

March 4, 2003

**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 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, McIntyre, Mauno, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky, and Mayor Walker.

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 Councilmember McIntyre.

Deputy City Clerk Susan Robinson gave the non-sectarian invocation for the meeting.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu 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 passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu 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 passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Walker invited the public to attend a special presentation by Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California, and noted historian, author and USC Professor, at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Meeting Room on Thursday, March 6. He stated that Dr. Starr's address, hosted by the Torrance Public Library Foundation, would focus on his vision of libraries as information and experience centers of the future.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson stated that City Clerk Herbers would give details next week on the Torrance Artist Guild member's works in the City Clerk's office through the month of March.

Fire Chief Bongard reminded everyone that the monthly test of the ExxonMobil siren and the Community Alert system would be Wednesday, March 5, at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Fire Chief Bongard announced that the Torrance Fire Fighters Association would be holding the 31st Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 8, at the Torrance Recreation Center to benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch California Burn Foundation.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced that a City Council Budget Workshop would be held on Tuesday, March 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. PURCHASE AGREEMENT RE BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEM FOR LED TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Recommendation

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

- 1) Authorize a purchase agreement to be issued to Macadee Electrical Construction of Chino Hills, CA in the amount of \$245,791 for the purchase and installation of a battery backup system for traffic signals utilizing light emitting diodes (LED) traffic signal modules (B2003-01); and
- 2) Authorize transfer of funds from Street Services Operating budget in the amount of \$15,791 into a Capital Improvement Fund (FEAP #351) project.

7b. CONTRACT RE DISPOSAL OF NON-HAZARDOUS SOLID WASTE FILL MATERIALS

Recommendation

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

- 1) Award a contract services agreement for the disposal of non-hazardous solid waste fill materials to Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel Corporation; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7c. CONTRACT FOR DESIGN OF REPLACEMENT HVAC CHILLERS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council award a contract to KLG/Holland, LLC of Los Angeles, CA for \$26,250, with a contingency amount of \$1,313 for design services for the replacement of HVAC Chillers at Civic Center Library (FEAP #63) and City Hall (FEAP #52).

7d. ESTOPPEL AGREEMENT FOR MADISON PARK SHOPPING CENTER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Land Management Team** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to an Estoppel Agreement for the property located on Pacific Coast Highway between Madison and Aero Way in the City of Torrance known as Madison Park.

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7d. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. DONATION OF RECYCLING BINS TO TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee** that City Council concur with the recommendation to donate 2,000 14-gallon recycling bins to the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) to assist in the implementation of an effective District-wide classroom recycling program at a cost of \$12,000.

Councilmember Witkowsky commented positively on the proposal to assist Torrance Unified School District with its recycling program, noting the large amount of waste paper generated by schools.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Street Services Director Bell advised that the City will not be involved in the collection of the school district's recycled material.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to concur with the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. PROVISION OF MILITARY LEAVE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution providing for military leave and continuation of salary and certain benefits up to one year for City employees called to active duty with the Armed Forces.

Human Resources Director Winer reported that staff was recommending the adoption of an updated resolution providing for military leave for City employees called to active duty in connection with current and future operations in the Middle East and homeland security operations.

Councilmember Scotto expressed support for the staff recommendation, noting his personal experience with military leave during the Vietnam War.

Councilmember Nowatka reported that this was a hot topic during a recent trip to Washington, D.C. as many organizations are not providing this assistance, which is causing hardships for military personnel, and stated that he was pleased that the City recognizes the importance of supporting its employees.

Mayor Walker noted that the proposed resolution would continue a long-standing City policy.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR MILITARY LEAVE AND CONTINUATION OF SALARY AND CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE ARMED FORCES

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2003-18. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING RE BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEMS FOR LED TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Street Services Director** that City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing the Street Services Director to apply for second round of funding from the California Energy Commission for battery backup systems for City-maintained traffic signals operating with light emitting diode (LED) lights.

Assistant Street Services Director van der Linden reported that the second round of funding would help complete the installation of battery backup systems for LED signalized intersections.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEMS FOR LIGHT EMITTING DIODES (LED)
SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2003-19. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11d. NAMING OF U.S. COAST GUARD VESSELS AFTER CITIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution urging the United States Coast Guard to name its newest class of vessels after cities, specifically naming a vessel after the City of Torrance.

Assistant to the City Manager Keane reported that the proposed resolution was drafted in response to a request from the Council; that once approved, it will be forwarded to the Coast Guard; and that other local cities will be encouraged to do the same.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
URGING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO NAME THE NEW
CLASS OF COAST GUARD VESSEL IN THE "DEEPWATER PROGRAM"
AFTER LOCAL CITIES, AND SPECIFICALLY TO NAME A SHIP AFTER
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2003-20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

11e. CONTINUATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RE CAROLWOOD LANE AND SINGINGWOOD DRIVE

Recommendation

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

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Redevelopment Agency met from 6:15 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16a. Councilmember Lieu reported that the City of Torrance was one of the first cities to implement an enhanced 911 system where calls made from cellular phones are routed directly to 911 operators instead of the California Highway Patrol. He commended Police Chief Herren, Fire Chief Bongard, and the operations staff for the service they provide.

16b. Councilmember Lieu noted his attendance, along with other councilmembers and staff, at the Black History Month celebration hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and that it was an excellent event.

16c. Councilmember Mauno noted that he attended a Homeland Security Conference in the City of Carson along with two other councilmembers. Responding to Councilmember Mauno about federal security clearance, Police Chief Herren stated that he and one other officer on his staff currently have federal security clearance with two other individuals having submitted applications.

16d. Councilmember Mauno announced that the Torrance High School ROTC would be holding a car wash Saturday, March 8, behind Torrance High School.

16e. Councilmember Nowatka echoed comments on the Homeland Security Conference stating that he found it to be extremely valuable.

16f. Councilmember Nowatka agreed that the Black History Month celebration was very well done.

16g. Councilmember Nowatka reported that he had attended the National Association of Work Force Boards in Washington, D. C. and noted that issues of concern included:

- loss of the summer youth employment funds;
- that federal money passing through the State would mean less funds delivered to the local agencies;
- proposals to delete the requirement for business participation on boards;
- lack of local control would mean less Work Force funds for local agencies.

16h. Councilmember Scotto reported on a recent trip to Sacramento to discuss the budget with legislators. He noted that they are facing serious budget cuts; that there was a sense of confusion regarding the extent of the cuts as the State is continuing to lose money; and that they were concerned that they would not be able to make enough cuts this year to significantly reduce the budget deficit. He stated his concern that the State will be taking money from cities in the next two years.

16i. Councilmember Witkowsky commented that the Black History Month celebration was outstanding and inspirational.

16j. Councilmember Witkowsky stated she had staffed the RSVP booth at the Homeland Security Conference, noting that it was an excellent networking opportunity. She commended Torrance's well-established Fire Department CERT program and first responders for the great job they do.

16k. Councilmember Witkowsky wished everyone a happy Fat Tuesday and acknowledged the Volunteer Center for their community activities and services.

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At 6:29 p.m., Mayor Walker ordered a recess. Council reconvened at 6:31 p.m. with all members present.

City Attorney Fellows announced that an emergency situation had occurred requiring immediate action by the City Council. He noted that in order to take action on a matter not listed on the agenda, the California Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Council that immediate action is required and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. He requested that City Council take action to add the item to the agenda and discuss the matter after hearing from City Engineer Burt.

City Engineer Burt notified the City Council that there had been a major failure of a 24" water line on Crenshaw at 235th Street on March 3. He advised that repairs would require that the line be closed from Sepulveda to Lomita Boulevard to allow the line to be de-watered, two valves to be cut in, and replacement of the failed valve. He stated that they had just received notice that a contractor would be able to make the repairs for \$40,000 and requested that City Council take action to approve the emergency repairs as that amount was over the limit of his and the City Manager's authority.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to add the matter to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to approve the expenditure of \$40,000 for emergency water line repairs at Crenshaw and 235th Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

16l. Paul Verner, Service Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Torrance Post 11045, thanked the Mayor and Council for adopting the resolution to continue pay and salary benefits for city employees called to active duty with the armed forces.

16m. Dean Bugenhagen, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 53, thanked the Mayor and Council for adopting the resolution to continue pay and salary benefits for city employees called to active duty with the armed forces.

16n. Ted Doty, Torrance, thanked the Mayor and Council for increasing the Senior Subsidy Program to \$250 for the Ocean Terrace and Coleman Court complexes.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item added to the agenda Friday February 28:

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(California Government Code 54956.9 (c)):

One case

At 6:37 p.m., the City Council recessed to closed session to consider the above item. The Council reconvened at 6:45 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 11, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on May 6, 2003