

May 11, 1999

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee*, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker, and Mayor Hardison.

*Councilmember Lee arrived at 5:43 p.m.

*Councilmember Lee left City Hall at 10:00 p.m.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), and 54956.9(b)(3)(A)(B), and 54956.8, at 5:40 p.m. the Council recessed into a closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the agenda matters listed under Items 16a. (Conference with Labor Negotiator), 16b. (Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation) and 16d. (Real Property-Conference with Real Property Negotiator).

The Council returned to open session at 7:30 p.m. with no action having been taken in closed session.

The adjourned regular meeting of the Torrance City Council reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

Scout Aaron Maass, Boy Scout Troop #310, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Herbers gave the invocation for the meeting.

Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Ella Schwartz, daughter of Sam Levy. The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the City of Torrance Teen Center. Funeral Services will be private.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Lee 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 Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved that, after the City Clerk has read aloud that 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 Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Transportation Committee

Tuesday, May 10, 1999, 5:30 p.m.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Taxi Ordinance

Concert by U.S. Navy Band, San Diego

Friday, May 14, 1999, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

James Armstrong Theatre

Call (310) 781-7171 for Free Tickets

40th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade

Saturday, May 15, 1999, 2:00 p.m.

Crenshaw & Torrance Boulevards

May 14-16 Displays Del Amo Fashion Center

City Yard Open House

Saturday, May 22, 1999, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

20500 Madrona Avenue

Demonstrations, Displays, Refreshments and Giveaways

“A Quilt of Many Colors”

A Multicultural Celebration

Saturday, May 22, 1999, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

Cultural Displays, Live Entertainment

Budget Workshops

Wednesdays, May 26 & June 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Budget Hearings

Tuesdays, June 8 & June 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers – City Hall

Mayor Hardison announced that the Budget Workshop scheduled for May 26 has been cancelled but the remaining workshops and hearings will proceed as scheduled.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **RESOLUTION NO. 99-44**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO REAR ADMIRAL JAY A. CAMPBELL, UNITED STATES NAVY, FOR SERVING AS GRAND MARSHAL OF THE 40TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE AND OBSERVANCE

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-44. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison announced the resolution would be presented at a later date.

6b. **PROCLAMATION RE "FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS DAY"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Wednesday, May 12, 1999 as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in the City of Torrance to Roseanne Green, South Bay Fibromyalgia Support Group, who stated that the City of Torrance is one of the best cities in the entire area for providing information about this chronic illness. Mrs. Green encouraged patients with this illness to contact both the Torrance Memorial Center and Torrance Adult Schools for classes designed to help people help themselves.

6c. **PROCLAMATION RE "A DAY OF WOMEN'S WELLNESS DAY"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Friday, May 14, 1999 as "A Day of Women's Wellness Day" in the City of Torrance to Jackie Bambery, Marketing Communications Coordinator, Little Company of Mary Health Services. Ms. Bambery appreciated the support of the City of Torrance and thanked the Council.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of the Consent Calendar items a through h as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 13, 1999**

7b. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 52600**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 52600, located at 1944 237th Street, which substantially conforms to and has met all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

7c. **RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE ARC/INFO SOFTWARE FOR ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENTS TO EXPAND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Engineering Department that City Council approve the purchase of three new licenses of ARC/INFO and one license of accessory GIS software for use with the Department's Geographic Information System (GIS). Funds have been appropriated under the Facilities, Equipment & Automation Action Plan, Project Number 86 for this purpose. In addition, the Information Systems Department will be purchasing a single license to support the implementation of a city-wide GIS.

7d. **COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize the sale of 14 surplus vehicles.

7e. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR MAX CAPITAL RESERVE**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) authorizing a Proposition A/C Local Return capital reserve account for replacement of the Municipal Area Express (MAX) buses.

7f. **MUNICIPAL AREA EXPRESS (MAX) INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a new agreement for the Municipal Area Express (MAX) Commuter Bus Service with a term extending from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2002.

7g. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND BOILER & MACHINERY INSURANCE**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council approve the renewal purchase of insurance coverage for the period of May 15, 1999 to May 15, 2000:

- 1) Property insurance at a premium of \$115,772; and
- 2) Boiler and machinery insurance at a premium of \$5,951.

7h. **RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION OF A PURCHASE ORDER FOR A 48-MONTH LEASE/PURCHASE OF A MINOLTA EP8015 COPIER IN AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$18,748.08 FOR USE IN THE POLICE RECORDS DIVISION**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council authorize a purchase order to Minolta Business Systems of Torrance, CA (with assignment to Copelco Capital, Inc., a leasing agent for Minolta Business Systems), for the 48-month lease-purchase of a Minolta EP 8015 Copier for use in the Police Records Division, in the amount of \$18,753.84 annually.

8. **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

8a. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS DONATED BY THE TORRANCE CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD TOWARD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THREE STUDENTS OF THE YOUTH THEATRE PROGRAM OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S "LEARNING CENTER FOR ARTS EXCELLENCE," A TOTAL ALLOCATION OF \$400**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that \$400 from donations account 800290-1784 be allocated to provide scholarships enabling three students to participate in the Spring 1999 Session of the Youth Theatre Program of the Learning Center for Arts Excellence.

Parks and Recreation Director Barnett advised that funding for this recommendation was in the budget.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to concur with the staff recommendation as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

10a. **SETTING THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING, TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE 1998 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE, WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS AND THE CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council schedule a public hearing on May 25, 1999, to consider a proposed ordinance adopting the 1998 Edition of the California Fire Code, Volumes 1 and 2, with local amendments and the California Underground Storage Tank Regulations.

Mayor Hardison requested that all changes be highlighted when the ordinance is brought forward for adoption.

City Clerk Herbers read the title of the proposed Ordinance for the record:

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Torrance repealing Articles 1, 2, and 3 of Chapter 5 of Division 8 of the Torrance Municipal Code, enacting new Articles 1, 2 and 3 which adopt by reference the 1998 Edition of the California Fire Code, Volumes 1 and 2, including Appendix I-A, I-B, I-C, II-A, II-D, II-F, III-A and V-A, and making certain amendments to those codes and enacting new Article 3 which adopts by reference the California Underground Storage Tank Regulations.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to schedule the public hearing for May 25, 1999. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10b. **RENEWAL OF AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council renew the City's ambulance contract with Gerber Ambulance Service for an additional two years.

Mayor Hardison pointed out that item 5 on page 5 of the Agreement was already being done in the City.

Fire Chief Bongard and City Attorney Fellows advised that information could be brought back to the next meeting with the additional material.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to hold item for one week to bring forward additional information. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. **RECOMMENDATION SETTING DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 25, 1999 FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 1998 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODES WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the Building and Safety Director that City Council set the date for a public hearing on May 25, 1999, to consider a proposed ordinance adopting the 1998 California Building Codes with local amendments.

Mayor Hardison requested that the changes mentioned previously be incorporated.

Building and Safety Director Isomoto stated that the Council item will identify the changes.

City Clerk Herbers read the title of the proposed Ordinance:

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Torrance amending Chapters 1,2,3, 9 and 10 of Division 8 of the Torrance Municipal Code by repealing Article 1 and enacting a new Article 1 of Chapter 1, and repealing sections 81.2.1 and 81.2.3 through 81.2.43, and enacting new sections 81.2.1 and 81.2.3 through 81.2.40, and by repealing Articles 1 and 2 of Chapter 2, and by enacting new Articles 1 and 2, and by repealing Article 1 and enacting a new Article 1 of Chapter 3, and by repealing sections 83.2.1 through 83.2.5 and 83.2.7 through 83.2.10 and enacting new sections 83.2.1 through 83.2.5 and 83.2.7 through 83.2.9, and by repealing Article 1 and enacting a new Article 1 to Chapter 9, and by repealing section 89.2.2 through 89.2.4, and by enacting new sections 89.2.2 and 89.2.3, and by repealing Article 1 and enacting a new Article 1 of Chapter 10, all of which adopt or amend the 1998 edition of the California Building Code Volumes 1, 2, and 3 with Appendices, the 1998 Edition of the California Electrical Code, the 1998 Edition of the California Plumbing Code with Appendices, the 1998 Edition of the California Mechanical Code with Appendices and the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings.

