State to win the championships back to back. Ms. Cooper introduced two of her players and the Mayor presented certificates of congratulations to the coaches.

Item 7a was heard out of order at this time.

7a. 2001 GREEN TEAM PROGRAM SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council accept a donation of \$100,000 from ExxonMobil Corporation and appropriate the funds for the 2001 Green Team Program Summer Youth Employment Program.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to accept the recommendation of the City Manager. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Charlie Maguire, ExxonMobil General Manager, presented the check to Mayor Hardison for the continuation of the ExxonMobil Green Team for 2001 and noted that they looked forward to providing employment opportunities for the youth of the community.

6f. PRESENTATION RE 2001 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES "PRINCESS TROPHY" AWARD PHOTO

Torrance Rose Float Association President Mary Hoffman presented the official photo to Mayor Hardison and the City Council.

6g. CARSON/LOMITA/TORRANCE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK – DR. PATRICIA CALDWELL

Recommendation of the Policy Board that City Council appoint and officially swear in Dr. Patricia Caldwell of El Camino Community College to the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Workforce Investment Network (C/L/T WiN Board).

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to appoint Dr. Patricia Caldwell to the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Workforce Investment Network. Councilmember Messerlian seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to Dr. Patricia Caldwell who indicated that she was pleased to represent El Camino College and looked forward to partnering with the City of Torrance and the Network.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 7a was previously considered.

7a. 2001 GREEN TEAM PROGRAM SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council accept a donation of \$100,000 from ExxonMobil Corporation and appropriate the funds for the 2001 Green Team Program Summer Youth Employment Program.

7b. TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council accept and file the Torrance Rose Float Association's Annual report for 2000-2001. (2001 Float).

7c. CONTRACT RE JK CONSTRUCTION OF LAGUNA NIGEL

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Chief of Police that City Council approve a contract with JK Construction of Laguna Niguel for \$73,798.52 for the construction of the Police Department Interior Renovation (B2001-03).

7d. PURCHASE ORDER RE GILLIG CORPORATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to be issued to the Gillig Corporation in the amount of \$3,172,906.68 (\$285,590.16 per bus, including shipping and California sales tax) for the purchase of eleven (11) 40-ft. low floor buses.

7e. CONTRACT RE MEADOWS MECHANICAL OF EL SEGUNDO, CA

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract to Meadows Mechanical of El Segundo, CA for \$17,832 for the replacement of the East Annex boiler and chilled water pump replacement; and
- 2) Approve a budget transfer of \$10,615 from completed City Hall Main Electrical Panel Project (FEAP 34) to fund the East Annex Boiler and Chilled Water Pump Replacement Project (FEAP 42).

7f. CONTRACT RE EMS CONSTRUCTION OF ANAHEIM, CA

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Fire Chief that City Council:

- 1) Approve a contract with EMS Construction of Anaheim, CA for \$171,000 for the interior renovation of Torrance Fire Station #2 (B2001-04);
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$8,550; and
- 3) Authorize a budget transfer of \$56,439 from FEAP Project 120 Fire Station #1 Seismic Retrofit.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar items 7b through 7f as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. COMMUNITY SERVICES

8a. AGREEMENT RE FIESTA PARADE FLOATS

Recommendation of City Council Ad Hoc Rose Float Committee that City Council:

- 1) Approve the design entitled "California Here We Come" for the City's float entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2002;
- 2) Approve an agreement between the City of Torrance and Fiesta Parade Floats for the design, construction, entry, display and operation of the Torrance float in the 2002 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade; and
- 3) Approve the expenditure of \$80,000 for related costs.

Councilmember Walker reported that the Ad Hoc Rose Float Committee had met and approved the concept and Mary Hoffman noted that Fiesta Parade Floats has built floats for Torrance for the past five years, during which time Torrance has won three awards and she introduced Tim Estes, Raul Rodriguez and Jim Hynd. Tim Estes noted that the theme for 2002 was "Good Times" and Raul Rodriguez presented the design to the Council, commenting that it had a lot of detail and portrayed the theme.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to concur with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Rose Float Committee. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9a. AGREEMENT RE DAVID TAUSSIG & ASSOCIATES

Recommendation of the Planning Director that City Council approve the expenditure of not to exceed \$55,000 and execute a Consulting Services Agreement with David Taussig & Associates, Inc., to prepare and administer the Street Lighting Assessment District (LD 2001-02).

Planning Director Gibson stated that it was the first step in the assessment district process for the next year.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to approve an expenditure of not to exceed \$55,000 and execute a Consulting Services Agreement with David Taussig & Associates Inc. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and Civil Service Administrator that City Council adopt and implement a Recruitment Incentive Program to encourage Police Officer recruitment efforts among Police Department employees.

In response to concerns raised by Mayor Hardison, Lieutenant John New with the Police Department clarified that there was an initial payment when recruits were hired and an additional payment at the finish of the training program and he indicated that other cities had found the program successful.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt and implement a Recruitment Incentive Program. Councilmember Cribbs seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11b. CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR CAROLWOOD DRIVE AND SINGINGWOOD DRIVE

Recommendation of the City Manager and City Attorney that City Council continue the state of local emergency proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that the slope was continuing to slip and they would see the item weekly until it was stabilized.

Building and Safety Manager Isomoto noted that the slide had not extended beyond the original 24 properties, but one house was continuing to receive significant damage.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to continue the state of local emergency for properties located on Carolwood Drive and Singingwood Drive. Councilmember Nowatka seconded the motion and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

11c. WAIVER OF ARMSTRONG THEATER FEES - CITY OF TORRANCE EMPLOYEE VARIETY SHOW

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council waive the rental fees at the James Armstrong Theatre in the amount of \$1,200 for the City of Torrance Employee Variety Show.

Community Services Officer Ghio reported that this would be the third year for the City of Torrance Employee Variety show with the scheduled date of September 21. Councilmember Witkowsky pointed out that the event benefited the American Cancer Society.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to waive rental fees at the James Armstrong Theater for the City of Torrance Employee Variety Show. Commissioner Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11d. MODIFIED SCOPE OF WORK - ARTESIA BOULEVARD REHABILITATION PROJECT

Recommendation of the Artesia Boulevard Rehabilitation Team that City Council concur in a Team recommendation to modify the current scope of work for the Artesia Boulevard Rehabilitation Project.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine reported that a complete stand alone design with best engineering practices throughout the whole project would be in the \$350,000 range and if they left the median out of the project the cost would be approximately \$220,000.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine presented three options for the project: 1) Continue with current design parameters; 2) Change design for cost reductions; and 3) Design both projects to allow staff time to negotiate.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine clarified that none of the options dealt with undergrounding as the water project was fully funded and moving forward. He explained that staff recommended the second option as it would reduce the shortfall and by working with the consultant they could still design and implement a visually pleasing project while reducing the cost. He added that the second option would not increase the parkway size, but would allow for unified landscaping of the area.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Cribbs, Project Manager Sakamoto explained that the median on Artesia would be a little bit smaller than the one on Hawthorne Boulevard.

City Manager Jackson noted that unlike Hawthorne Boulevard, there were residential properties along Artesia and bringing the curb line out 2 feet would provide more of a buffer for them. Councilmember Cribbs commented that she found it hard to visualize the changes and asserted that renderings for options 1 and 2 would have been helpful.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Messerlian, Engineering Director Burt stated that originally the City of Torrance was going to work with the State of California to, in their words, "bring the condition of the roadway to an acceptable level." He noted that since that time the project had changed in scope with different options for the curb and median but reconstruction of the roadway had remained constant.

In response to concerns expressed by Councilmember Messerlian, Engineering Director Burt indicated that option 2 would provide a better roadway than the original

plan as it would be a reconstructed street instead of an asphalt overlay and the curbs and median islands would be improved with landscaping. City Manager Jackson clarified that either option would have a shortfall.

Councilmember Messerlian commented that option 1 was the optimum design that would provide the desired look but would cost a few dollars more. He asked staff to investigate whether the money could be shifted or was available through State or Federal sources.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Witkowsky, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine indicated that it would not be feasible to revisit the project at a later date and City Manager Jackson noted that gas and phone lines had to wait until an underground conduit was installed in the roadway which could not be done until SCE initiated.

Councilmember Cribbs observed that there would be a shortfall with option 2 and if SCE could not provide the undergrounding Torrance would have to cover that as well.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine pointed out that some of those undergrounding costs might be shared costs with Time Warner and the phone company and Councilmember Cribbs noted that even with option 2, Torrance had to come up with \$4 million. She expressed the desire to get the project done noting that the City had been working on the project for 4 years and had asked the legislature for more funds at the 30% stage and she felt if the decision was made to go forward with option 1 the City had potential monies.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine explained that reconstruction was at least a year away and if the City got into a situation where they had to do the undergrounding they could put in the conduit allowing them to finish it later without having to dig up the roadway.

Councilmember Cribbs noted that if they designed to option 1 and then had to retrench, it could be done at the other end of the project. She suggested that since the City had limited funds, the project be designed so they could complete it in phases and look for funds during the process and if funds are unavailable they can go with an alternate plan.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine stated that they wouldn't know whether they were going to get Federal funds until October and if redesign is necessary it will cost \$300,000 and 6-8 months.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Cribbs, City Manager Jackson indicated that he was not sure what the potential was for obtaining the extra money and Mayor Hardison added that the City had asked for a lot of money and would probably receive a portion.

Councilmember Scotto stated that designing a project they could not afford would waste money and he pointed out that they had asked two weeks ago what it would cost to redesign the project. Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine clarified that the designers had stopped work and it would not cost any extra to design option 2 at this point and Councilmember Scotto stated that he would support the second option.

Mayor Hardison noted that if additional money became available it could be used to redesign and she indicated that she also favored option 2. She stated the need to go back out to the community and explain the differences and she hoped that if option 2 went forward there would be a way to accomplish the undergrounding so residents got a completed project.

Councilmember Walker stated that the undergrounding was important and needed to be done and he asserted that the difference between options 1 and 2 over a 20-25 year life on the street becomes less important. With the current budget constraints he was not convinced of a major difference visually between options 1 and 2 so supported option 2, noting that he would love to do the enhanced expanded version, but there is a practical issue.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the Team recommendation to modify the current scope of work for the Artesia Boulevard Rehabilitation Project to change design for cost reduction. The option would implement the alternate design of leaving the curb, gutter and sidewalk in its current location and would therefore not include meandering sidewalks. All other aspects of the project would remain intact including the enhanced landscaping of both the parkways and center medians. Estimated project shortfall is \$1.6 - \$1.9 million, which includes a 10% project contingency. Councilmember Walker seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11e. CONTRACT RE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Recommendation of the Building and Safety Director that City Council approve a one-year contract with an optional second year with Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control for provision of animal control services.

Recommendation of the Environmental Quality Commission that:

- 1) The City institute an in-house animal control program, including Animal Control Officers and temporary sheltering for licensed animals within the City with after hours and regular sheltering services to be contracted with Los Angeles County; and
- 2) While pursuing the first recommendation, if a budget for animal control cannot be established for the fiscal 2001-2003 budget, a one year contract with a thirty-day cancellation clause and an optional second year be approved with Los Angeles County for provision of animal control services, including enhancements.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna stated that in the past, renewing the contract with Los Angeles County Animal Control had been a routine procedure that had engendered no controversy, but this year a group had come forward with concerns about the level of service. She reported that the issue had been placed on the budget survey and staff had conducted a phone survey which initially indicated that residents were interested in an in-house animal control program, but interest eroded once it was explained that funding for the program would displace other programs.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna indicated that they had researched a budget for a standalone program which would provide extended hours of service, 7

days a week and would not impact any of their existing programs or cause them to have to shift enforcement from any of the other services provided in the community in order to provide the proper level of service.

The Commission suggested staffing at lower levels and discussed the Redondo Beach program which is staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by animal control officers with backup support from parking enforcement officers who also have a 7 day-a-week schedule allowing them get by with less personnel cross training. The Commission was interested in a lower staffing level and a less costly program

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna stated that 8 people would be necessary to provide 2 staff, 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and she noted that other options were available, but if the Council wanted them to look into those options she recommended that they get more help in order to go deeper. She expressed concern with the impact on existing programs and noted that the model the Commission was looking at made no provision for clerical or dispatch support.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna indicated that the consensus of cities surveyed was that animal control was a labor intensive program requiring a lot of time and there would be problems including record keeping issues, administrative issues and complaints which are dealt with by the County at this point. She stated that staff recommended maintaining the contract for one year with an optional second year to allow flexibility if funds to move in a different direction become available.

The Commission recommended looking at moving in the direction of establishing an in-house animal program and while pursuing the goal, implement a one-year County contract with an optional second year and 30 day cancellation clause and certain enhancements to provide increased levels of service. Suggested additions included some that were strictly for the County as well as some things staff could do to address concerns.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna stated that the County had a dedicated officer who has a handheld radio for communication. She added that the County officer stopped by City Hall 3 times per week to collect complaints and the requirement was to ensure that the lines of communication stayed open.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna explained that Torrance currently received 60 hours of service from the County per week and if Torrance chose an in-house program the hours would be either 24 hours per day, 7 days per week or from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Councilmember Nowatka asked about the statement regarding additional expenses they could not control due to numerous complaints, and noted that the County had reported that there were no complaints and he assumed that the City would do a better job. Environmental Services Administrator Cessna clarified that there were problems when enforcing barking dog complaints including in-office hearings, and situations where people believed dogs had been impounded wrongly which are problems that need to be resolved but are not complaints per se.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Messerlian, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna explained that the costs were reflective of the size and populations of those cities and were budgeted for the coming year predicated mostly on the level of service and funding that each city felt appropriate to devote to animal control. She explained that in most cases the information provided by the cities were gross program costs though there are different levels of service including outreach, education and bare-bones patrol.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna clarified that the estimate of 8 people required to provide coverage 24 hours a day 7 days a week was based on Fire Department figures and she added that to cover from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. would require 5 people with the County taking over after 7 p.m.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that though Environmental Services Administrator Cessna had indicated that everything was fine until recently, there were many problems during the 1980s and 1990s between the SPCA and the City. He commented that once service was provided by the County of Los Angeles, it appeared that the City was getting better service at a tremendous costs savings.

City Manager Jackson stated that if a 12 hour day was chosen the City would have to use part time employees or overlapping shifts which can be problematic with sick leave, vacations, holidays, etc.

Councilmember Cribbs noted that if they chose to exercise the 30-day cancellation, the City would have to be careful with wording because unless they canceled at the right time, the City would owe money or be owed money.

In response to an inquiry form Councilmember Nowatka, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna explained that there was a universally approved estimate that 70% of the animals are neutered and 30% are not neutered, though the City has used a figure of 60% - 40% for many years.

Councilmember Walker suggested holding the County's fees until the job was done right since there were so many complaints about the present level of service and Mayor Hardison explained that fees were derived from dog licenses.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Building and Safety Director Isomoto stated that the SPCA contract was based on a fixed price and it was negotiated each year at around \$380,000. He noted that the SPCA had handled license collection with funds returned to the City and there was always a shortfall of \$60-80,000 from the General Fund.

Mayor Hardison commented that aside from an occasional complaint about dogs loose, barking dogs, or when the phone system was changed, she did not recall a specific complaint about the County. Environmental Services Administrator Cessna indicated that they had received two complaints about the animal control program within the past year: the first in regard to response time on a weekend and the other regarding a dead animal that had not been picked up in a timely fashion.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison regarding survey information, City Manager Jackson noted that surveys were used in their strategic planning process and Mayor Hardison indicated this provided the opportunity to verify information in a non-biased way.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna stated that the County had agreed to provide additional service as proposed by the City.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Scotto, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna explained that \$20,000 for after-hours coverage was their best guess based on \$50 per hour on an on-call basis.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Kaye Michelson, Administrative Manager with the County, explained that they differentiated between strays and owner animals and though the County did not usually pick up stray cats, many of the stray cats they receive are feral cats which people catch in traps.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Walker, Ms. Michelson stated that the County was working toward microchipping all animals that are adopted out and using a two scan process for animals that are brought in: once as they first come into the shelter and again before they are put to sleep. She stated that the new system would be implemented on June 1 and added that they currently scanned only before euthanization.

Ms. Michelson indicated that the County was implementing a program to radio in for contact information once they find a tagged animal and if they can make contact, the animal will be returned in the field. She noted that there were many issues with microchipping including migration of the chips, which scanner is universal and availability of information from pet registries: some won't give out information except to the pet owner.

In response to concerns raised by Councilmember Witkowsky about monitoring the shelter to make guidelines are followed, Ms. Michelson indicated that they had a caring staff and the Shelter Manager was responsible, ensuring that if procedures were not followed disciplinary action would be taken. She indicated that Bruce Richards would be acting as Manager at the Carson Shelter while Marvin Stitz was out.

In response to concerns raised by Councilmember Messerlian, Ms. Michelson indicated that she had run into problems trying to investigate complaints after the fact and she asked that people call the shelter directly.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, Ms. Michelson indicated their intent to have scanners on every County vehicle and several at the shelter by June 1 and Councilmember Nowatka asked what the County planned to do to improve the year-to-date figure of 80% of the animals being euthanized.

Ms. Michelson expressed hope that the County webpage would increase the low return to owner rate. She added that the public needed to be educated about licenses and identification tags and the County needed to do marketing to let people know where to look for an animal. She added that they dealt with rescue organizations and outreach

adoption programs which would hopefully increase return rates and she noted that the totals did not take into account those animals that people ask to have put to sleep.

Mayor Hardison called a recess from 9:21 p.m. to 9:33 p.m.

Ray Uchima, Chairman of the Environmental Quality Commission, indicated that he was not a pet owner and had no vested interest in any group, but after hearing months of testimony, the Commission concluded that the City would be better off having their own program patterned after that of the City of Redondo Beach. He clarified that the Daily Breeze reported that the Commission supported making their own shelter and that was not correct.

Chairman Uchima questioned how feasible it would be to continue to work with the County and he stated that public testimony indicated that Torrance was receiving inadequate service. He reported that he had conducted an investigation, independently of staff, to substantiate claims of unresponsiveness and had difficulty getting through to the shelter on the phone. When he finally did speak with someone he asked about volunteering and was told he would receive a call back about the program, but he was never contacted. He reported that Commissioners Nishinaga and Leone had similar experiences in their investigations and all Commissioners agreed that service was an issue.

Chairman Uchima indicated that he felt it unlikely that the County would be capable of making the necessary changes to their service and the Commission felt that Torrance would be better served by a City run shelter like those in the cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo.

Mayor Hardison explained procedures for public speaking and reported that they had received numerous e-mails and letters at the last minute that could not go into the supplemental but would go into the record and had been made available to Councilmembers. She added that they had also received two phone calls and those names would be put into the public record.

Mayor Hardison noted that an important part of the survey information was from current dog owners in the City who were willing to pay a bit more and from those who did not own dogs, and felt the dog owners should pay for the service.

Stephanie Terronez, 23930 Ocean Avenue, addressed enforcement issues noting that many pet owners at Lago Seco Park did not pick up after their dogs. She questioned who had the power to enforce the ordinance and reported that the manager at her complex called the County about enforcing the ordinance but received no return call. Ms. Terronez pointed out that there were health hazards involved with lack of proper disposal of defecation and questioned how it was possible to enforce the ordinance without a Torrance based program, adding that revenue from enforcement could help fund a City based program.

Bill Klatckin, 20818 Wendy Drive, reported that he was a dog owner and a volunteer with the Torrance Amateur Radio Association. He believed that there were enough volunteers to support a Torrance based animal control program, helping out with paperwork, making phone calls and developing their own network. Mr. Klatckin commented that Torrance had the best City volunteer groups in the country and the

large network of people coming out to support the issue would be willing to help with a Torrance based shelter.

Elizabeth Roberts, 5005 Milne Drive, reported that as a Rotweiler owner, she strictly abided by the leash law, but had experiences where other people did not have their dog on a leash which created conflict. She questioned who enforced the law and noted that if Torrance had their own animal control officers to enforce the law, the number of incidents would be decreased. Ms. Roberts indicated that she was a pre-veterinarian student and was disturbed by the high incidence of disease at the Carson shelter. She visited the shelter, conducted research and found that there were a number of local vets who also had concerns and she questioned what processes were in place to make sure diseases did not spread. She pointed out that dog owners paid money to have their dogs licensed so they could be returned safely, but if they were kenneled with dogs that were sick, they were being put at risk.

Debra Corwin, 4716 West Bulova Street, runs Perfect Partners, a pet rescue and adoption service and gets animals from Redondo Beach Animal Control because conditions at the Carson shelter are so bad. She reported that she had received numerous phone calls from the public at all hours willing to give large donations to her if she would take their animals because they did not want to take them to the Carson shelter.

Ms. Corwin expressed concerns with management at the Carson shelter noting that there had been 3 managers since last August and she felt that they had no idea of what was going on. She further reported that she had spoken with vets who were waiting for a response to correspondence sent to the Carson shelter about health issues with Parvo and she questioned why the shelter did not use their air filtration system.

Ms. Corwin stated that her main concern was getting Torrance animal control officers and vehicles for health and safety and for a quick speedy response with a shelter down the road. She added that Redondo Beach had a fund for treating their animals called the Cleo Fund, established by residents and she indicated that she had secured a donation from Dow Chemical and would contact other organizations but she felt a separate fund should be set up for the money.

Joni Gang, P.O. Box 10123, Torrance, 91505 indicated that she was acting as a concerned resident and her motive for working to get a City run shelter in Torrance was to get more effective animal control. She reported that when she volunteered to help the community at the Carson shelter she did not expect to find a shelter that took in 20,000 animals last year with a 10% return to owner rate in Torrance while Redondo Beach has a 75% rate. Nor did she expect to find a euthanasia rate of 70% for dogs and 80-90% for cats over the past 4 years at the Carson shelter.

Ms. Gang reported that over the past 6 years, the County rarely met the minimum number of required hours and they provided no community education. She noted that though a staff report two years ago indicated that the County's phone system had been improved, it is still so bad that people don't have the stamina to wait long enough to get through to complain. She pointed out that the website contained incorrect information and expressed doubt that the County would have scanners in place by June 1, 2001 as they missed their previous date for implementation which was January 1, 2001.

Ms. Gang stated that the Commission had voted unanimously because they had learned a lot and also had done their own research, and she added that the County made a stronger case for a Torrance shelter than residents ever could by explaining that accidental euthanasia happened because “dogs look alike.”

Ms. Gang clarified that she had no ambition or skills to be a public officer, but just wanted effective animal control and she found the current situation unacceptable. She asserted that the County was unable to provide prompt response to public safety calls and everyone would benefit from Torrance animal control officers like everyone benefits from better public health and safety.

Rich Scimeca, 1711 Date Avenue, reported that he is a County employee and has worked as a deputy sheriff for 17 years and patrol for 12 years at 5 different stations in the County and he asserted that the County was overwhelmed and would not be able to provide the service Torrance required. Mr. Scimeca did not believe the County was capable of making the changes and felt that any changes that did occur would be temporary. He noted that the County was always understaffed which was reflected in the declining statistics over the years with less investigations, less citations, etc. Mr. Scimeca stated that the residents of Torrance wanted more control and more education, but the County was not going to educate the public and he noted that you get what you pay for but Torrance did not even get that as the County consistently did not provide the required number of hours resulting in problems with response time and general service.

Abraham Levine, 401 Avenida de Jose, a professor of sociology, commented that the City Council treated the Friends of Torrance Animals as an evil to be stamped out, not to be commended. He indicated that he has taught research methods and statistics at numerous colleges and universities and questioned the choice of phone survey used by the City to gather information. He asserted that the results of the phone survey were not a real reading on what the citizens of Torrance think and commended Councilmember Nowatka for asking questions that should have been asked long ago.

Mayor Hardison clarified that the City had provided the questions to GLS Research.

Dean Case, Friends of Torrance Animals, provided handouts to the Council and asked, as a concerned citizen, for a 30 day cancellation clause in the County contract with direction to staff to hire Torrance officers. He felt it was fair to require that the County meet their obligations and he noted that in a summary of County reports over 5 years they only completed 82% of the required field hours which sends a poor message to other City vendors.

Mr. Case noted that the County had stated that they were losing money on the contract and he questioned why they wanted to renew. He pointed out that the County could promise anything, but they did not have the resources to back it up. He reported that the City of Hawthorne bought a truck for County to use in servicing their city and now they never see it so they are investigating the possibility of an in-house program to rectify the shortcomings of the County, including poor response time and inability to track impounded animals. Mr. Case observed that even with Don Knabe's influence, the County could not improve things in El Segundo who had agreed to higher fees to improve service and he asked if Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, El Segundo and Lawndale can institute their own programs why can't Torrance?

Commissioner Lieu, Environmental Quality Commission, stated that he was not representing the Commission, but was expressing his own views. He reported that he had heard oral testimony from proponents and opponents for 10 months and read 100s of pages of information and excellent staff reports, and the relevant question was: Can the City of Torrance improve animal control with little to no cost increase? He believed the City could and he outlined specifics, noting that the County provided 1 dedicated officer per week with some additional off-duty hours totaling 49 hours per week based on monthly reports. Commissioner Lieu felt that Torrance could do better than that for substantially less money with 2 officers, 2 trucks and 1 secretary. He indicated that costs would be reduced by well over half and that with licensing fees the program would pay for itself. He pointed out that 2 officers would be an improvement and Torrance would still contract for off-duty hours the same way other South Bay Cities do. He noted that he had voted based on his understanding of the Redondo Beach model with local control during the day and County control at night.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Hardison, Environmental Services Officer Cessna noted that Community Lead Officers are sent out to write citations when there are reports of dogs off-leash in the parks, and when there is a problem they send the County out. She noted that dogs off-leash and defecation are problems that a dozen animal control officers could not completely control.

Ms. Michelson stated that animal shelters had disease issues as many animals that come in are not vaccinated. She noted that the Carson Shelter had a vet on staff and an animal health technician and as part of the shelter refurbishment in July 2000 they sandblasted and now use Triple 2, a state of the art cleaning product. They continue to use bleach and steam cleaners and do their best to vaccinate animals as they come in though she acknowledged that the immunizations do not take effect immediately. She stated that a form for a free vet examination is provided upon adoption to make the person adopting feel more comfortable with the health of the animal they adopt and she indicated that they wanted to hear about any problems and encourage people to bring animals back if there is a problem.

Ms. Michelson acknowledged management changes at the Carson shelter and reported that Bruce Richards would be back at the shelter starting April 30.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that a major frustration was lack of ability to communicate and Ms. Michelson reported that they had an automated call distributor which tracks calls and places them in the proper order and they also had reporting mechanisms to hold operators accountable. She added that many calls for basic information were handled by the auto attendant and she noted that they were ready to make changes to improve the system.

Councilmember Walker commented that he has three Shitzus and recounted an incident where he had seen an animal control officer trying to rescue a dog on the Harbor freeway. He noted that animal control officers were not paid a lot and sometimes had to put their lives at risk and he reported that when he visited the shelter there was a worker who said he loved his job. Councilmember Walker stated that though the County could do better, he felt that there was a lot of good and he expressed support for the staff recommendation with additions and suggested holding the County's fee to the fire.

Councilmember Walker asserted that the results of the telephone surveys were correct and that if the County did not improve services there was plenty of opportunity for change.

Councilmember Scotto commented that the process had started a long time ago and expressed support for option two, noting that a clearer decision could be made after the November. He reported that he had visited the shelter a couple of times and was surprised that the public could go in at any time and though he had problems getting through on the phone he did have one positive experience getting through.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve a one-year contract with a thirty day cancellation clause with Los Angeles County for provision of animal control services, including the following enhancements:

COUNTY ADDITIONS: a) Dedicated County officer to stop at City Hall a minimum of three times per week; b) Feedback to City staff on disposition of or actions taken on citizen complaints within 72 hours; c) County to dedicate Administrative staff to act as City liaison and liaison to the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission on a quarterly basis; d) Dedicated County Officer to make use of City radio to answer calls and dispatch from City staff; and, d) Dedicated County officer to make use of city-furnished microchip scanner to scan all animals captured in the City for microchip identification prior to taking to shelter.

CITY ADDITIONS: a) City to furnish dedicated County officer with radio unit for communications and dispatch through City Hall; b) City to furnish dedicated County officer with microchip scanner for use in scanning all animals prior to impound; c) City to investigate setting up a pilot program allowing animals with microchip, license or tag identification to be sheltered for 48 hours at a local vet or other service provider while attempts are made to contact owner. Owner to pay all costs incurred on behalf of their animal; d) Staff to prepare monthly reports for the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission regarding disposition of complaints forwarded to county; e) City to work with County to develop a direct link from the City Web Page to the Los Angeles County Animal Control Web page so that pet owners can access lost and found pet information more easily; and, f) City to publish and publicize contact numbers for animal control services in water bills, Seasons, and any other methods available.

Councilmember Messerlian seconded the motion and a discussion followed.

Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she had visited the shelter and found it to be clean and she felt that since anyone could walk in at any time that meant the County had pride in their product. She stated that she did not debate anything that Friends of Torrance Animals had said and she felt Torrance could do a better job, but she was concerned with funding as the lighting assessment district could cause a shortfall and with the energy crisis and the Artesia Boulevard project she did not see how the City could do it right now.

Councilmember Witkowsky indicated that she would support the motion though she was hoping for option one and she stated that the issue would be revisited again in the future.

Councilmember Cribbs reported that when she visited the shelter she saw a vet administering to an animal and another animal being photographed for the website. She indicated that she wanted Torrance to do educational outreach on responsibilities of pet owners as that is the basic problem and she commented that though she sees many loose animals in South Central, she does not see them in Torrance, though she had seen irresponsible owners with dogs off-leash in parks.

Councilmember Cribbs thanked staff and the Environmental Quality Commission and she expressed interest in the disposition of complaints and reporting. She indicated that she would look to the Commission for a follow through on the animal control issue.

Councilmember Messerlian thanked staff for their hard work and commended the Environmental Quality Commission for their patience and professionalism and for being so deliberative in their work. He also thanked Friends of Torrance Animals and those in the audience for their hard work and he expressed confidence that the County heard them too.

Councilmember Messerlian stated that the issue had come at a bad time and because of the State law requiring a balanced budget, the City has to have the money to pay for everything they allocate to. He indicated that because of the initiative to repeal the Lighting Assessment District there was a possible \$1 million deficit and programs might be affected. He felt that if the City were to initiate their own program they would do a better job because it would be local and he noted that the motion on the floor gave the City a year to go with the County with enhancements and the 30-day cancellation clause gave the City an escape if things didn't work out.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, Police Chief Herren indicated that he would have information about response times that may be recorded by the Police Department regarding animal control issues by the end of week.

Councilmember Nowatka stated that if feasibility studies had been included in the motion he would have been able to support it, but since they were not he had to vote against the motion. He commented that the issue had been going on for a long time and the County was saying what they would do, not what they had done.

Councilmember Nowatka reported that he had visited the shelter and though they looked clean, diseases are invisible. He added that it bothered him to see half of the cages empty though the animals are still killed quickly.

Mayor Hardison noted that as the former Chair of the South Bay Council of Governments she had been involved with the issue for a long time and at one point she had met with the County and explored the possibility of attempting to have a shelter in the area, but cities were not looking at having their own and they were not successful in finding a suitable location. A survey was conducted at that time and there was some interest but a city needed to step forward with available land and they needed a joint powers agreement. She noted that most cities looked at issues on their own and others cities were comfortable using the County and did not want to look beyond.

Mayor Hardison indicated that the fault lay with the City as the County had not been held accountable. She felt that the process raised enough issues that the City and the County had to work together cooperatively to make it successful for the City of

Torrance or they would be looking at other options. Mayor Hardison stated that she was not comfortable with just doing what some other City did as Torrance has unique issues and she reported that she had spoken with El Segundo's Mayor and Councilmembers on their experience and she commented that Torrance was much larger than El Segundo. She felt that the enhancements would give the City an opportunity to go forward and have a successful relationship with the County.

Mayor Hardison asserted that the City had a responsibility through publications and cable to educate the community on what responsible pet ownership means and there are a variety of places that the City can use to promote responsible pet ownership. She hoped to call upon volunteer organizations to help and stated that the goal was to prevent animals from going to the shelter in the first place and she felt some of the things put in place would be successful. She indicated that she was not in favor of cat licensing, but was surprised at the number of cats that were trapped and sent to the shelter.

Mayor Hardison asserted that the City of Torrance did not have a lot of stray animals, though there were a number of dogs off-leash and she acknowledged that there was work to be done

Mayor Hardison felt the survey gave them good information but time constraints prevented doing the survey she wanted to do of current dog owners to find out if they were happy or were willing to pay more. She commented that the Friends of Torrance Animals were very diligent but she expressed concern that the City did not have the funding to implement the ideal program.

Mayor Hardison commended everyone involved including staff, the Environmental Quality Commission, and the community noting that they handled the matter very professionally and she stated that she knew the residents would be the eyes and ears of the City to help make sure Torrance has the very best program possible within their financial needs.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion indicating a yes vote from all the Councilmembers with the exception of Councilmember Nowatka who dissented.

14. 2ND READING ORDINANCES

Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 3498 amending Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code to reclassify certain property located at 23250 and 23254 Robert Road from C-1 (Retail Commercial) to R-2 (Single Family Residential). ZON00-00005, JOHN MAVAR

City Clerk Herbers clarified that there was a typographical error and the classification should read R-1 not R-2.

ORDINANCE NO. 3498

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23250 AND 23254 ROBERT ROAD FROM C-1

(RETAIL COMMERCIAL) TO R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL). ZON00-00005, JOHN MAVAR

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3498. Councilmember Scotto seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 11:09 p.m. to 11:10 p.m.

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15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. City Manager Jackson reported that the Budget workshop had been moved from May 1 to May 8 with the hearing prior to the Council meeting and the workshop during the budget.

15b. Councilmember Cribbs asked staff to look into an annual Pride Day to encourage residents and businesses to clean up.

15c. Councilmember Messerlian thanked staff for the banners for the Armed Forces Day Parade and asked if the flag banners could be posted between Flag Day and July 4th.

15d. Councilmember Messerlian asked that the proposed revisions to the zoning ordinance be brought to the City Council Community Planning and Design Committee.

15e. In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Messerlian, Engineering Director Burt noted that Hawthorne Boulevard paving was scheduled for July and August 2001.

15f. Councilmember Messerlian asked staff to investigate a leaning light standard on Skypark Drive.

15g. Councilmember Nowatka reported that he had participated in the asphalt and rubble removal at the Madrona Marsh and he thanked the volunteers for their hard work, many of whom were from Honda, Toyota and Sears.

15h. Councilmember Scotto asked that a Torrance flag be posted in Council Chambers.

15i. Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated the Torrance Sister City Association on Bunka Sai and noted that the money raised helped students in Torrance to visit Kashiwa for two weeks.

15j. Mayor Hardison thanked Councilmember Messerlian for acting as Mayor Pro Tem and she announced that Councilmember Walker was the current Mayor Pro Tem.

15k. Mayor Hardison asked City Attorney Fellows to research and bring back information on how many Councilmembers may sign ballot measure arguments.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Covered previously in the meeting.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at 5:30 p.m., for an executive session in the Council Chamber, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

*Adjourned in memory of
Los Angeles City Councilman John Ferraro
and
Torrance resident Vern Vanderpool

Attest:

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 5, 2001