

**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 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember McIntyre.

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 the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – City May Initiate Litigation, 18C) Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Attorney, pursuant to California Government § 54957.6, 54956.9 (c), and 54957.

The City Council reconvened at 7:12 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Community Services Director Barnett.

Councilmember Sutherland gave the non-sectarian invocation.

Sound Union Quartet sang the national anthem.

**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, May 3, 2007, with an addendum posted on Friday, May 4, 2007 (Agenda Item 12B).

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 Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Brewer announced that the 2nd budget workshop/hearing would be held on Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Fire Chief Bongard announced that Fire Service Day would be Saturday, May 12, with an Open House at all fire stations from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and fire demonstrations conducted in the SCROC parking lot at 11 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Police Chief Neu announced that Peace Officers Memorial Week/Blue Ribbon Week would be May 13 through May 19 with the Torrance Police Memorial Service to be held on Wednesday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Toyota Meeting Hall.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2007-47 RE GENE BARNETT

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR GENE BARNETT UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-47. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

Mayor Scotto presented the Resolution to Gene Barnett, who accepted with appreciation.

Mayor Scotto, each Councilmember, and City Manager Jackson commended Mr. Barnett for his service to the City and wished him well in his retirement.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE “LETTER CARRIER FOOD DRIVE DAY”

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring Saturday, May 12, 2007 as **Letter Carrier Food Drive Day** in the City of Torrance to Willie Ann Hawkins, Customer Service Manager; Steve Kelly, Branch President; and Mimi Ritz, Food Drive Coordinator on behalf of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Residents were encouraged to participate in the food drive by leaving non-perishable food items near their mailboxes on Saturday, May 12, for pick up by their letter carrier.

6C. PROCLAMATION RE “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of May 2007 as **Older Americans Month** in the City of Torrance to Commission on Aging Chairperson Art Callen.

6D. RECOGNITION OF 2007 OLDER AMERICANS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mayor Scotto presented plaques to Penny Rahmeyer and Bea Virobik as recipients of the 2007 Older Americans Award. Mayor Scotto noted that Ms. Rahmeyer has been a foster parent for 43 years and has welcomed more than 140 children, many with severe medical problems, into her home. He noted that Ms. Virobik has been involved with several local organizations and serves as manager of the Torrance Focal Point, which provides assistance to older adults and their families in seeking access to elder services in the community.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. John Bailey stated that he was pleased that the Coastliners Sound Union Quartet could sing the national anthem at this meeting to show their respect for the great job Community Services Director Barnett has done and noted that the Coastliners will be performing May 18 – 20 in Hermosa Beach, with information available at www.coastliners.org.

7B. Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, invited everyone to attend SHOT's meeting on May 10, at 7:00 p.m., at West Presbyterian Church, which will feature Environmental Quality Commissioner Paul McCabe speaking on "green buildings." She encouraged the Council to take action on historic preservation.

7C. Anna Nichols stated that residents of mobile home parks are being economically evicted from their homes due to unfair business practices by the parks' owners Kort & Scott/ Sierra Management, and submitted a petition signed by 300 residents of Knolls Lodge, Knolls Manor and Royal Western, requesting that affordable housing be maintained. She reported that residents were being asked to sign long-term leases with automatic increases much greater than the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

7D. Albertine Teahan, resident, expressed concerns about rent increases at the Palm Terrace Apartments.

7E. The regional manager for Sierra Corporate Management (name inaudible/no speaker card) reported that the company, which has owned Knolls Lodge and Knolls Manor mobile home parks for nine years, provides \$25,000 annually in rental assistance to park residents and established a resident assistance fund in December 2006 that provides for repairs, emergency aid, groceries and more.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2007

8B. PURCHASE OF POLICE PORTABLE RADIOS

Recommendation

The **Communications and Information Technology Director** and the **Chief of Police** recommend that City Council:

- 1) Approve the purchase of 320 Motorola XTS5000 portables radios, 100 spare batteries, 250 carrying cases, and 50 lapel microphones;
- 2) Award a sole source purchase order to Motorola in care of Advanced Electronics, Inc. of Redondo Beach, CA, in the amount of \$943,761.60 for the purchase of the radios and accessories; and
- 3) Appropriate and allocate \$25,374 from the City's Trust and Agency Fund to FEAP #436.

8C. DONATION OF USED RADIO REPEATERS TO CITY OF CLAREMONT

Recommendation

The **Communications and Information Technology Director** recommends that City Council approve the donation of three (3) used Motorola Micor radio repeaters to the City of Claremont to sustain our Public Safety radio communication interoperability with them.

8D. SECOND AMENDMENT TO ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY LEASE

Considered separately, see pages 4-5.

8E. SUB-LEASE TO COMERICA BANK AT TORRANCE TOWN CENTER

Recommendation

The **City Manager** recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to sign a letter consenting to a Sub-Lease at Torrance Town Center for Comerica Bank.

8F. RENEWAL OF LEASE FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Recommendation

The **Land Management Team** recommends that City Council authorize a renewal of lease by and between the City of Torrance and the Federal Aviation Administration (Lease # DTFAWP-07-L-00011) approximately 2380 square feet of space in the Air Traffic Control Tower located at 3115 Airport Drive; and that a Facilities Equipment Automation Project (FEAP) be created in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to provide for certain repairs to the FAA control tower.

8G. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSOLETE VEHICLES

Recommendation

The **General Services Director** recommends that City Council authorize Ken Porter Auctions, of Gardena, CA to facilitate the sale of nineteen (19) surplus/obsolete vehicles.

8H. APPROPRIATION FOR INCREASE IN WATER COSTS

Recommendation

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council authorize an additional appropriation of \$500,000 in water costs in the Water Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 which is offset by the increase in Water revenues.

MOTION: Councilmember Drevno moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8H, with the exception of 8D. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

Consent Calendar Item 8D was considered separately at this time.

8D. SECOND AMENDMENT TO ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY LEASE

Recommendation

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council authorize a Second Amendment to lease by and between the City of Torrance, a Municipal corporation, referred to as the "City," and Robinson Helicopter Company, Inc., a California corporation, referred to as "RHC".

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine briefly reviewed the proposed amendment to Robinson Helicopter Company's lease with the City, which would allow the storage of jet or turbine fuel for the manufacturing and testing of helicopters on Parcel 23. He explained that the existing lease allows for the storage of jet or turbine fuel on other parcels included in the leasehold and that the proposed amendment would allow a new fueling facility to be built adjacent to the existing one for the purposes of convenience and safety. He noted supplemental material available at the meeting.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Mr. Sunshine confirmed that the lease specifically prohibits the sale of jet or turbine fuel and that Robinson Helicopter is the only leasehold on the airport allowed to store this type of fuel.

Joe Arciuch, resident, voiced objections to allowing Robinson Helicopter Company to store jet or turbine fuel, contending that doing so would set a precedent and offer an excuse for other fixed-base operators (FBOs) at Torrance Airport to demand the same treatment. He noted that the ban on jet fuel at the airport has been consistently upheld by past City Councils.

Frank Rizzardi, representing Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, provided background information regarding the City's decision to ban the sale jet fuel at Torrance Airport and echoed concerns that allowing Robinson Helicopter to store it would open the door for other airport businesses to demand the same treatment.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that Robinson Helicopter Company has its headquarters in Torrance; related her belief that the City has an obligation to allow the company to have access to fuel necessary for the manufacture of its helicopters; and sought to dispel concerns that allowing Robinson Helicopter to store jet fuel for this limited purpose would encourage more jets to fly in and out of Torrance Airport.

Kurt Robinson, vice president of Robinson Helicopter Company, provided background information about the company, which has been located at Torrance Airport since 1975. He explained that the noise from helicopters is primarily generated by tail rotors, not the engine, and that his company prides itself on producing some of the quietest helicopters in the world. He reported that the company's pilots fly specific routes designed to minimize noise to residential neighborhoods and invited anyone with concerns about noise to contact him.

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

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. MEMORANDUM OF INTENT FOR TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION

Recommendation

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council approve a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) outlining the deal points for a Successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for employees within the Torrance Professional Parks & Recreation Employee Organization bargaining unit.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine noted that the wage and benefit package was within the parameters established by the City Council.

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 McIntyre).

12B. MEMORANDUM OF INTENT FOR TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES ASSOC. AND TORRANCE RECURRENT RECREATIONAL EMPLOYESS ORG.

Recommendation

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council approve a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) outlining the deal points for a Successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for employees within the Torrance City Employees Association and Torrance Recurrent Recreational Employees Organization bargaining units. *(Item was added Friday, May 4, subsequent to posting of the agenda on Thursday, May 3, 2007)*

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that the wage and benefit package was within the parameters established by the City Council.

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 McIntyre).

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The Council recessed from 8:43 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.

The Council convened in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency at 8:55 p.m. and Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 5A was considered concurrently with City Council Agenda Item 13A.

13. HEARINGS

13A. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007-2009

Recommendation

The **Finance Director** recommends that City Council open the first public hearing and budget workshop on the City of Torrance proposed two-year operating budget for Fiscal Years 2007-2009.

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, Finance Director Tsao provided an overview of the proposed 2007-2009 Operating Budget, noting that the budget is balanced and projected to remain balanced for the next five years. He discussed contingency plans to deal with the potential loss of \$6 to \$8 million in revenue from utility users' tax from long-distance telephone calls and explained the proposal to prepay annual PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) costs to generate additional revenue. He also discussed plans to set aside funds to explore the acquisition of property on Crenshaw Boulevard, which could potentially be used for a transit facility or a fire station/ fire training facility, and for the development of open space at the end of Lomita Boulevard at Anza Avenue.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the following proposed program modifications: 1) City Treasurer's office - addition of one account clerk to process cash deposits from parking citations; 2) Communications and Information Technology Department - addition of two technician analysts and one systems analyst; 3) Community Services Department - increased funding to expand library operating hours and to provide concerts and movies at parks; 4) Fire Department - addition of a full-time Nurse Coordinator position to replace the existing contract position; 5) General Services Department - addition of one half-time graphics designer, bringing the total to two full-time positions, and additional operating resources for the Cultural Arts Center; 6) Human Resources - addition of one intern in Human Resources to assist in Risk Management; 7) Police Department - reallocation of one typist clerk position to a records supervisor position, the reallocation of one vacant service officer position to administrative analyst position in Research and Training Division, the addition of one public safety communications position in the joint dispatch center, and an increase in resources for animal control services.

Information Technology Director Shigaki provided additional information regarding proposed program modifications in the CIT Department.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that she had earlier requested that consideration be given to providing WiFi throughout the City.

City Manager Jackson recommended that this issue be discussed during consideration of the Capital Budget as it involves a significant investment.

Finance Director Tsao noted that the budget also includes annual funding for the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation and sets aside \$365,000 annually for a fifth paramedic unit.

City Manager Jackson clarified that the Council would be approving the fifth paramedic unit in concept only because its staffing is subject to the labor negotiation process.

Mayor Scotto suggested that consideration be given to the following possible additions to the budget: 1) Funding to digitalize the *Torrance Herald* and the *Peninsula Press* for posting on the Torrance Library's website; 2) Rental assistance for low-income mobile home residents; and 3) Acquisition of a police armored vehicle (Bear Cat).

Councilmember Witkowsky requested that staff explore the possibility of offering rental assistance to low-income seniors who live in apartments, as well as mobile homes.

In response to Councilmember Nowatka's inquiry, City Manager Jackson confirmed that the budget includes ongoing funding for the City's Rose Parade float.

Councilmember Nowatka requested information about the proposed additional subsidy of \$285,000 for the Cultural Arts Center Fund.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, requested that consideration be given to increasing the level of staffing at the airport's Noise Abatement Center from a half-time to a full-time position.

Mary Ann Reis, Engracia Avenue, expressed concerns about the impact of increases in water and trash bills on those who must live on a fixed-income.

Cliff Numark, member of Parks and Recreation Commission, voiced support for the proposed funding for the expansion of library hours, concerts in the park, and added personnel in the CIT department.

Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, stressed the importance of digitizing the *Torrance Herald* and the *Peninsula Press* as they offer the best record of Torrance's history from 1914 to 1970 and they are rapidly deteriorating in their current form. She noted that the project is expected to cost approximately \$60,000; that the Historical Society has pledged \$20,000; that the Library Division is working with the Historical Society to raise an additional \$20,000 through various community groups; and that \$20,000 is needed from the City to fully fund the project.

Otto Stiefel, President of Torrance Fire Fighters Association (TFFA), stated that his organization agrees that a fifth paramedic unit is needed, but does not feel that peak-hour staffing would best serve the citizens of Torrance. He reported that staffing for the Fire Department has not been increased in approximately 20 years, while the volume of calls has continued to rise each year and this trend is expected to continue due to the City's aging population. He explained that approximately 80-90% of the 1400 new housing units built in Torrance over the past few years are for those 55 years of age and older and there also has been a great increase in the conversion of single-family homes to elder care facilities. He stated that TFFA has offered potential solutions for funding a fifth paramedic unit with 24-hour staffing, including expanding emergency services to provide ambulance service, increasing Emergency Medical Service (EMS) fees, and charging fees for the conversion of single-family residences into elder care facilities. He commended this Council and previous Councils for their commitment to providing the community with outstanding emergency services.

Bonnie Mae Barnard, Gramercy Avenue, requested that funds be budgeted to educate Community Development staff about historic preservation and for the hiring of a historic preservation expert.

Councilmember Witkowsky requested additional information regarding the volume of emergency medical services (EMS) incidents. She expressed the hope that the fifth paramedic unit could eventually be staffed 24 hours a day.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to continue the public hearing on the 2007-2009 Operating Budget to Tuesday, May 15, 2007. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

13B. CUP06-00021, DIV06-00018: 1829 CABRILLO AVENUE (LA CHARITE)

Recommendation

The **Planning Commission** and **Community Development Director** recommend that City Council deny an appeal and take the following action on property located in the R-3 zone at 1829 Cabrillo Avenue:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit to allow construction of a three-unit condominium project; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving a Division of Lot for condominium purposes.

CUP06-00021 and DIV06-00018 / DENNIS LA CHARITE

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, Sr. Planning Associate Santana briefly reviewed the proposed three-unit condominium project; shared photographs of the surrounding neighborhood; and noted that the project complies with all R-3 development standards and does not require any Variances or Waivers. He reported that the Planning Commission voted to approve the project by a vote of 5-1, with one commissioner dissenting due to concerns about the project's compatibility with the neighborhood.

Greg Robinson, Arlington Avenue, voiced objections to the proposed project, contending that it's too large for this site and lacks usable open space. He expressed concerns about the project's impact on traffic and parking. He reported that units in a similar project by the same developer at 1918 Cabrillo Avenue are being marketed as two-bedrooms "plus," rather than two bedrooms, as originally approved, which seems to indicate that the dining room is being converted into another bedroom without providing the required additional parking.

Don Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance (SHOT), suggested that the existing units could be renovated and a two-story addition built on the rear of the property, which would be more in keeping with the neighborhood. He expressed concerns that Torrance's history was being lost with the continued demolition of historic structures and their replacement with condominiums. He urged the Council to deny the Division of Lot and require that this parcel remain as one lot.

Nina McCoy, 220th Street, reported that this developer has a history of buying up property in old Torrance, tearing down existing structures and replacing them with condominiums. She maintained that the developer has no interest in the community other than making a profit and urged the Council to deny the project, thereby, preventing him from chipping away at the core of the historic downtown area.

Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, submitted a letter from Gordon Oschlager, an architect specializing in historic preservation, in which he maintains that the existing duplex on the site is a contributing structure to an area of Torrance that is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because of its unique plan and the involvement of the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape architecture firm, therefore, the California Environmental Quality Act must be considered in any approval of construction plans that would adversely affect this historic resource.

Ms. Barnard referred to a letter previously submitted from Susan Brandt Hawley, a lawyer specializing in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) issues related to historic preservation, in which she contends that an environmental impact review is required before the project may go forward because a fair argument has been presented that the existing structure is a contributing structure to a potential historic district.

The Council recessed from 11:00 p.m. to 11:03 p.m.

Mary Ann Reis, Engracia Avenue, called for the retention of front units.

Dennis La Charite, applicant, reported that the existing building is not salvageable and he has worked very hard with City staff to come up with a project that blends with historic structures in the area. He related his experience that new construction enhances a neighborhood and prevents it from becoming blighted. He noted that he is a longtime Torrance resident, who is involved in the community.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced support for the project, noting that it complies with all development standards. She related her belief that it would be unfair to require the developer to retain the existing structure, which is in very poor condition, when there is no Historical Protection Overlay Zone in place.

City Attorney Fellows advised that submitting letters at the last minute when neither staff nor the Council have adequate time to assimilate them does not aid the decision-making process and reiterated an earlier request that such items be submitted to staff prior to Planning Commission action. He requested that the hearing be continued for two weeks so he could review the state of the record with respect to any argument that the existing structure qualifies as a historic resource.

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved to continue the hearing to May 22, 2007. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

Community Development Director Gibson announced that the hearing would not be re-advertised as it was continued to a date certain.

14. APPEALS

14A. SNP06-00008: NATIONAL SPORTS GRILL

Recommendation

The **Environmental Quality Commission** and the **Community Development Director** recommend that the City Council deny the appeal for an electronic readerboard sign for the National Sports Grill located at 3210 Sepulveda Boulevard in the C-3 zone. **SNP06-00008: NATIONAL SPORTS GRILL (Tony Garcia)**

With the aid of slides, Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reviewed the request for an electronic readerboard sign at the National Sports Grill located at 3210 Sepulveda Boulevard. She noted that the electronic readerboard sign replaced a previously

approved manual readerboard sign and that it was installed without benefit of permit. She advised that the Environmental Quality Commission voted to deny the sign because it does not comply with Electronic Readerboard Guidelines, which recommend that this type of signage be reserved for large, multi-tenant developments or for public service announcements.

Councilmember Witkowsky expressed concerns that the sign could be distracting for motorists as it is located mid-block on a busy street.

Ms. Cessna advised that should the sign be approved, the copy will have to remain static 3-4 seconds in conformance with Caltrans standards for readerboard signs.

Councilmember Brewer related his experience that readerboard signs often contain too much information and are difficult to read even when stopped at intersections.

Debra Kerr, representing the National Sports Grill, emphasized that the electronic readerboard sign is the same size and in the same location as the previously approved manual readerboard sign. She explained that electronic readerboards are preferable because letters are sharper and illuminated, making them easier to read, and they are safer because they can be changed by computer instead of by employees perched on a ladder. She further explained that the National Sports Grill is a sporting event-oriented business and the readerboard sign provides an opportunity to clearly and succinctly advertise these events, which are vital to the business's success.

Ms. Kerr noted that the applicant has agreed to all the recommended conditions should the sign be approved, including that there shall be no blinking or flashing copy or graphics; that the sign will be extinguished at the close of business each night; and that if there are any complaints about the sign, the applicant will work with staff to resolve them.

Mayor Scotto questioned why the sign was installed before a permit was obtained.

Robert Towers, representing National Sports Grill, reported that two sign companies bid on replacing the sign, and one company recommended obtaining a sign permit and the other, which was the company that installed the sign, did not because it was felt that this was a "like for like" replacement. He apologized for this error.

Mayor Scotto indicated that he favored some kind of penalty, should the sign be approved, to deter others from installing signs without permits.

Ms. Cessna advised there are no provisions in the Code for penalties, however, permit fees can be doubled.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Ms. Cessna confirmed that the sign would be inspected to ensure that it is constructed in accordance with building codes and meets all safety requirements if it is approved.

Mr. Towers emphasized the importance of the readerboard sign to the success of the business.

Councilmember Sutherland stated that he does not find readerboard signs offensive and favors allowing them if they can help a business.

Councilmember Drevno indicated that she had no objection to the sign but felt that permit fees should be doubled because the applicant was informed that a permit was required but chose to go with another sign company to avoid this expense.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to approve the appeal and approve the electronic readerboard sign, as conditioned, with the doubling of permit fees. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember McIntyre).

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Witkowsky reported that the West Nile Virus has been found in California and urged everyone to apply mosquito repellent and wear protective clothing when engaging in outdoor activities and to mosquito-proof their homes by installing screens and eliminating all standing water.

17B. Councilmember Brewer noted that on Saturday, May 5, the Torrance Youth Council awarded "Beat the Odds" scholarships to five seniors from Torrance high schools.

17C. Councilmember Nowatka reminded the public about the upcoming Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration, May 18 through May 20, which will include static displays at Del Amo Fashion Center throughout the weekend; two concerts by the United States Air Force band on Friday, May 18, at the Armstrong Theatre; and the Armed Forces Day parade on Saturday, May 19, along Torrance Boulevard at 1:30 p.m.

17D. Mayor Scotto announced National Teachers Appreciation Week, May 6-12, and encouraged students and their parents to recognize teachers during this week.

17E. Mayor Scotto announced a blood drive to be held at the Civic Center on June 13, between 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

17F. Bonnie Mae Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, noted that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has declared May as "Historic Preservation Month" and suggested that the City of Torrance do the same.

17G. Bonnie Mae Barnard recommended that trees be planted along Cabrillo Avenue from Sepulveda Boulevard north and encouraged local nurseries to donate trees for this purpose.

17H. Don Barnard, Save Historic Old Torrance, reported that he received an invitation to attend the Los Angeles Conservancy's 26th annual Preservation Awards.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, May 15, 2007 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/ Frank Scotto
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on July 17, 2007