

February 5, 2008

**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 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Drevno.

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 Boy Scout Collin Marsaw, Troop 964.

Councilmember Witkowsky 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, January 31, 2008.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland 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 Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

City Manager Jackson announced that Agenda Item 13A would be withdrawn and re-advertised for the February 26, 2008 meeting.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Manager Jackson thanked John Jones, Paula Weiner, and Norm Reeder for their efforts in the Acting Community Services Director position.

City Manager Jackson announced the appointment of John Jones as the new Community Services Director.

Community Services Director Jones thanked all involved for selecting him for this position and introduced family members present at the meeting.

Fire Chief Bongard reminded everyone that ExxonMobil would be conducting their monthly community siren alert testing on Wednesday, February 6, at 11:30 a.m.

Councilmember Nowatka announced that the Armed Forces Standing Committee would meet on February 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Manager's conference room to discuss the Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration.

City Clerk Herbers invited staff and the public to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member Charles Perera on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of February.

City Clerk Herbers announced that nominations for four City Council positions would open on Monday, February 11, and that further information was available by calling 310.618.2870.

Mayor Scotto announced the inaugural run of Rescue 95, the fifth paramedic unit located at Station 5 on Del Amo Boulevard. Fire Chief Bongard, TFFA president Otto Stiefel and Councilmembers Nowatka, Witkowsky, Barnett, and Brewer commented positively on the addition of the fifth paramedic unit, noting the cooperation that was necessary to achieve this goal in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Harold Smith, first Torrance Rose Association president, who passed away January 25.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. PROCLAMATION RE "KASHIWA DAY"**

Mayor Scotto declared February 20, 2008 as "*Kashiwa Day*" in the City of Torrance, with a proclamation read by Councilmember Brewer. The proclamation is to be presented at the Kashiwa delegation celebration banquet on February 24.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Gavin Hachiya Wasserman, spoke on ACE - Advocates for Conserved Elders, a program designed to help prevent elder abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities. He noted that training is provided to volunteers, contact 310.394.9871 x445 for more information.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. PURCHASE OF MOBILE COMPUTERS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FRONT-LINE VEHICLES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director** that City Council approve the purchase of nineteen (19) Panasonic toughbook mobile computers (18 replacements and 1 new computer with accessories) from CDW Government, Inc. in the amount of \$90,686.29 for Fire Department front-line vehicles.

**8B. INVESTMENT REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2007 AND DECEMBER 2007**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Treasurer** that City Council accept and file the monthly investment reports for the months of November and December 2007.

**8C. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT RE EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Acting Community Services Director** that City Council authorize the termination of the agreement with Michael Hogue of Educational Sponsorship Partners (C2003-154) in the amount of \$1,800.

**8D. REVISED CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** and the **Civil Service Commission** that City Council approve the revised class specification for Public Safety Dispatcher.

**8E. APPROVAL OF 2007-08 GRANT FUNDING FOR NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Commission** and the **Community Services Director** that City Council approve grant funding under the year 2007-2008 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies in the amount of \$40,000

**8F. CONTRACT EXTENSION RE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY REMODEL**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council approve a contract amendment with Deems Lewis McKinely Architecture (C2007-022) for the 1st floor Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Remodel (FEAP #327) extending the contract term from December 31, 2007 to March 31, 2009.

**8G. CONTRACT RE CIT RADIO SHOP RENOVATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract with Envirocon Inc. for \$102,382 with a 5% contingency of \$5,119 for construction of the CIT Radio Shop renovation (FEAP #493) (B2007-39);
- 2) Authorize a 10% project management fee of \$10,238; and
- 3) Approve a contract amendment with BOA Architecture (C2006-229) extending the contract term from December 31, 2007 to December 31, 2008 for architectural services for the CIT Radio Shop renovation.

**8H. CONTRACT FOR WATERPROOFING BLOCK WALL AT TORRANCE AIRPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Authorize a contract with Decking Dynamics for \$22,800 and a \$2,000 contingency for waterproofing of an existing block wall at the Torrance Airport; and
- 2) Appropriate \$24,800 from the Airport Enterprise Fund.

**8I. EXTENSION OF CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR FIELD OPERATIONS CLASSIFICATION STUDY**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council authorize extending the consultant services agreement with Grace Consulting (C2006-206) for a Field Operations classification study through June 30, 2008.

**8J. LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH iFLY RE AIRPORT KIOSK**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council approve a license agreement by and between the City of Torrance, a municipal corporation (City) and Flight Partners Inc., d/b/a iFLY for the placement and operation of a kiosk for use by club members in the General Aviation Center “pre-flight room” located at 3301 Airport Drive, Torrance.

**8K. YOUTH COUNCIL DONATION FOR TORBOTS ROBOTIC TEAM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** and the **Torrance Youth Council** that City Council appropriate \$5,000 from the Youth Council Donation account for a grant to the TorBots Robotics Team.

**8L. SUBSIDY OF COSTS FOR TORRANCE SISTER CITY 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council subsidize the costs in the amount of \$971.68 for use of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Toyota Meeting Hall for the Torrance Sister City 35th Anniversary Celebration.

**8M. AGREEMENTS FOR XEROGRAPHIC AND SPECIALTY OFFICE PAPER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a purchasing agreement to Spicers Paper, Inc. of Santa Fe Springs, CA, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for xerographic paper as a cooperative purchase with the County of Los Angeles (LA agreement #42580) from February 6, 2008 through February 5, 2009; and
- 2) Award a purchasing agreement to Liberty Paper & Printing of Vernon, CA in an amount not to exceed \$43,300 for specialty office paper (B2008-03) from February 6, 2008 through February 5, 2009.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8M. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**10A. REVIEW OPTIONS FOR A VOLUNTARY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council continue this item indefinitely regarding the voluntary historic preservation program.

Item was continued indefinitely.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. SUPPLEMENTAL TO 2005-08 TORRANCE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND TORRANCE FIRE CHIEF OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MOU**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt Resolutions pursuant to Memoranda of Understanding amending Resolution No. 2005-75 and Resolution No. 2005-105 setting forth hours, wages, and working conditions for employees represented by the Torrance Fire Fighters Association (TFFA) and Torrance Fire Chief Officers Association (TFCOA).

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan noted that the amendment was necessary to maintain the existing health benefit structure until TFFA and TFCOA contracts expire.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-18**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2005-75 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TORRANCE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (TFFA)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-18. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-19**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2005-105 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TORRANCE FIRE CHIEF OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (TFCOA)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-19. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**12B. SELECTION OF VENDOR RE COLD BEVERAGE VENDING MACHINE SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council select a vendor to provide cold beverage vending machines services and approve an agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California to provide such services.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that three companies submitted proposals to provide cold beverage vending machines at various City facilities and staff was recommending the selection of Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California because their proposal was the most favorable to the City.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Mr. Chaparyan confirmed that Coca-Cola will donate 250 cases of soft drinks and 250 cases of water on an annual basis as part of the agreement, which will be used at various City events.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**12C. APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTEGRITY FINAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that the Mayor appoint an Ad Hoc City Council Committee to review the final report and recommendation from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics and Integrity and develop implementation strategies, budget recommendations, and timelines for the City Council to review.

Mayor Scotto appointed Councilmember Nowatka as Chairman and Councilmembers Brewer and Sutherland as members of the Ad Hoc City Council Committee.

**12D. WELL NO. 6 REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$2,250,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund and approve a project budget to replace Well No. 6 in McMaster Park; and
- 2) Approve a consulting services agreement with Boyle Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$353,598 for design of the Well No. 6 replacement.

Project Manager Ringland reported that the replacement of the well is part of the City's efforts to diversify the water supply and noted supplemental material showing the exact location of the well.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**12E. SUPPLEMENTAL TO ENGINEERS MOU RE PAY INCREASE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution pursuant to the 2007-2010 Memorandum of Understanding Resolution No. 2007-39 setting forth hours, wages, and working conditions for employees represented by the Engineers.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine advised that the supplemental implements pay increases in conjunction with the agreement to move "at will" project manager and transportation manager positions into civil service positions.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2007-39 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE ENGINEERS

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

**13. HEARINGS**

**13A. CUP07-00018, CUP07-00019, DIV07-00012: MUSTAPHA RIAD (RIAD ITANI)**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council authorize the case regarding properties located at 18923 Patronella Avenue and 3531 190<sup>th</sup> Street be continued to the February 26, 2008 City Council meeting, in consideration of the interested parties' scheduling conflicts.

The item was withdrawn and will be re-advertised for the February 26, 2008 meeting.

**13B. PRE07-00016: 5144 ZAKON ROAD – LYNETTE FINLEY**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Planning Commission** that City Council deny the appeal and adopt a Resolution denying a Precise Plan of Development to allow the construction of a new two-story single family residence on property located within the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 Zone at 5144 Zakon Road.

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council uphold the appeal and approve a Precise Plan of Development to allow the construction of a new two-story single family residence on property located within the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 Zone at 5144 Zakon Road.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

With the aid of slides, Planning Manager Lodan briefly reviewed the proposed project, a new two-story residence, noting that 260 square feet have been eliminated and the height has been reduced by 2 feet since the Planning Commission hearing in order to address concerns about size and bulk.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Planning Manager Lodan confirmed that the Planning Commission's denial was based on concerns about the project's Floor Area Ratio (FAR), not view obstruction.

Mayor Scotto recommended, should this project be approved, that it be made clear to the applicant that the view being gained from the new second floor will be considered an "acquired view" and will not be afforded the same protection as an original view when neighbors to the north decide to remodel their home.

Councilmember Witkowsky expressed her preference that this caution be in writing and permanently attached to the case file.

City Attorney Fellows advised that the Hillside Ordinance does not mention the term "acquired view," therefore, there was no definition or standards to apply and no way to formally limit this applicant's right to protest should neighbors to the north decide to remodel. He suggested that the only thing Councilmembers could do at this time was to make their position known at this hearing and trust that their successors will be sensitive to this issue.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced her opinion that the Hillside Ordinance would be easier to administer if 0.50 was the absolute limit for Floor Area Ratio rather than having a

gray area whereby projects with FAR between 0.51 and 0.60 are considered on a case-by-case basis and may be approved at the discretion of Planning Commission or City Council.

City Attorney Fellows advised that the Hillside Ordinance would have to be amended to impose such a limit.

Commissioner Brewer noted that he had voted in the past to approve projects at the higher end of the FAR limit only when there was no view obstruction.

Mayor Scotto expressed disappointment that the project had only been downsized from an FAR of 0.60 to 0.58, noting that a 3,000 square-foot home could be built on this lot without exceeding 0.50., which is still a good sized home.

Councilmember Sutherland indicated that he was inclined to support the project, noting the lack of any objections from neighbors and the fact that an FAR of 0.60 is allowed by right in the rest of the City in the R-1 Zone.

Lynette Finley, 5144 Zakon Road, applicant, reported that this home has been in her family for over 40 years and she would like to modernize and expand it to accommodate her own growing family. She noted that she and her husband also own 5148 Zakon Road, where Mr. Finley's father used to live.

Jack Finley, 5144 Zakon Road, applicant, stated that the project was carefully designed so as to avoid impacting neighbors and includes much larger than required side yard setbacks to mitigate the impact on privacy. He noted that limiting the project to an FAR of 0.50 would result in only approximately 2480 square feet of living space because both the garage (400 square feet) and the stairwell (120 square feet) are included in the calculation of the FAR.

Mayor Scotto expressed concerns that if the Finleys did not own the property at 5148 Zakon Road, the owners would be protesting this project due to view blockage.

Ms. Finley disputed this idea, explaining that the view at 5148 Zakon, as well as at 5144 Zakon, is directly out the back of the property, not to the side.

Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she visited the site and observed that Zakon is about 60 feet higher than the street below (Macafee), which allows residents on Zakon an unobstructed view from the rear of their properties toward South High.

Michelle Irvine, 5149 Zakon, stated that neighbors strongly support the project and believe it will be beneficial to the neighborhood.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

Councilmember Barnett stated that although he was concerned about the project's FAR, especially since there has been talk of imposing an absolute limit of 0.50, he observed that the project would have no significant impact on surrounding properties and he was impressed by the strong neighborhood support, which is very unusual for a Hillside case that has been appealed.

Councilmember Brewer indicated that he was inclined to support the project, since the applicant has made an effort to reduce the square footage and the height in order to address the concerns of the Planning Commission and because he observed no view obstruction.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced support for the project, noting that this is a neighborhood in transition where small outdated homes are being revitalized to accommodate young families.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to uphold the appeal and approve the project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Drevno).

*Resolution of approval to be adopted at a later date.*

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The Council meet as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:32 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.

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**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Barnett noted the once in a lifetime experience in meeting President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger at the Robinson Helicopter facility.

**17B.** Councilmember Brewer echoed comments regarding the Robinson Helicopter visit, noting that Robinson is the world's largest helicopter manufacturer producing more helicopters than Boeing and Sikorsky combined.

**17C.** Councilmember Brewer invited the public to meet Lisa Steadman author of *It's a Breakup not a Breakdown* at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on Saturday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. as part of the library's "Meet the Author" series.

**17D.** Councilmember Witkowsky announced that AARP Tax Counseling for Seniors would be available from February 4 through April 15 at City Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., closed on alternate Fridays and holidays. For more information contact Cindy Snodgrass at 310.618.2898.

**17E.** Councilmember Witkowsky also echoed comments regarding meeting President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger.

**17F.** Councilmember Nowatka announced a fundraiser to benefit the Madrona Marsh Foundation to be held at the Comedy and Magic Club on February 6 at 7:30 p.m. with tickets available for \$15. Call 310.372.1193 or 310.316.9364 for more information.

**17G.** Mayor Scotto noted he was very fortunate to attend the event at Robinson Helicopter and meet with President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger and speak with them one on one and expressed appreciation to the residents of Torrance for the opportunity.

**17H.** Mayor Scotto noted that Robinson Helicopter is hoping to increase employees from 1250 to 2500 within the next few years, which will benefit Torrance by contributing to its economic base, and pledged that the Council will do everything possible to assist Robinson, as well as other businesses that offer good jobs to residents.

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Cultural Arts Commission in the West Annex Commission room, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. **February 12, and February 19, 2008 will be Council dark nights.**

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on March 25, 2008