City Clerk Herbers announced that these Codes are available for review in the City Clerk's office.

11b. **CITY COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FACILITY NAMING CRITERIA**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Facility Naming Criteria that City Council concur with the following:

- 1) Review and adopt the proposed Policy and procedures for the naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities; **RESOLUTION**
- 2) Approve the placement of interior plaques in existing facilities named for an individual; and
- 3) Approve a budget of \$2,700 for the purpose of plaques to be funded through the current 1997/99 budget.

Councilmember Cribbs, as Chair of this Committee, pointed out that the intent was to give Council the opportunity to deviate from the suggested criteria and encouraged modifications.

Mayor Hardison appreciated the Committee's efforts since there was a concern from Council members to create a policy. She expressed disagreement with the policy of naming a facility only after a person is deceased or if they had contributed a large sum of money.

Councilmember Walker explained that this policy does call for naming a facility after a person who has passed away, but it does not preclude us from naming facilities after people who have performed outstanding activities at any time. He emphasized the total latitude the Council still retains in this policy.

Councilmember Messerlian clarified that any time a policy like this is first established, there may be instances that may “fall through the cracks.” He advised that this document be taken back to the Committee for further study, and the Council could look at it again at a later time. He offered this suggestion as a motion.

Councilmember O’Donnell requested clarification in the instance where a building named for an individual, if rebuilt or replaced, would continue with the same name or be renamed.

Councilmember Cribbs and Councilmember Messerlian both agreed that it would be up to the Council.

Councilmember Lee expressed agreement with Mayor Hardison that they should not have to wait until someone dies, but the policy as it stands, is really no different than what the Council is currently doing.

Mayor Hardison reiterated that the Council has provided sound judgment in past years but that a couple of Councilmembers requested that a policy be instituted.

Councilmember Cribbs requested that the interior plaques for existing buildings be replaced as necessary and so stipulated in the budget. She expressed the need to have a biography of the person along with their contributions to the City.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that the naming of facilities in the past by Mayor Hardison has been handled in an excellent manner, and that he has personally been involved in 14 of the 25 facility naming of sites in this City.

Councilmember Lee reflected that both of the Mayors he has served under have conducted the naming of a facility in a very democratic way. He stressed the need for Council flexibility in this action.

Councilmember Cribbs requested input from other Councilmembers on the structure of the policy.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to refer the matter back to the Committee for further considerations and recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and no action was taken on this motion as a substitute motion prevailed.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to substitute a motion to accept and file the proposed Policy and Procedures. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Messerlian and passed by a 4-3 majority roll call vote, with Councilmembers Horwich, O’Donnell, and Walker dissenting.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to approve placement of interior plaques in existing facilities named for an individual and approve the budget of \$2,700 for said purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Harold Warfle, 4112 Seahorse Lane, Rancho Palos Verdes, Torrance High School teacher-coach for 38 years, urged the Council to adopt the name of "Kendall Field" for the Torrance Park baseball diamond. He said that Fred and Jason Kendall are the only father and son to make it to the major leagues from Torrance. He stressed that this phenomena should not be over-looked.

Mayor Hardison noted the acceptance of Mr. Warfle's letter and requested Park and Recreation Director Barnett take this suggestion under advisement.

Park and Recreation Director Barnett verified receipt of suggestion and noted that it would be placed on the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda.

11c. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY II**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council appoint Patrick Q. Sullivan to the position of Deputy City Attorney II.

City Attorney Fellows pointed out that Patrick Q. Sullivan has done a truly outstanding job.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to appoint Patrick Q. Sullivan to the position of Deputy City Attorney II. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison congratulated Mr. Sullivan on his appointment.

11d. **RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL OIL CORPORATION (MOBIL)**

Recommendation

A recommendation of the City Manager for the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to an agreement by and between the City of Torrance and Mobil Oil Corporation that would:

- 1) Direct City Staff to bring forward an ordinance (amending Ordinance 3351) to remove current input limits to the M-70 pipeline and the overall refinery;
- 2) Require Mobil to offer an irrevocable offer to dedicate 39,700 sq. ft. of right of way for the Del Amo Extension Project;
- 3) Guarantee \$3 million to the Del Amo Extension Project for certain onsite improvements associated with the project or make those funds available to the City in the event of delay or abandonment of said project; and
- 4) Provide an additional amount of up to \$2 million upon adoption of the ordinance amending the M-70 pipeline franchise ordinance.

Mayor Hardison requested Assistant City Manager Sunshine elaborate briefly on safety measures.

Assistant City Manager Sunshine explained that there are four categories of safety measures, and in all areas, Mobil was in agreement to review and set the limit requirements as set forth in the City guidelines.

Mr. Craig Kessler, 3910 Emerald Street, reminded the Council that seven years ago this month when Council approved the M-70 pipeline, Mobil announced that they would not use the new input capacity. He cautioned the Council not to abrogate the agreement with the community, and to take more sessions to consider this matter.

Ms. Hope Witkowsky, neighbor to Mobil, pointed out that she has served on the Mobil Citizen's Advisory Committee for the past six years. She stated that the Committee is made up of businesses and a cross-section of the Torrance community. She pointed out that the citizens were notified of this pipeline, and that Mobil Oil has truly made a tremendous difference in the past 30 years.

In response to Mayor Hardison, Fire Chief Bongard pointed out that the Mobil partnership has never been better.

Battalion Chief Hall also noted that the Consent Decree has been in force since 1991, and that Mobil has been said to be one of the safest refineries. Again in response to Mayor Hardison, Battalion Chief Hall stated the refinery could receive crude in many other ways. He added that the crude unit is not currently operating at capacity, and is capable of operating at the new proposed rate and above.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that in the late 1980's, Mobil was a much different refinery than it is now. He said that Mobil today is an outstanding refinery and a safe refinery. He commended the efforts they have made within the last 12 years.

Councilmember Lee agreed that Mobil has made great strides in the area of safety, and has been a good neighbor in the community as well.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to concur with staff recommendations that the Ordinance be brought forward on May 18, 1999, for first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. **HEARINGS**

12a. **PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW THE CITY COUNCIL AND TORRANCE TRANSIT TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ROUTE AND SCHEDULE MODIFICATIONS BEING CONSIDERED TO IMPLEMENT PHASE I OF THE TORRANCE TRANSIT ROUTE RESTRUCTURING PLAN**

Recommendation

A Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council conduct a public hearing in order to receive public comment on route and schedule modifications being considered to implement Phase I of the Torrance Transit Route Restructuring Plan.

Mayor Hardison opened the public hearing stating that only Line #1 was currently being considered, but that comments would be accepted regarding other proposed restructures.

Transit Director Tom Whittle noted that scheduled meetings with employees groups have taken place. He stated that this plan would eliminate non-peak hour service to downtown Los Angeles thus creating an average seven-minute wait time in each direction.

Ms. Betty Alvarez, 3510 Maricopa Street, #411, stated that if the routes are changed, she will have to take two or three buses instead of just the one she currently takes on Line #2. She expressed concern for the mentally ill who may become confused with these changes.

Ms. Karen Tripp, 22021 Marjorie, expressed concern over the route changes, having to take two or three buses on Line #2.

Mr. Frank Barany questioned why Line #1 would be cut since it runs to Kaiser Hospital and UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles.

Ms. Janece Jurisich, 3845 W. 226th Street, Apt. 59, stated that it was not fair to the handicapped who ride Line #3 since they must get to work.

Ms. Jenny Siegel, 3828 226th Street, expressed concern with Lines #4, #6 and #7 needed by people in wheelchairs who must get to the hospital and other destinations.

Ms. Marso Tarlow, 3828 West 226th Street, stated that she must get to work Monday through Friday on Lines #4 and #6.

Mr. Darius Smith, 18524 Kingsdale Avenue, stated that cutting these lines would create a considerable hardship on his family of four. He said they depend on Line #2 for work in downtown Los Angeles, especially at 6:00 a.m.; and on Line #3, for church in Long Beach.

Ms. Barb Rankin, 20310 Anza Avenue, #G, used to ride Line #2, but switched to Line #1 which has been safe, clean and operable for the past two years. She stated that she works in downtown Los Angeles and would be stranded in an unsafe area. She expressed disappointment that no notification was posted on the bus she rides concerning these changes. She also requested the bus be allowed to stop for an elderly handicapped woman before the signal.

Mr. Michael Mance, 19019 Hawthorne Blvd., #100, stated that Lines #3 and #7 are important to him.

Ms. Colette Madore, 20405 Anza Avenue, #9, suggested that Torrance Transit and MTA work together so buses could link. She said that Redondo Beach and Torrance need to have services on Sunday.

Mayor Hardison pointed out that services would not be added at this time.

Ms. Madore continued adding that Line #2 needs to run every 15 minutes or 30 minutes instead of every hour, and on Line #1, the cutting of peak hours was unclear. She stated that she gets off work and would have no way to get home after 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Gloria Miller, 1411 West 125th Street, reminded the Council of the many signatures she had gathered who did not want the bus lines cut. They felt that they may lose their jobs with no way to get to work, and they would rather work than collect welfare.

Mr. Dana Gabbard, President of Southern California Transit Advocates, 3010 Wilshire Blvd., pointed out that when you are the person standing on the corner waiting for the bus, seven minutes is a lot of time. He said that Line #3 has quality service, but that the City is getting original funds, which are set by SCAD. He further expressed concern over the lack of information and the need for extensive outreach to have input before accepting a proposal. He cited Santa Monica as conducting extensive meetings and how productive they were. He stated that he saw no justification to cut these heavily used lines, and suggested an interactive process, like a forum.

Mr. Michael Varns, 2224 Torrance Blvd., #A, indicated that he used Line #3 to get to work. He said he felt safe in Torrance, but not in Wilmington. He requested that service not be cut.

Ms. Elaine Johnson, 3140 Newton Street, expressed concern with Line #1 to downtown Los Angeles. She said that she works until 9:00 p.m. and that there is no such thing as a seven-minute wait on Line #7. She also spoke for Mr. Tom Fine, 110 Fisherman's Wharf, who said that his business depends on the bus run.

Mr. George Enani, bus driver for Line #1, pointed out that he drives disabled people who don't have any other transportation. He suggested that Torrance obtain a subsidy like the City of Gardena.

Ms. Betty Givens, 1822 W. El Segundo Blvd., #12, stated that many people need Line #3 for transportation to work downtown. She said that it is a safe ride, but wondered why there was an extra charge to take the Blue Line connection. She said there is a need for a bus every half-hour, not every hour.

Ms. Florence DeNice, 5409 Palos Verdes Blvd., stated that she uses Lines #4 and #7 and that her work hours are past the last bus time. She said that there have been times she could not work because a bus was not available for her.

At 9:55 p.m., Mayor Hardison ordered a recess, Council resumed at 10:05 p.m., with Councilmember Lee having left chambers for the evening at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. John Stewart, 4624 Lenore Street, requested clarification of the report that had expanded from 46 pages to 86 pages. He recommended a fare increase of \$.41 per fare, which would total \$1.16. He pointed out the unfairness of displacing 784 bus riders for a \$2 million subsidy. He further stated that a bus driver told him that his salary totaled \$80,000 per year with over-time.

Mr. Robert Feuerstein, 20020 Donora Avenue, pointed out that on Line #1, if you take the Torrance bus to downtown Los Angeles, there is one fare; but if you take the

Red Line to the Blue Line, there is a transfer charge. He also pointed out that bus drivers used to have numbers on their sleeve so that you could identify them when there is a problem, but that is no longer the case.

Mr. Craig Kessler, 3910 Emerald Street, felt that it was embarrassing to the City to displace this many people; clearly a step in the wrong direction.

Mr. Alan Lee, President, AFSCME Local 1117, stated that transit operators do not make \$80,000 and receive 70 cents on the dollar compared to MTA. He said that on December 8th, the Council stated that discussions were going to be held with employee groups but no meeting has been scheduled. He pointed out that many people who wished to speak, could not because they rely on Torrance transportation. He announced the establishment of the "Friends of Transit System."

Mr. Harold Peace, 8841 Haas Avenue, Los Angeles, a bus transit operator in the City of Torrance, described these changes as "ridership genocide." He asked that the people be heard.

Ms. Melissa Turner-Cortado, 3595 Elm Avenue, #11, Long Beach, Line #1 driver, pointed out that these changes will effect everybody, the handicapped and the bus drivers.

Mr. Charles Deemer, 21225 Talisman, suggested a change in the loop of Line #1 to the Green Line.

Ms. Janet Mora, 1502 E. Carson Street, Space 41, stated that she is an epileptic and is totally dependent on bus transportation. She said that there is a need to increase the lines, not decrease Line #3.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmembers Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison inquired as to the process of publicizing the hearing for tonight.

Transit Director Whittle indicated that notices were posted upon all the buses on April 8th and have been available and checked on since that time. In addition to the posting, thousands of brochures were printed, announcements on CableTV, and a posting was done in the newspapers.

City Manager Jackson announced the hotline number of (310) 781-6125 where individuals may seek additional information.

Transit Director Whittle explained that the goal was to "serve hubs." This incremental phase would later result in a recommendation to increase the service between Del Amo and Harbor Station.

City Manager Jackson agreed with Mayor Hardison's clarification that no employees would lose their jobs as a result of these changes.

Transit Director Whittle indicated MTA would be increasing their service during the peak.

City Manager Jackson pointed out that the system as it currently stands would create a loss of funds to Torrance if fares were increased.

Councilmember Walker inquired as to the speaker's concern with the short loop in Gardena with City Manager Jackson indicating Torrance's proximity to this connection, and any change may be in conflict with competition.

Transit Director Whittle pointed out that riders can transfer to cheaper service on MTA, and that not one person will be stranded as a result of this proposal and that there is a line for people who get off at 9:00 p.m.

Transit Director Whittle responding to Councilmember Messerlian stated that they had held meetings with employee groups.

Councilmember Horwich expressed concern over the many valid cases for the service. He indicated that the real issue was not simply dollars but how can we help the most people. He requested that staff report the entire Master Plan before any decisions were made.

City Manager Jackson indicated that the rates were stipulated in the report, and that a summary, along with modifications can be provided. He noted that tonight was merely the receipt of information, and not the time to make a decision.

Mayor Hardison announced that staff will return to Council in June with an item prepared containing responses, comments and final recommendations for implementation of Phase I of the restructuring plan. Consideration of Phase II will be sometime in early September 1999.

15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

15a. City Manager Jackson announced that a Police Memorial Service would be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 1999 in front of the Police Station.

15b. Councilmember Cribbs announced that Friends of the Library are looking for a home; that they deserve every City of Torrance consideration in light of the one-half million dollars they have donated to the library.

15c. Councilmember Messerlian asked City Manager Jackson if staff was following Farmer's market legislation in Sacramento.

15d. Councilmember Messerlian asked staff to contact Cal Trans regarding a fallen sign on Hawthorne Blvd.

15e. Councilmember O'Donnell announced that Friends of the Torrance Library will sponsor an event featuring author Aimee Liu at 7:00 p.m. on May 26th at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. For further information, call (310) 618-5950.

15f. Councilmember O'Donnell also announced, on behalf of Councilman Lee, that the Towers School production of "The Return of Mother Goose" would be aired on Channel 51, Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

15g. Mayor Hardison asked for Council consensus to act as the sponsoring department for the City Employees Variety Show; an item will be brought forward for formal action.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting (see page 1).

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:15 p.m., Council adjourned to Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. for a regular meeting.

*
Adjourned in Memory of
Ella Schwartz
*

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance