

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING (WORKSHOP) OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL
AND THE TORRANCE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. CALL TO TORDER

The Torrance City Council and the Torrance Redevelopment Agency convened in an adjourned regular meeting at 5:38 p.m., on Tuesday, June 8, 1999, in Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall for the purpose of conducting the Second Budget Workshop for consideration of the City Manager's Proposed 1999-2001 Budget.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee, Messerlian, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Councilmembers O'Donnell and Walker.

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

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Councilman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. There being no objection, Mayor Hardison so ordered.

4. FOLLOW-UP FROM FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Jackson noted that clarification of certain issues and responses to questions posed at the first session had been transmitted in booklet form (of record) and that additional information on items requiring further investigation would be forthcoming over the next several days.

Councilmembers thanked staff for responding to their requests for additional information.

5. COMMUNITY INPUT

Ms. Venora Lee, President of Friends of Madrona Marsh, read from a prepared statement (of record) expressing support for the recommended funding for Madrona Marsh maintenance, equipment, and staffing.

Mr. John Sellers, 4019 W. 176th Street, asked that consideration be given to providing additional youth service librarians for the benefit of school children in the City. Assistant City Manager Giordano explained that the proposed budget includes funding for one additional youth services librarian and 1.5 part-time library clerks which will allow

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youth services librarians more time to interact with children at school sites and branch libraries.

Using a map of school locations to illustrate her point, Ms. Marilyn Throssel, 3905 W. 176th Street, stated that youth services librarians are currently spread too thin and that she believes two additional youth services librarians are needed to adequately service the City's elementary school children.

Noting that a question had arisen at the first workshop concerning the Torrance Rose Float Association's ability to continue to raise their portion of the funding for the City's entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, Ms. Mary Hoffman, President of the Torrance Rose Float Association, indicated that the all-volunteer group is spending an increasing amount of time and effort on fund-raising activities, sometimes raising only a few hundred dollars for several hours of work. She explained that the association works year round coordinating everything to ensure that the float is ready for the parade and commented on the unique opportunity working on the float provides for people of all ages. She requested that the City Council fund the entire cost of the 2001 Rose Float, approximately \$80,000.

Ms. Marla Shwartz, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, voiced support for the program revisions submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department, commenting on the increased demand for programs and staffing of new facilities.

Ms. LaVonne Wuertz, 18403 Wilton Place, representing the League of Women Voters, commented on her organization's commitment to support the library system; expressed support for the additional funding proposed for library facilities, materials and staff; and requested that Council consider allocating additional funds so that each branch can have a youth services librarian.

Referring to the Proposed Budget Modifications, Mr. Alan Lee, Torrance Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Local 1117, commented on a number of issues, stating that City employees should be used for the Median/Parkway Crew unless management can articulate a valid reason for contracting the work out; that there is no demand for an employee newsletter and the money can be better spent elsewhere; that the City should not provide additional funding requested by the Torrance Visitors Bureau for staffing; that City personnel should be used to provide janitorial service at the Nature Center and to drive the Parks and Recreation "Spirit Bus," that the \$29,000 proposed to investigate discrimination and harassment claims is excessive and unnecessary; that it is premature to budget \$50,000 for safety awards; that part-time employees should be incorporated into the City's disability insurance program; and that the no interest computer loan program should be aimed at employees who really need assistance. He expressed concerns about proposed staffing changes in the Communications Division and at Torrance Airport.

Ms. Jeanie Moorman, TME-AFSCME, Local 1117, offered clarification that TME had proposed the computer loan program with the intent of helping clerical workers become more computer proficient. Noting that according to the staff report library patrons have not requested Sunday service hours, she stated that the need for additional staff, particularly youth services librarians, is much more critical. She related her opinion that the majority of the savings from Public Employees Retirement Systems (PERS) rate reductions should go back into employee benefits.

6. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilman Lee voiced support for funding an additional youth services librarian and Sunday library service. He noted that in some cases, Sunday is the only time parents have to take their children to the library; expressed his opinion that if Sunday service is offered, people will take advantage of it; and pointed out that it would also benefit people from surrounding communities who contribute to the City's tax revenues by shopping at Del Amo Fashion Center. Councilman Messerlian, echoed by Councilman Horwich, expressed a willingness to look at additional funding for the library if resources can be found within the budget.

Mayor Hardison requested the yearly totals for discrimination and harassment claims filed since 1992 to better evaluate the need for additional funding for investigation. City Manager Jackson advised that another factor that needs to be considered is that investigations are becoming more involved, noting that Federal and State mandates require thorough and prompt investigation of claims, with delays potentially increasing the City's liability.

Mayor Hardison expressed reservations about the \$50,000 proposed to fund monetary awards for the safety incentive program, stating that she would like some indication that the program is working before allocating additional funds. Risk Manager Sellers explained that the funding is for an interim program to reward reductions in workers' compensation claims in departments where prior claims adversely affect their current record.

Councilman Lee noted that safety incentive programs have been very successful in private industry and voiced support for the Safety Award funding.

Councilman Messerlian cautioned that what works in the private sector may not necessarily work in the public sector and indicated that he also had reservations about rewarding "good loss practices."

Councilman Horwich, reiterating his comments from the previous workshop, asked whether consideration had been given to providing monetary assistance to the Torrance Symphony.

Parks and Recreation Director Barnett indicated that the department currently provides equipment and labor for the Torrance Symphony's annual free concert at Charles Wilson Park and suggested the possibility of setting up a grant program to assist groups that contribute to the quality of life of City residents. Councilman Messerlian recommended that the City fund the \$12,000 cost of Torrance Symphony's free concert, pointing out that the concert is enjoyed by well over a thousand people in the community.

Mayor Hardison stated that she would like funding increased for the Torrance Rose Float Association, commenting on the many fund-raisers they must hold each year to come up with their \$15,000 contribution and pointing out that they also pay for the float's entry fees and provide food for volunteers decorating the float.

Noting that there are many worthwhile groups in the City, including the Torrance Symphony and the Torrance Rose Float Association, Councilman Horwich stated that he

would like to see a strategy developed over the next two years to assist those organizations that are doing such a fine job representing the City.

Councilman Lee conceded that it is very difficult for non-profit organizations to raise funds and offered his personal observation that weekend carnivals can be a good source of revenue. He suggested selling or leasing two public access cable channels as another potential source of revenue.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine advised that leasing the channels is probably not feasible; and City Manager Jackson indicated the City is currently negotiating with Time Warner Communications on several issues, including utility taxes and franchise fees. Councilwoman Cribbs expressed concerns about selling the cable channels, pointing out that there would be no control over the programs they offer.

7. STRAW VOTES

No straw votes were taken at this time.

8. CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Hardison stated that additional information was required before voting on additions or deletions to the budget and recommended that action be deferred on these matters until next week's budget hearing. City Manager Jackson advised that he would return with potential sources of funding for Sunday library service at the Katy Geissert Library, an additional youth services librarian, \$15,000 for the Rose Float Association, and \$12,000 for the Torrance Symphony.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:09 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance