

March 18, 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 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 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 Mauno.

City Clerk Herbers gave the non-sectarian invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Walker stated that not many cities have the resources to match what the City of Torrance has and as the country readies for war, the City Council wanted to let residents know that the City has been working on disaster preparedness and homeland security measures during the past two years and has a solid plan in place and asked Police Chief Herren to review them.

Police Chief Herren advised that the City has upgraded to a yellow alert, however, there was no specific threat to Torrance and that staff would continue to review and reassess the situation, activating the Emergency Operations Center if they feel it is necessary. He asked for the public's increased awareness by being good witnesses and promptly reporting any suspicious activities. He also asked the public be prepared as they would for any emergency including earthquakes but to continue their normal routines. He reported that the City of Torrance has a disaster plan in place that has been approved by California Office of Emergency Services, noted that they are a part of the South Bay Terrorism Advisory Group through their Terrorism Liaison Officer, and assured the citizens that the City is prepared for many scenarios.

Fire Chief Bongard explained that Fire Department's mission is one of mitigation, should an incident occur; reported that the department has developed new procedures and purchased equipment to deal with bio-terrorism, hazardous materials, and weapons of mass destruction; and noted that the Fire and Police departments are working together to ensure that they are prepared for anything that may happen.

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**

None.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6. **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council receive the presentation of the City Manager's preliminary proposal to balance a projected \$12 million shortfall in the second year of the upcoming Fiscal Years 2003-04 and 2004-05 two year budget cycle, ask questions of staff, receive input from the public and then give guidance to the City Manager in the preparation of the City Budget.

Mayor Walker announced the format of the meeting, noting that the meeting was being televised, that it was one of several meetings, and that actions taken would not be final at this meeting.

City Manager Jackson reviewed the material of record, noting the magnitude of the budget issues facing the City. He discussed the strategy staff was proposing to address the projected \$12 million shortfall and bring the FY2004-05 budget into balance, emphasizing that this was a preliminary proposal; that alternatives were also being presented; and that much work needed to be done before the formal budget was brought forward in May. He commented on growing expenses related to mandated storm water programs and the potential impact on the budget. He noted that in response to concerns about the re-certification program for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, he had asked Fire Chief Bongard to come up with an alternate funding source.

With the aid of slides, Finance Director Tsao presented an overview of the projected budget shortfall and the proposed internal shift of funds.

Department Heads (Building & Safety, City Attorney, City Clerk, City Manager/Council, City Treasurer, Civil Service, Communications & Information Technology, Engineering, Finance, Fire, General Services, Human Resources, Library, Parks & Recreation, Planning, Police, Street Services and Transit) presented each department's proposed 5% reduction scenarios representing \$5,085,514 for 2003-2004 and \$6,682,344 for 2004-2005.

Mayor Walker called a recess at 6:40 p.m.; the City Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reviewed the proposed organizational efficiencies, which would reduce the number of City departments from 14 to 10, the projected savings, and the estimated timeline for implementation (see chart below).

| Departments affected | New Departments proposed <i>(related Commissions)</i> | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| Civil Service <i>Civil Service Commission</i> | Human Resources | FY 2003-2004 | \$109,700 |
| Building & Safety Engineering Planning | Community Development | Part B: FY 2003-2004 Part A: FY 2006-2007 | \$328,200 |
| Library Parks & Recreation | Community Services | FY 2004-2005 | \$353,300 |
| | Communication and Information Technology | FY 2003-2004 | \$104,800 |
| <i>Communications</i> | Police & Fire | FY TBD | \$ TBD |
| Street Services Engineering | Public Works | FY 2003-2004 | \$514,500 |
| NO changes | to Clerk, Treasurer, Finance, General Services or Transit <i>*elimination of this commission to be considered</i> | | |

Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn outlined suggested revenue enhancements (see chart below).

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Airport | Hanger Fees | 2003-2004 | \$350,000 |
| | | 2004-2005 | \$550,000 |
| Police | Weekend Jail Fees | | \$275,000 |
| Finance | Non-exclusive franchise agreement | | \$100,000 |
| Street | Franchise Refuse fee | | \$300,000 |
| Building & Safety | Storm Water Mitigation Fee | | \$100,000 |
| City Clerk | Passport Application fee | | \$ 25,000 |
| Finance | Fee study | | \$480,000 |

City Manager Jackson presented alternatives for balancing the budget (see chart below).

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| Eliminate | Sunday Hours at Library | \$60,500 |
| | 4 th July annual fair & fireworks | \$21,300 |
| | Hazardous Materials Response Team and trailer | \$325,000 |

| | | |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| Reduce/Revise | Recreation Enterprise Fund Subsidy from General Fund by 5% | \$154,000 |
| | Civilians Fire Development plan check responsibilities | \$89,000 |

| | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| New and | Paramedic Transport fee | \$600,000 |
| Increased fees | Paramedic Response to Medical facility | \$35,000 |
| | Annual Fire inspection fee | \$487,700 |
| | Police tower space rental | \$25,000 |
| | Commercial Waste Collection fee | \$150,000 |

City Manager Jackson noted that the proposal before the Council seeks to minimize the loss of service to the public, includes only justified revenue enhancements, and avoids any layoffs of City personnel.

In response to Councilmember Scotto's inquiry regarding the recommendation to close the WALTERIA branch library, City Librarian Buckley discussed other options considered, including rotating branch closures and the elimination of Sunday hours, and explained that it was not possible to achieve a 5% reduction (approximately \$200,000) using these measures.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers, Fire Chief Bongard outlined the proposal to scale back the CERT program and confirmed that it would not affect property insurance premiums should the Fire Department's ISO classification be downgraded from Class 1 to Class 2 due to a reduction in personnel. Commenting on the proposal to eliminate the Hazardous Materials Response Team, he explained that relying on L.A. County to respond to hazardous material incidents would not result in additional fees because property taxes cover this service although it may result in lengthy response times.

Commissioner Lieu commented that as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, he could not support the deep cuts proposed for Fire and Police personnel, noting the City's proximity to possible terrorist targets such as Los Angeles International Airport and the Port of Los Angeles.

In response to Councilmember Scotto's inquiry, Building and Safety Director Isomoto and Fire Chief Bongard provided clarification regarding the proposal to implement commercial/industrial inspection fees and increase building permit fees for new construction to offset the cost of enforcing new storm water mandates.

Councilmember McIntyre related her understanding that the annual 4th of July celebration costs more than the \$21,000 listed. City Manager Jackson indicated that he did not have the exact figure but estimated that the event costs between \$50,000 and \$100,000 with everything included.

Councilmember Mauno expressed concerns about civilianizing the Communications Division of the Police Department. Police Chief Herren advised that replacing sworn officers with civilians in the communications center could increase the workload of officers in the field because the officers have experience, which allows them to handle some problems over the phone instead of having to dispatch officers to the scene.

Mayor Walker expressed support for the suggested revenue enhancements, the new paramedic fees, the annual fire inspection fee, and police tower space rental, but indicated that he did not support implementing a City-run animal control program. He pointed out that while no one wants to cut police and fire positions, should no cuts be made in these two departments which comprise a large portion of the City's budget, other departments could be faced with total elimination. He expressed the hope that audience members who speak in favor of restoring funding for certain items also offer suggestions as to how the budget could be restructured to accomplish this.

Councilmember Witkowsky suggested the possibility of using a small bus to transport seniors on demand instead of the Senior Ride Program, which provides 16 tickets for taxi rides per month for seniors enrolled in the program, as a way of saving money while servicing more people and asked that staff look into this idea.

Mayor Walker expressed concerns that the City could be subsidizing wealthy seniors as opposed to helping those who are needy. Transit Director Whittle advised that people cannot be excluded, however, there can be a differential in fares based on need, as is the case in the Senior Ride Program.

In response to Councilmember Nowatka's inquiry, Fire Chief Bongard provided clarification regarding the new/increased paramedic fees and confirmed that these fees are usually covered by insurance.

Councilmember Nowatka related his experience that having civilian communications officers will increase the workload of police officers in the field and noted that there may be legal restrictions regarding the handling of situations over the phone by non-sworn personnel.

Councilmember Lieu asked about increasing permit fees for film crews shooting movies/commercials in the City. Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn advised that the permit fee is actually a business tax, therefore, no increase was recommended. City Manager Jackson reported that fees for the use of City facilities, i.e. the airport, have been increased and confirmed that film crews are required to pay for police officers who provide security and traffic control.

Councilmember Scotto expressed his reluctance to cut police and fire personnel but noted that without cuts in these departments, other departments would be faced with cuts of between 15 and 20%.

Mayor Walker invited public comment on proposed Fire Department budget cuts.

Tim Cummings, Vice-President of Torrance Firefighters Association, stated that the Fire Department would be harder hit by the 5% budget reduction because virtually all of the proposed cuts eliminate positions versus other departments, which are able to achieve a reduction by cutting materials and supplies. He contended that this elimination of personnel would cause a decrease in the level of service that could endanger residents and firefighters and result in the loss of property. He proposed:

- 1) That revenue enhancements proposed by the Fire Department be used exclusively to prevent cuts in that department;
- 2) That the proposal to combine police and fire dispatch be tabled indefinitely;
- 3) That funding for the new animal control program be denied; and
- 4) That the \$65,000 from paramedic supply fees, which was put into the General Fund for the past two years instead of funding the Fire Captain position as originally intended, be used to offset cuts in the department.

In response to Mayor Walker's inquiry, City Manager Jackson advised that new and increased fees related to the Fire Department total approximately \$1.12 million, leaving a shortfall of \$100,000 to reach the 5% reduction goal.

Direction was given to staff by way of a **6-1 straw vote**, with Councilmember Scotto dissenting, that the use of new and increased fees related to fire were to offset Fire Department reductions (\$100,000 necessary to balance). (Walker/Witkowsky)

Direction was given to staff by way of a **7-0 straw vote** to retain the \$10,000 for CERT training and re-certification. (Walker/Witkowsky)

Mayor Walker invited public comment on proposed Police Department budget cuts.

Devon Guzman, Treasurer of Torrance Police Officers Association (TPOA), expressed concerns that the proposed budget cuts would drastically affect the Police Department's ability to provide the high level of service residents/businesses deserve and have come to expect. Commenting on the proposal to replace 7 sworn officers in the Communications Division with civilians, he reported that an informal survey revealed that up to 67% of calls are handled over the phone without having to dispatch officers to the scene; that using 2002 figures, this could translate into an additional 500 calls per day/167 calls per shift should civilian dispatchers be employed; and that this would increase response times and diminish officers' ability to perform routine patrols. With regard to the civilianization of the Crime Scene Detail (CSI), he explained the varied and specialized duties CSI officers perform; noted that when they are not engaged in criminal investigations, these officers spend time in the field working as an extra police unit; and commented on the difficult task of finding qualified individuals, outside of sworn personnel, to fill these positions. He stated that TPOA was not involved in the budget current proposal, which they adamantly oppose in the interest of public safety, and that the organization would welcome an opportunity to meet with Police Department management and City staff to explore other ways to achieve budget objectives.

In response to Councilmember Nowatka's inquiry, Mr. Guzman confirmed that the 67% figure includes calls for information, which do not require any police response, and indicated that TPOA has taken no position on the combining of Police and Fire dispatching.

Councilmember Nowatka commented that he came very close to voting "no" on the straw vote regarding the Fire Department because, despite very compelling arguments, not all can be held harmless. He expressed the hope that the Fire Department would still find some way to contribute to the reduction of the budget deficit.

Mayor Walker stated that he was encouraged by TPOA's willingness to explore other options and pointed out that the issue of police budget reductions was complicated and could not be resolved at this meeting. He commented on his and his colleagues' commitment not to take officers out of the field but noted that, at the same time, they have an obligation to come up with some savings in this department.

Councilmember Lieu asked about the possibility of obtaining federal funding for public safety personnel. City Manager Jackson advised that the City may receive a small amount for equipment and training, explaining that the federal resources for frontline security are stretched very thin.

Relating his experience with the Congress of Mayors, Mayor Walker noted that every city in the country is trying to obtain federal funding.

Councilmember Witkowsky reported that when she attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D. C., she learned about a sizeable amount of grant funding allocated for homeland security and that she passed the information along to the City Manager's office. She noted that even funding restricted to equipment would still help the budget. She also noted that Councilmember Mauno had mentioned grant funding available for firefighters, which was discussed at the homeland security meeting in Carson.

Fire Chief Bongard advised that \$747 million of grant funding is available; noted that during the most recent round of grant funding, which totaled \$400 million, the City received a grant of \$47,000; and estimated that if the City was selected to receive a grant, the amount would likely be under \$100,000.

Councilmember Witkowsky questioned the opposition to deleting currently unfilled positions in the Police Department when it appears, from all reports, that the department is doing a fine job. Police Chief Herren stated that the Police Department has had a number of unfilled positions for some time due to a tremendous turnover of officers and explained that a series of things have been done to ensure that core functions are maintained, including an increased reliance on overtime, shifting of staff positions, and leaving special assignment positions unfilled. He commented on the detrimental impact this has had on the department, especially in the area of community affairs.

Mayor Walker invited public comment on proposed library budget cuts.

Jeannie Moorman, Vice-President of AFSCME, Local 1117, and Acquisition Supervisor at the library, offered alternative ways of achieving the 5% budget reduction without closing the Waleria branch library. She proposed reducing the \$750,000 budgeted for library materials (books, videos, magazines, etc.) by \$100,000 to \$120,000; eliminating Sunday hours for a savings of \$60,000; and eliminating the mailing of library cards for a savings of \$10,000. She also suggested the possibility of deleting one Senior Librarian position when the person in this position retires next year and having shared supervision at the North Torrance and Henderson libraries as is currently being done at the Southeast and El Retiro libraries, with one Senior Librarian overseeing two branches.

City Librarian Buckley stated that while he would be happy to explore other options, he did not favor reducing the materials budget or expanding shared supervision to larger branches, explaining that it is very difficult for one librarian to supervise two branches and it was only done out of necessity.

Ms. Tara Unverzagt, 5016 Cathann, voiced support for the staff's proposal to close the Waleria branch library, stating that while it pains her to support the closure of a library, she felt it was the only way to maintain the quality of service and resources throughout the rest of the library system. She indicated that she did not favor merging the Library Department with the Parks and Recreation Department because they are completely different organizations with different priorities and philosophies and expressed concerns that doing so would severely impact the library and hinder its ability to qualify for grants due to the revenue-generating nature of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Gloria Jacobs, 5206 Via El Sereno, expressed her opinion that cuts should be more equitable and shared among all branches in the City instead of placing the burden exclusively on the Waleria library and surrounding residents.

Sean Carlson, a South High School student, protested the closing of the Waleria library. He commented on the positive environment the library provides for students after school and suggested that the library close earlier in the evening and/or make use of volunteers in order to save money.

Karen Wheeler, 4034 Bluff Street, submitted a petition in opposition to the Waleria library closure and expressed concerns that it would never be reopened once it is closed. She suggested possible revenue enhancements such as charging a fee for story time and special programs and using interns instead of full-time staff.

John Anagnost, 4022 W. 247th Street, stated that he opposed the closure of the Waleria library and did not believe it was reasonable to shutdown 20% of the City's libraries to achieve a 5% budget cut. He maintained that cuts should be spread throughout the system and encouraged the consideration of reduced library hours. He

suggested that the \$50,000 designated to create a park on donated land at the corner of 252nd Street and Newton be reallocated to keep the library open.

City Manager Jackson clarified that the \$50,000 appropriated for the park are one-time Capital funds and that if the funds are not used for that purpose, they will go back into Capital Budget, which will be re-prioritized.

Sue Moylan, 2610 Ridgeland Road, spoke in opposition to the WALTERIA library closure, relating her experience that it is heavily used by students during after school hours. To enhance revenues, she suggested an earlier closing time; the reduction/elimination of some of the programs; creation of an "adopt-a-shelf" program; and the selling of small items, such as key chains and stickers, to instill community pride.

Rosemary Best, 2222 W. 179th Street, reported that she was involved when Torrance library broke away from L.A. County and that she did not believe the library system belongs in the same department as Parks and Recreation. She urged that WALTERIA library remain open for the benefit of the children and suggested trimming more from other departments.

Adam Taylor, 5402 Via del Valle, stated that the WALTERIA library is a very important resource for children in the immediate area, especially those who do not have transportation to other libraries, and maintained that its closure would be very detrimental to the community.

Hannah Saville, 19325 Sturgis Drive, stated that the 36,000 people, who live in the WALTERIA area and represent 26% of the City's population, should not be ignored. She proposed that the library be supervised by a Librarian I, instead of a Senior Librarian, and suggested charging for audio-visual materials to enhance revenues.

Josey Vanderpas, President of WALTERIA Homeowners Association, 4308 Newton Street, reported that WALTERIA residents were willing to do whatever necessary to keep the library open, including paying a fee to use it. She stated that the library is the last meeting place in the WALTERIA community and urged that it remain open.

A resident at 3809 Newton Street, name inaudible, stated that it would be a crime to close the WALTERIA library.

Morgan Tookey, 652 Calle Miramar, expressed the hope that the burden could be shared among all the City's libraries and that the WALTERIA branch could remain open.

Basic direction was given to staff by way of a **7-0 straw vote** to explore alternate reductions to keep the WALTERIA branch library open. (Scotto/McIntyre)

Councilmember Mauno commented that libraries are more than just buildings with books as they also serve as a meeting place for seniors.

Councilmember Lieu noted that people who wish to help the library could join Friends of Torrance Library as he and his wife have done and suggested that the Torrance Chamber of Commerce might be interested in starting an Adopt-a-Library program similar to their Adopt-a-School program.

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The Council recessed from 9:10 p.m. to 9:27 p.m.

Mayor Walker announced that the Budget Workshop was being continued to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, at which time the City Manager would return with additional information.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2003

7b. INTERAGENCY SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ACCESS SERVICES INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Transit Director** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to an Interagency Service Transfer Agreement with Access Services Inc. to participate in the Free Fare Program.

7c. APPROPRIATION FOR REMOTE ACCESS DATA NETWORK EQUIPMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Acting Information Technology Director** that City Council approve the appropriation of \$15,000 from the Data Communications Replacement Fund and authorize the purchase of a Cisco PIX 515 Firewall in the amount not-to-exceed \$15,000 from Cisco Systems, Inc.

7d. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT RE SURVEYING SERVICES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Engineering Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to consulting services agreement C2002-060 with Case, Stanford & Associates, Inc. to extend the agreement term to March 19, 2004 for providing engineering survey services for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP); and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said amendment.

7e. EMERGENCY REPAIRS RE CRENSHAW BLVD. AND 235TH STREET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Engineering Director** that the City Council:

- 1) Authorize the Engineering Director to make emergency repairs of the asphalt pavement that is collapsing over the Los Angeles County Storm Drain that crosses Crenshaw Boulevard at 235th Street; and
- 2) Appropriate \$30,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund for the emergency repairs.

7f. CONTRACT WITH CUBIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Transit Director** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a contract with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc., to purchase Universal Fare System equipment (FEAP #388) for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,315,995.

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

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. **IMPLEMENTATION OF POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE NPDES STORM WATER PERMIT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Urban Stormwater Committee (USC)** that City Council adopt an Urgency Ordinance to amend Article 1 of Chapter 10 of Division 4 of the Torrance Municipal Code to replace language enabling the City to comply with the updated requirements of the Storm Water Permit for the Los Angeles Region. The Urban Storm Water Committee further recommends that City Council approve a summary of the ordinance for publication.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto reported that the proposed Urgency Ordinance would provide for the implementation of the updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permit renewed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in December 2001, noting that the requirements have increased substantially.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 3531

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND CITY PROPERTY BY CONTROLLING DISCHARGES OF POLLUTANTS AND PROHIBITING ILLICIT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES BY REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 10 OF DIVISION 4 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE, REPEALING SECTION 43.4.3 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 10 OF DIVISION 4 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 43.4.3 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SWEEPING LITTER ONTO PUBLIC PROPERTY

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3531. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lieu and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to approve the ordinance summary for publication. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. **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.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto reported that the City's consultant continues to monitor the slope; that following a recent rainstorm, the slide moved another 1½ feet; and that the temporary fence at the bottom held and prevented any further loss of homes.

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

11c. **SCHEDULING OF 2003-04 OPERATING BUDGET WORKSHOPS/HEARINGS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council approve dates for community meetings, workshops and hearings on the City's Fiscal Year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 operating budget.

Following a brief discussion, this item was deferred to March 25, 2003.

11d. **FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PROGRAM FOR FY 2002-03**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Urban Stormwater Committee (USC)** that City Council approve the program budget to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fiscal Year 2002-03.

Considered out of order, see page 13.

12. **HEARINGS**

12a. **CONSIDERATION OF NEW FEES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Building & Safety Director** and the **Fire Chief** that City Council:

- 1) Continue the public hearing regarding proposed fees for the enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for new building construction at 20% of the building permit cost and the commercial/industrial inspection program at \$27/\$54/\$107 per year for small/medium/large businesses; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution establishing the new fees.

Mayor Walker 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.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto outlined the staff recommendation to implement two fees to recover costs associated with the enforcement of requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In response to Councilmember Scotto's inquiry, Fire Marshal Hall provided clarification regarding the classification of small/medium/ large businesses.

Mayor Walker commented that the fees seem very low for the inspection program. Fire Marshal Hall advised that the program requires inspections twice within a five-year period and that the annual fees will recover the cost to operate the new program and start-up costs spread over five years. City Manager Jackson advised that the fees must offset the actual costs and that staff will return after the first year with a reassessment of the fees.

Mayor Walker expressed concerns about the burden unfunded mandates place on local governments.

City Attorney Fellows confirmed that Councilmember Scotto was eligible to vote on this matter despite the fact that he owns a business which will be impacted by the new fees.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call votes.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IMPOSING FEES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2003-22. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda Item 11d was considered out of order at this time.

11d. FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PROGRAM FOR FY 2002-03

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Urban Stormwater Committee (USC)** that City Council approve the program budget to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Fiscal Year 2002-03.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto outlined the costs to be absorbed by the City related to the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to concur with the Urban Stormwater Committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Redevelopment Agency met from 10:02 p.m. to 10:03 p.m.

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16a. Councilmember Lieu asked that, regardless of views of the conflict with Iraq, people would support the Armed Forces and their families.

16b. The entire City Council echoed Councilmember Lieu's sentiments.

16c. Councilmember Mauno reported that he and Councilmember Witkowsky attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., where the focus was on Homeland Security.

16d. Councilmember McIntyre congratulated the Torrance Symphony for a wonderful concert on Saturday. She announced a Symphony fund-raiser scheduled for June 21 with tickets available for \$25.00.

16e. Councilmember Nowatka commended the Torrance Police Department for the recent arrest of four parolees that cleared many felonies.

16f. Councilmember Scotto commented that the City's problems seem insignificant compared to what others are facing and expressed the hope that all of our service men and women would return safe and sound.

16fg. Councilmember Witkowsky also reported on the National League of Cities Conference, stating that a lot of good ideas were brought back and many connections were made.

16h. Mayor Walker commented on Congresswoman Jane Harman's efforts to obtain federal funds for first responders, but noted that cities cannot rely on federal or state governments to get through these problems.

16i. Mayor Walker announced a track meet at West High School on March 29 and encouraged public support.

16j. Mayor Walker expressed pride in staff for their work on the budget.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:12 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at 5:30 p.m. for a Budget Workshop, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in 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

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary