

August 17, 1999

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 7:09 p.m.* on Tuesday, August 17, 1999, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

*At 5:30 p.m., City Clerk Herbers announced in Council Chambers that a quorum was not present but was expected at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hardison.

Pastor Lance Boloran, Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

*

Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Wesley Blyleven, former Assistant Supervisor in the Street Services Department and father of Airport Operations and Maintenance Chief Mike Blyleven.

*

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Lee 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 Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilman Lee 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 Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Parks and Recreation Department Presents
44th Annual Aquacade, "Rockin Through the Years

August 20 and 21, 1999 - 8:15 p.m.
Victor E. Benstead Plunge

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **HOME OWNERSHIP THROUGH PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT (H.O.P.E.)**
PRESENTATION

Ms. Hazel Taniguchi, Chairman of the Community Services Commission, presented a symbolic brick to the City Council on behalf of Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment (H.O.P.E.), a recipient of City of Torrance grant funds.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 13, 1999**

7b. **PROPOSITION A FUND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council approve an agreement with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes for an exchange of \$560,300 in City of Torrance General Funds for \$862,000 in Proposition A Local Return Funds from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

7c. **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION 1998/99 ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director and the Community Services Commission that City Council accept and file the Community Services Commission 1998/99 Annual Report.

7d. **AGREEMENT RE TENNIS COURT CONSTRUCTION AT WILSON PARK**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council approve an agreement between the City of Torrance and Malibu Pacific Tennis Courts, Inc., totaling \$413,700 for the construction of three (3) tennis courts and two (2) paddle tennis courts at Wilson Park.

7e. **PURCHASE ORDER RE READY-MIX CONCRETE AND SLURRY MIX**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to be issued to Associated Ready Mix Concrete of Gardena, California, in an anticipated amount of \$359,720, plus a 5% contingency of \$17,986, for a total of \$377,706 for ready-mix concrete Class "A" and Class "C", and slurry mix, on an "as-needed basis" for a two-year period.

7f. CONTRACT RE TRANSFER STATION SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept the proposal submitted by Waste Management Carson Transfer Station #0169 to provide Transfer Station Services for the City's residential waste and award a contract to this firm for \$29.00/ton for waste disposal and \$22.00/ton for green waste diversion. The contract term is two years with a third year option;
- 2) Reject all other proposals; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said contract.

7g. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE 1998/99 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Street Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize an amendment to Contract No. 99-154 with Roy Allan Slurry Seal, Inc. in the amount of \$48,233.91; and
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency of \$2,411.70 for a total not-to-exceed amendment amount of \$50,645.61 for Infrastructure Action Plan (IAP) No. 1-6, 1998-1999 Residential Slurry Seal Project.

7h. PURCHASE OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY INSURANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council approve the purchase of Employment Practices Liability Insurance for the period of August 18, 1999 to August 18, 2000 from Robert F. Driver Associates at a premium of \$46,000.

7i. AGREEMENT RE ARTESIA BOULEVARD WATER MAIN PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve a professional services agreement with SA Associates for the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for the Artesia Boulevard Water Main Replacement Project in the amount of \$74,000;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$3,700;
- 3) Appropriate \$93,500 from Water Fund to Artesia Boulevard Water Main Replacement Project; and
- 4) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said agreement.

7j. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT RE MADISON STREET AND NEWTON STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the amendment to the professional services agreement with Berryman & Henigar for an additional \$28,935 for the preparation of plans, specification and estimates for the Madison Street and Newton Street Water Main Replacements;

- 2) Authorize an additional \$1,447 in contingencies;
- 3) Appropriate \$41,000 from Water Fund to Madison Street and Newton Street Water Main Replacements; and
- 4) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said amendment.

7k. 1999 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and City Manager that City Council authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to file an electronic application for the 1999 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Local Law Enforcement Block Grant which includes a Federal allocation of \$159,245, a local cash match requirement of \$15,924 from Asset Forfeiture, and other special conditions. Further, recommend the authorization to accept the Block Grant if awarded and the appropriation and allocation of Asset Forfeiture funds for the cash match.

7l. JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AGREEMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council execute an agreement for employment and training services with Right Way Computer Training Center for \$150,000.

7m. PURCHASE ORDER RE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

- 1) Approve a purchase order contract with TRW, Inc. in the amount of \$61,653.00 for infrastructure hardware for computer network for the Police Department; and
- 2) Approve a purchase order for Enhanced Technologies in the amount of \$147,111.75 for personal computers.

MOTION: Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9a. PROPOSED DEL AMO BOULEVARD EXTENSION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council authorize staff to proceed with the extension of Del Amo Boulevard from Maple Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard.

Senior Division Engineer Wisz introduced the project team, Steve Fenton, project manager; Victor Martinez, civil engineer; and Joe Faust, traffic engineer.

In a slide presentation, Mr. Fenton provided background information regarding plans to extend Del Amo Boulevard from Maple Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard and discussed proposed sources of funding and the timeline for completion of the project; Mr. Faust addressed the traffic impact; and Mr. Martinez explained the design of the bridge to be constructed over the railroad tracks.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Mr. Fenton advised that the first step in the environmental review process would be the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which would address the impact of the project and possible mitigations. He confirmed that during preliminary discussions with Mobil Oil Corporation, they had expressed a willingness to dedicate a portion of their property that is needed for this project to the City.

Mr. Eric Mann, 2140 Del Amo Boulevard, expressed concerns about the impact of increased traffic on the portion of Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness and asked that consideration be given to the following improvements: adding a left-hand turn phase to the signal at Van Ness and Del Amo Boulevard; installing a pedestrian crossing mid-block to provide safer access to the church, recreation center and park on the south side of Del Amo Boulevard; and providing another gap in the median for U-turns. He estimated that vehicles currently travel at speeds of between 45 and 50 miles an hour along this section of Del Amo Boulevard and requested that something be done to slow the traffic.

Mr. Ruben Ordaz, 2231 Del Amo Boulevard, representing Pueblo Homeowners Association, stated that Del Amo Boulevard has become a raceway, with cars traveling at speeds of up to 60 or 70 miles an hour, and indicated that he would like to see traffic reduced to one lane in each direction as was done on Maple Avenue/235th Street.

Ms. Elaine Wilson, 2357 Del Amo Boulevard, echoed concerns about speeding motorists and noted that although commercial traffic is currently prohibited on Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness, large trucks frequently travel the street. She questioned whether any changes would be made regarding the prohibition of commercial vehicles or in the posted speed limit if the extension takes place.

Mayor Hardison explained that those issues would be addressed in the environmental study.

Mr. Lee Robinson, 3615 W. 227th Place, representing Torrance Heights Civic Association, stated that he supported the project in principle and that it was long overdue, but cautioned that care must be taken so that the people who live there are not harmed.

Mr. Thayer Chew, 4141 Konya Drive, urged the Council to look at alternatives, expressing his opinion that Torrance Boulevard and 190th Street can accommodate east/west traffic without subjecting the mainly residential neighborhoods along Del Amo Boulevard to the detrimental effects of increased commuter and commercial traffic.

Ms. Mary Agnes Hunt, 2150 Del Amo Boulevard, voiced concerns about the project's impact on traffic, explaining that drivers currently pay no attention to the posted speed limit and that the extension would exacerbate the problem.

Mr. Eleazar Ybarra, 2411 Del Amo Boulevard, representing Del Amo Boulevard Homeowners, stated that this project would only create more problems for residents, some of whose families have lived in this neighborhood for several generations. He maintained that no one from the City had consulted with residents about this project and that their requests for crosswalks and left-hand turn lanes have been repeatedly ignored. He questioned whether this project was being proposed to accommodate Mobil Oil and suggested using the money instead for parks or schools.

Mayor Hardison assured Mr. Ybarra that Mobil Oil had no part in instigating this project and offered clarification that the money being contributed for this project by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) may not be used for any other purpose.

Mr. Steve Fechner, representing Surf Management, 357 Van Ness Way, Suite 100, stated that his company owns three business parks that front on Del Amo Boulevard and that he and his tenants strongly favor the extension. He explained that a lot of time and fuel are wasted going around the Mobil Oil property and that this project would remove a major barrier to the smooth flow of traffic and would have the net result of decreasing traffic in the City.

Mr. Thomas L. Smith, 2150 Del Amo Boulevard, voiced his opinion that there is enough traffic on Del Amo Boulevard as it is and that this project would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Ms. Ruth Soto, 2117 De Amo Boulevard, stated that she thought it was very unfair to disregard the welfare of the families who reside along Del Amo Boulevard for the convenience of the rest of the City.

Councilwoman O'Donnell asked if Mr. Ybarra would be in favor of the project if the improvements Mr. Mann suggested were made, and Mr. Ybarra indicated that he would not.

Councilwoman O'Donnell asked for information regarding the population and the history of the area along Del Amo Boulevard east of Crenshaw Boulevard. City Manager Jackson indicated that the population figures would have to be researched but confirmed that the residential community goes back to the time of the founding of Torrance.

In response to Councilman Lee's inquiry, Mr. Faust offered clarification of the extension's projected impact on traffic on Del Amo Boulevard, noting that east/west traffic is not expected to increase in the corridor but would be redistributed.

Councilmembers, with the exception of Councilwoman O'Donnell, voiced support for proceeding with the environmental study and indicated that they would like to have a lot more information before making a decision on the extension. Mayor Hardison stated that she also favored proceeding with the environmental study but noted that she would not support going forward with the project unless its impact on nearby residents can be mitigated.

Councilwoman Cribbs stated that speeding traffic and the danger it poses to children along this stretch of Del Amo Boulevard has long been a concern of hers and encouraged audience members to leave their names and addresses so that they can be

notified of upcoming community meetings/public hearings and continue to provide input regarding this issue.

Councilman Messerlian, echoed by Mayor Hardison, suggested increasing police patrol in the area to deter speeding and cut-through traffic.

Councilwoman O'Donnell stated that she would be voting against the project even though it was still in the preliminary stages because she would rather err on the side of caution and believes that the welfare of the long-standing residents takes precedence over the convenience of others.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to proceed with the environmental study for the extension of Del Amo Boulevard between Maple Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs, and passed by a 6-1 majority roll call vote, with Councilwoman O'Donnell dissenting.

Engineering Director Burtt noted that several community meetings will be held as the extension project progresses and that the area of notification will be expanded. Mayor Hardison suggested using door hangars to make sure that everyone in the neighborhood receives notification.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider both Tuesday, August 31st, and September 7th, 1999, as Council dark nights.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. CROSSING GUARDS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) MODIFICATIONS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) making certain changes in the salary grid and language for Crossing Guards.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-95

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH THE WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CROSSING GUARD EMPLOYEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 30, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-95. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. CONTRACT RE UTILITY BILLING SERVICE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council approve a three-year contract with American States Water Company to provide utility billing services to the City of Torrance in the amount of \$250,000 annually.

Finance Director Tsao presented the staff report (per written material of record).

Councilman Lee commented favorably on the contract and the new billing format and stated that he was pleased that there would now be 24-hour customer service and an additional field office in North Torrance.

Councilwoman Cribbs requested that staff report back to the City Council three or four months after the conversion takes place regarding whether financial goals are being met. Noting that a lot of cooperation will be needed to ensure that the transition goes smoothly and residents continue to enjoy the same quality of service they have had in the past, she suggested that some sort of awards system be devised to reward City staff in the Water Department and the Finance Department for their efforts in getting the system up and running. She stressed the importance of providing training for employees on new computer software.

Referring to the provision in the contract allowing customer information to be sold or given to subsidiary companies of American States Water Company, Councilwoman Cribbs related her preference that this information not be provided to any third party, including subsidiary companies.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Acting Finance Director Flewellyn provided additional information regarding the hours of operation of customer service centers and outreach efforts to notify customers of changes in billing procedures.

Councilwoman O'Donnell expressed her opinion that the Civic Center payment station's hours of operation (Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) are not user-friendly and suggested changing them to later in the afternoon so that customers can stop by and pay their bills after work. Referring to the provision in the contract calling for ASWC to provide a \$125,000 performance bond, she related her understanding that performance bonds are usually much larger and stated that she would like to see it increased substantially.

Acting Finance Director Flewellyn explained that the \$125,000 represents half of the amount of the yearly contract and that staff believes that that amount would provide an adequate cushion in the event the company does not perform up to standards. He noted that there are provisions in the contract for liquidated damages.

Councilwoman O'Donnell questioned how Southern California Water Company would be able to provide utility billing for \$250,000, a much lower figure than the \$750,000 the City estimated as the cost of doing the billing in-house. City Manager Jackson explained that the company has a degree of automation that makes the process of developing and sending a utility bill much more affordable and noted that the estimate also reflected the considerable expense the City would have incurred updating informational systems.

In response to Councilman Messerlian's inquiry, Engineering Director Burt provided clarification of the City's policy regarding the posting of 48-hour shut-off notices.

Councilman Messerlian suggested specifying in the contract the fact that the City will be responsible for hanging shut-off notices so that there will be no misunderstanding. City Attorney Fellows concurred with Councilman Messerlian's suggestion and recommended adding a Subsection C to Section 2, Responsibilities of the City, stating that the City will promptly hang shut-off notices spooled to the City's printer.

Mayor Hardison indicated that her main concerns relate to how the City's and the water company's operations will fit together and requested that the Council be updated at the end of September regarding how the conversion is going.

Mr. Lee Robinson, member of the Water Commission, requested that the City Council closely monitor the performance of the Water Department and the Southern California Water Company to ensure that both parties are doing what they are supposed to do.

Addressing Councilmembers' comments, Mr. Joe Young, Vice President of Southern California Water Company, expressed his willingness to work with staff to determine more convenient hours of operation for the Civic Center payment station; confirmed that his company will generate shut-off notices and the City will hang them; outlined employee training programs currently underway; and indicated that he had no objection to deleting the provision in the contract which would allow customer information to be shared with ASWC subsidiaries. With regard to the performance bond, he stated that he believed that the \$125,000 bond would be a powerful incentive for the company to perform satisfactorily. He noted that the company has 20 offices throughout the state where customers may also pay their bills and that customers will soon be able to access their account information on the Internet, possibly by the end of this year.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved for approval of the three-year contract with American States Water Company with the following amendments: Section 1, Responsibilities of the Company, Subsection F(6), deleting the provision allowing customer information to be shared with subsidiary companies; and Section 2, Responsibilities of the City, adding a Subsection C related to the hanging of shut-off notices. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by a 6-1 majority roll call vote, with Councilwoman O'Donnell dissenting.

Commenting on her dissenting vote, Councilwoman O'Donnell stated that she was not comfortable with the level of the performance bond.

**11d. REPORT OF CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
RE JOINT MEETING WITH TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee that a summary report on the August 3, 1999 meeting with Torrance Unified School District be submitted to City Council as a whole for information only.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. HEARINGS

12a. VACATION OF PORTION OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD/BORDER AVENUE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that following a public hearing City Council approve and adopt a resolution ordering the vacation of the street easements for a portion of Torrance Boulevard/Border Avenue, a portion of 212th Street, and a portion of the alley east of Torrance Boulevard/Border Avenue and south of 212th Street.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing had been properly advertised.

Senior Division Engineer Perkins presented the staff report (per written material of record) and noted supplemental material available at the meeting consisting of a letter from abutting property owner Robert Ohanessian, owner of the Bubble Bath Car Wash.

Noting that most of Mr. Ohanessian's comments pertain to the proposed development of the vacated land and adjacent property, Mayor Hardison explained that these issues were not within the Council's purview and that they would be taken up at the Planning Commission meeting of August 18, 1999. She indicated, however, that she thought his suggestion, that potential condominium buyers receive written disclosure that the property is located in a mixed-use area, was a good one.

Planning Manager Bihn reported that staff was recommending that the Planning Commission include a condition of approval requiring that potential buyers receive written notification that the proposed development is located in an area that includes both commercial and industrial land use in close proximity. He noted that Mr. Ohanessian's letter would be included in the material provided to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Messerlian pointed out that Mr. Ohanessian appeared to be raising the issue of prescriptive easement regarding his right to have access to Tommy's Coffee Shop's driveway and parking lot, and City Attorney Fellows advised that that was a private property issue and a matter to be worked out between the two property owners.

Mr. Robert Ohanessian, 1888 Torrance Boulevard, stated that even though the easement might be a private property issue, he wanted the Council to be aware that historically there has been a spirit of cooperation among the Rendezvous Lounge, Tommy's Coffee Shop and the Bubble Bath Car Wash, with each one having formal or informal agreements with the others to make the best use of the land available. He asked about plans for additional public parking in the area and about the possibility his street address would be changed, as he would be the only remaining business on "Little Torrance Boulevard," and questioned whether a car wash business would be allowed to continue at this location in the event his property is sold. He suggested that the disclosure to potential homebuyers be more specific as to the hours of operation and

type of noise generated by surrounding businesses and voiced his opinion that business owners should have the same opportunity to purchase streets/alleys adjacent to their property as companies like the Olson Company have.

Responding to Mr. Ohanessian's comments, Planning Manager Bihn explained that the conditions for acquiring vacated land are the same for everyone; advised that staff believes that real estate disclosures regarding surrounding land uses should be more general rather than trying to detail every business activity in the area; confirmed that should the property be sold, it could continue to operate as a car wash; outlined available public parking in the area; and indicated that there would be no change in the Bubble Bath Car Wash's street address, noting that the new condominium project would also have a Torrance Boulevard address.

Councilman Walker commented that he believed that it would be in the best interest of everyone concerned if potential homebuyers were well informed regarding the noise they can expect from surrounding businesses. He cautioned Mr. Ohanessian that if he sells the property and the car wash closes down for any length of time, the ability to operate a car wash at this location might be jeopardized.

Mr. Leona Hopps, owner of the Rendezvous Lounge, 1878 Torrance Boulevard, indicated that she has legal documentation regarding joint access to Tommy's Coffee Shop's driveway and that it clearly states that the agreement is revocable in the event the property is sold. She contended that the issues Mr. Ohanessian brought up were not new issues and had been addressed when the initial phase of the Olson project was considered.

Mr. Evangelos Karamanis, owner of Tommy's Coffee Shop, 1882 Torrance Boulevard, stated that Mr. Ohanessian was aware when he bought the property in 1994 that it was in the redevelopment area and purchased it at a discount because of all the contingencies. He voiced support for the vacation and commended Mr. Bihn for his efforts in working with area business owners on this project.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Lee, who left City Hall at 9:16 p.m.).

RESOLUTION NO. 99-96

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD/BORDER AVENUE, A PORTION OF 212TH STREET, AND A PORTION OF THE ALLEY EAST OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD/BORDER AVENUE AND SOUTH OF 212TH STREET IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-96. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilman Lee).

*

The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 9:48 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.

15. **OTHER**

15a. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Jackson commended the utility billing negotiation efforts of Jack van der Linden, Ken Flewellyn, Heather Witham, and Len Wood with Southern California Water Company.

Councilwoman Cribbs agreed with City Manager Jackson and included members of the Water Commission and employees of the Water Department. Councilwoman Cribbs recommended that some form of monetary award be extended to City employees who help make the utility billing transition work smoothly.

Councilwoman Cribbs commented on the efforts of the Torrance Police Officer's Association to store the Santa Float.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:54 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 24, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned in Memory of Wesley Blyleven

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance