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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 12, 2010**

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At 9:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

October 12, 2010

**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 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

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

\*

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6.

The City Council reconvened at 7:02 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The flag salute was led by Cultural Arts Commissioner Marla Shwarts.

Councilmember Rhilinger gave the non-sectarian invocation.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, October 7, 2010.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Numark 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 Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS – None.**

City Manager Jackson reported that several residents have expressed concerns about the proposed rate increase for seniors at Sea Air Golf course therefore the Community Services Director has decided to defer the increase until a more thorough analysis of rates at comparable golf courses can be completed, after which a new recommendation will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Furey announced that the Palos Verdes Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, October 25, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall, located at 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North.

City Clerk Herbers announced that voter registration for the November 2 election can be done through October 18 and that Vote-by-Mail ballots may be requested through October 26. She noted that the Propositions booklet was mailed by the Secretary of State and copies are available online and at public Libraries. She invited the public to visit [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for additional information about candidates.

City Clerk Herbers announced that reservations for the Commissioner Certification training class to be held on Wednesday, October 27, can be made by calling 310.618.5880, 310.618.2870 or at [www.TorranceCA.Gov/Commissionercert.htm](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/Commissionercert.htm). She noted that prospective candidates must be certified to be eligible for appointment to City commissions/boards and this will be the last class before appointments are made in early 2011.

Councilmember Rhilinger asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of retired police lieutenant Michael Tamble who passed away October 10.

Councilmember Furey asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired CIT employee Dennis Young, who passed away October 10.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of October as **National Arts and Humanities Month** in the City of Torrance to Kathryn Endo-Roberts, Cultural Arts Commission Chairperson. Ms. Endo-Roberts invited everyone to attend the Excellence in Arts Awards to be held on Sunday, October 17, at 2:00 p.m. in the Toyota Meeting Hall.

**6B. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of October as **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month** in the City of Torrance to Little Company of Mary Breast Center Medical Director, Michael Stein, M.D.; Manager Ann Lange; and Nurse Navigator Elizabeth Castillon.

**6C. RESOLUTION NO. 2010-98 RE FIREFIGHTER STEVEN NISEN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-98**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
HONORING FIREFIGHTER **STEVEN NISEN** UPON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Furey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2010-98. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

*To be presented at a later date.*

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Gavin Wasserman, West Torrance Homeowners Association, reported that the HOA's park clean-up day in September was a great success and thanked Community Services staff for their assistance.

**7B.** Gavin Wasserman commended the Police Department for their response to the recent incident at the Lowes home improvement store on Western Avenue.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. REJECTION OF BIDS FOR CITY YARD SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Communications and Information Technology Director and the Public Works Director that City Council reject all bids received for the purchase and installation of a new City Yard security camera system (B2010-02).

**8B. APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 69717**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve Final Tract Map No. 69717;
- 2) Accept a 15 foot radius corner street easement at the east corner of Engracia Avenue and Sartori Avenue; and
- 3) Abandon an unneeded portion of street easement north of the northeast corner of Torrance Boulevard and Sartori Avenue.

This Final Tract Map merges four lots into one lot and creates twelve office condominium units. The project, owned by Capellino and Associates, is located at 1104 Sartori Avenue. The Final Tract Map substantially conforms to and meets all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

**8C. 2009 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

- 1) Approve a sub-recipient agreement with the City of Los Angeles as fiscal agent for the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant, for the period from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2012;
- 2) Designate the Mayor as the City's authorized representative for the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents in connection with the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant.

**8D. DISASTER COUNCIL 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Disaster Council that City Council accept and file the Disaster Council 2009-2010 Annual Report.

**8E. ACCEPTANCE/ALLOCATION 2010 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

- 1) Authorize the acceptance of the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$36,416;
- 2) Establish a trust fund for the deposit of grant monies; and
- 3) Appropriate and allocate the grant monies, and any interest on the funds to the Police Cadet program.

**8F. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for 2009-2010.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. REVISIONS TO FY 2010-2011 OPERATING BUDGET**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Finance Director that Council accept the City Manager's budget proposal, receive public input, and revise or amend to rebalance the revenues and expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year Operating Budget.

With the aid of slides, Finance Director Tsao reviewed the proposed modifications to the FY2010-2011 Operating Budget necessitated by a \$5.5 million shortfall in projected income (per written material of record). He noted that staff has been negotiating with employee organizations regarding the possibility of delaying scheduled pay increases, but no agreement has been reached so budget reductions have been proposed to offset these contractually required compensation adjustments.

Mayor Scotto invited comment on proposed Internal Adjustments totaling \$2,191,500, and no one from the public came forward to speak.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rhilinger moved to approve the proposed Internal Adjustments of \$2,191,500 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Scotto invited comment on the proposed Program Modification, which would eliminate 16 of the 32 Sundays the library is scheduled to be open for a savings of \$48,000.

Gavin Wasserman, Torrance Library Commission, expressed concerns about the impact on students who are unable to use the library during the week.

Responding to questions from the Council, City Librarian Weiner reported that approximately 1100-1400 people visit the library each Sunday and the only other library open on Sundays in the area is the Palos Verdes Peninsula main library

Avery Marshall, Torrance, reported that he and his family greatly enjoy visiting the library on Sundays and expressed the hope that the Council could find another way to save \$48,000.

Jeannie Moorman, AFSCME, Local 1117, noting that she has worked for the library for many years, related her belief that it was no longer financially feasible to keep the library open on Sundays due to the budget deficit. She reported that approximately half the people using the library on Sundays are from other cities according to an informal count by staff.

Mayor Scotto voiced his opinion that Sunday library service is critically important and related his preference that staff return with an alternate proposal to offset the cost.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, City Manager Jackson confirmed that it would be possible for the Torrance Library Foundation to donate funds specifically for this purpose.

Councilmember Rhilinger stated that she would be willing to consider an alternate proposal, but was concerned that Torrance was in effect subsidizing other cities by providing Sunday service, thereby allowing these cities to close their libraries and avoid this expense.

**MOTION:** Mayor Scotto moved to direct the City Manager to return with an alternate proposal retaining Sunday library service hours with suggestions for offsetting the cost. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the proposed reductions in positions totaling \$2,781,000.

Mayor Scotto noted that restoring safety positions would receive top priority when the economy improves and funding is available.

Police Chief Neu stated that the Police Department can deal with the short-term de-funding of the four Police Officer positions as proposed, but emphasized that it would seriously impact the department's ability to maintain service levels if this becomes long-term.

Fire Chief Racowschi echoed concerns about maintaining current levels of service should reductions in positions become long-term.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed concerns about the proposal to eliminate a Deputy City Attorney II position, relating his belief that it would cost the City more in the long run to hire outside legal counsel to handle the workload.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Kathi Galbasin, Torrance CERT Volunteer Coordinator, urged the Council to continue to provide funding for command staff, police and fire personnel, public safety training and equipment so the same high level of safety is maintained and the Fire Department's Class 1 rating is not jeopardized.

Donnie Edmonds, president of Torrance Police Officers Association, emphasized the importance of restoring funding for the four Police Officer positions as soon as the budget permits.

Jeannie Moorman, president of AFSCME, Local 1117, recommended that the Council take a more conservative approach and de-fund or temporarily freeze positions rather than eliminating them since the recession has officially ended and the economy is showing signs of improvement as evidenced by September sales tax figures.

Debbie Collins, president of Torrance City Employees Association, expressed concerns that the proposed elimination of 4 clerical positions would have a tremendous impact on the customer service needs of Torrance residents. She questioned why vacant at-will positions, such as assistant booking manager, announcer, production assistant and customer service representative, were being retained.

City Manager Jackson clarified that the at-will positions mentioned by Ms. Collins are funded by an external fund and do not impact the City's General fund.

Scott Masoya, Torrance, commended the fire department for their rapid response to a house fire on 176<sup>th</sup> Street early this morning, which helped minimize the damage. He noted Torrance's reputation for having outstanding police and fire departments and expressed the hope that the budget deficit would not impact these vital services.

James Duarte, second vice president of Torrance Fire Fighters Association, voiced concerns about the loss of the Air and Lighting unit, noting that it was used at the house fire on 176<sup>th</sup> Street to provide lighting for firefighters while on the roof. He questioned why the cost of scheduled raises for police and fire personnel need to be offset when they should have been already budgeted for when the contract was signed three years ago.

City Manager Jackson advised that the downturn in the economy was not anticipated when the contract was signed and the offsets are necessary because revenues have not met projections.

Mayor Scotto related his belief that the commitment made to police and fire personnel should be fulfilled, noting that he has recommended that they take their scheduled pay raises in January rather than deferring them because waiting until July 2011 could compound the problem.

Doug Hath, vice president of TPOA, reported that the number of officers on the Torrance Police Department is far below the Department of Justice's recommendation

for a city of its size and stressed the need to maintain current pay rates so the department is competitive for the hiring and retention of officers.

Councilmember Rhilinger noted her agreement with Mayor Scotto that it was best to make the proposed reductions in positions now so that the City could honor its contractual obligations to police and fire rather than waiting until July.

Councilmember Furey stated that the downturn in the economy has forced the City to cut its staffing to the bone; commended City employees for maintaining the same outstanding level of service despite severe cutbacks; and promised that positions will be restored as soon as the budget permits.

Councilmember Barnett thanked City employees, department heads, executive staff, and safety personnel for their willingness to work together to resolve the budget deficit and pledged to restore the de-funded police positions when the economy improves.

Councilmember Sutherland noted his agreement with Councilmember Furey and Councilmember Barnett's comments and reiterated his concerns about eliminating the Deputy City Attorney II position.

Councilmember Brewer commented that budget problems could have been much more severe if Torrance was not such a well-run city with employees who are respected and supported by residents.

Councilmember Numark echoed his colleagues' remarks and recommended that staff explore alternative methods for obtaining data that would make it easier to more accurately predict revenues.

Mayor Scotto stated that he was pleased that no City employees have lost their jobs as a result of budget cuts; expressed the hope that positions that have been cut will be restored within the next four years and more added; and commended the union presidents and the City Manager and his staff for their efforts.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rhilinger moved to approve the reductions in positions totaling \$2,781,000 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The City Council briefly recessed from 8:50 p.m. to 9:02 p.m.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the proposed one-time modifications totaling \$593,000. Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Newt Young, Torrance, voiced objections to the City's practice of paying employees' portion of retirement contributions.

Mayor Scotto explained that retirement contributions are subject to the meet and confer process and the City is in the process of renegotiating them for new hires.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved to approve the one-time modifications totaling \$593,000 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The City Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 9:11 p.m. to 9:12 p.m.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Rhilinger reminded the public that “Moonlight Magic” will be held on Saturday, October 23, at Madrona Marsh featuring dinner by the Red Car Brewery and a silent auction. She noted that tickets are \$50.00 and they are available at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, Wild Birds Unlimited at Rolling Hills Plaza, and online at [www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com).

**17B.** Councilmember Barnett invited the public to attend the Torrance Theatre Company’s presentation of the Tony award winning play *Art* at the Torrance Art Museum on Friday, October 15, and Saturday, October 16, at 8:00 p.m., sponsored in part by the Friends of Torrance Theatre Company. He noted that tickets are \$20.00 and reservations can be made by calling 424.243.6882.

**17C.** Councilmember Brewer suggested that City Attorney’s staff bring forward an item prior to the November 2 election concerning the ramifications should Proposition 19, which would legalize marijuana, be approved by voters. It was the consensus of the Council to wait until after the election because Proposition 19 was unlikely to pass.

**17D.** Councilmember Brewer announced that a Halloween Carnival will be held at Wilson Park, on Sunday, October 31, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a costume parade at 6:30 p.m.

**17E.** City Attorney Fellows commented on recent Stanford football team victories.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

***Adjourned in Memory of  
Michael Tamble and Dennis Young***

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on December 7, 2010

Sue Sweet  
Recording Secretary

City Council  
October 12, 2010