

**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 6:46 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

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 City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, and 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 and 54956.9(a).

The City Council reconvened at 7:19 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Alex Kim, representative of Governor Schwarzenegger's office.

Councilmember Rhilinger gave the non-sectarian invocation.

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, June 4, 2009.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett 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 Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

City Manager Jackson announced that the Strategic Plan Workshop was deferred to the June 23, 2009 City Council meeting.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the second budget hearing/workshop would be held at the June 23 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Sutherland noted that the Armed Forces Day Committee had met earlier to discuss recent Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration.

Councilmember Numark announced that the City Council Transportation Committee would meet on Friday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Assembly room to discuss the hybrid electric bus purchase and Torrance Transit bus re-branding.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2009-59 RE AMERICAN HONDA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-59

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO **AMERICAN HONDA** AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-59. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Eric Wedin and Karin Baker of American Honda.

6B. RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN HONDA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A proclamation commending and congratulating American Honda on its 50th anniversary was presented to Eric Wedin and Karin Baker of American Honda by Sharon Weissman, on behalf of Senator Jenny Oropeza; Rebeka Kim, on behalf of Congresswoman Jane Harman; Candace Allen, on behalf of Assemblyman Ted Lieu; and Alex Kim, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

6C. RECOGNITION OF CITY OF TORRANCE FOR ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

A joint resolution commending and congratulating the City of Torrance on its 50th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration was presented to Mayor Scotto by Candace Allen, on behalf of Assemblyman Ted Lieu, and Sharon Weissman, on behalf of Senator Jenny Oropeza.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

7A. Stephanie Thomas, 428 Via Mesa Grande, requested that the Council reconsider the condition imposed on her remodeling project at the June 2, 2009 City Council meeting, which requires a reduction in the project's height.

7B. Kurt Weideman, Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, invited everyone to attend a Vintage Vegas Gala fundraiser on June 26 at the Torrance Marriott at 5:30 p.m., with additional information available at 310.378.8100 or www.torrancearts.org.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police that City Council approve a third amendment to the agreement for ambulance services with Gerber Ambulance Service, Inc. (C2001-132) to modify some of the fee provisions contained in the agreement and extend the term through July 15, 2011.

8B. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RE STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for the backfill of Fiscal Year 2009 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds with Proposition C 40% Discretionary Funds.

8C. PURCHASE OF ANNUAL SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT FOR PERMIT PLAN/ BUSINESS LICENSE/ IVR SOFTWARE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director that City Council approve the purchase of annual software maintenance and support for the Tidemark Advantage Permit Plan/Business License/IVR software from Accela, Inc., of Palatine, IL, for an amount not to exceed \$64,051.59.

8D. CHANGE ORDER RE IMPROVEMENTS ROLLING HILLS WAY/ ROLLING HILLS ROAD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a change order in the amount of \$27,000 to the public works agreement with C.T. & F., Inc. (C2008-183) to provide additional electrical services related to the improvements to Rolling Hills Way and traffic signal installation on Rolling Hills Road, S-34 project.

8E. ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATE RE 3401 AIRPORT DRIVE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council authorize an Estoppel Certificate certifying to City National Bank certain lease terms for City-owned property located at 3401 Airport Drive and leased to Torrance Airport Hangars, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

12A. ANNUAL PURCHASE ORDER FOR COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director that City Council authorize an annual purchase order with Dell Computers, Inc., for personal computers, servers, laptops, and other miscellaneous related hardware, software, and disposal services for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Ryan Lee, Information Technology Division, reported that staff surveyed three vendors and Dell Computers offered the lowest price and that funding is available in the Computer Replacement Fund.

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

12B. CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF HYBRID BUSES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a contract with New Flyer of America, of St. Cloud MN to purchase 10 Hybrid Gasoline-Electric Buses at a cost not to exceed \$6,500,000.

Transit Administration Manager Mills advised that that Transit Department is undergoing a three-phase Fleet Modernization Project, which will replace all existing diesel-powered buses with hybrid and alternative-fueled buses by FY2015. He noted that the buses being replaced are over 17 years old and had an estimated useful lifespan of 12 years.

Charles Deemer, resident, requested clarification regarding the replacement of the City's fleet of buses.

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

12C. 2010 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve the establishment of the 2010 Census Complete Count Ad Hoc Committee and approve an application/selection process to be a member of the 2010 Census Complete Count Ad Hoc Committee.

Management Associate Barthe-Jones reported that staff was recommending that an ad hoc committee be established to coordinate outreach efforts and to promote the 2010 census in order to encourage residents to complete the census questionnaire in a timely and accurate manner. She noted that committee members will be appointed at the July 28 City Council meeting, with applications available on-line and in the City Clerk's office.

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

12D. SALE/ISSUANCE OF FY2009-2010 TAX REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution approving the sale and issuance of Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN's) not to exceed \$23,000,000.

Finance Director Tsao advised that the Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes are used to ensure a consistent cash flow throughout the fiscal year and they also allow the City to pay PERS costs at the beginning of the fiscal year at a discounted rate.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 AND THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF 2009-2010 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$23,000,000 THEREFOR

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-56. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12E. PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT RE T1 VAULT UPGRADES PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the plans and specifications for the T1 Vault Upgrades Project (B2009-20) on file in the City Clerk's Office;

- 2) Award a public works agreement to the lowest bidder, Lucas Builders Inc., dba L.B.I., in the amount of \$363,120;
- 3) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$18,156;
- 4) Waive an irregularity in the contractor's bid proposal;
- 5) Award a consulting services agreement to CBM Consulting Inc., in the amount of \$60,800 for inspection services;
- 6) Award a consulting services agreement to Geo-Environmental Inc., in the amount of \$4,910 for geotechnical services;
- 7) Approve \$50,000 for project management; and
- 8) Appropriate an additional \$251,647.67 for this project from the Water Enterprise Fund.

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

13. HEARINGS

13A. CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council:

- 1) Hold a public hearing on the proposed levy of assessments within the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 for Fiscal Year 2009-10; and,
- 2) Adopt a Resolution confirming the diagram and assessment for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and ordering the improvements in connection with the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1.

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.

As no one from the public came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONFIRMING A DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT OF 1972, PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE XIII D OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-57. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda Item 13D was considered out of order at this time.

13D. ORDINANCE NO. 3719 RE MORATORIUM ON MASSAGE AND ACUPRESSURE ESTABLISHMENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Finance Director that City Council

- 1) Adopt an interim Ordinance as an urgency measure, extending the period of the existing temporary moratorium on new massage or acupressure establishments ("Moratorium Extension Ordinance").
If adopted this ordinance will take effect immediately upon its passage, and will remain in effect until September 1, 2009; unless prior to the expiration of that time period the City Council elects under Government Code Section 65858 to extend the moratorium period for up to an additional year;
- 2) Approve an ordinance summary for publication; and
- 3) Issue the staff report as the "written report describing measures taken to alleviate the condition which led to the adoption of Ordinance No. 3718" as required by Government Code section 65858.

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.

Police Lieutenant Devin Chase advised that staff was recommending that the Council adopt an interim Ordinance extending the temporary moratorium on the licensing of new massage and acupressure establishments enacted on April 28, 2009 to September 1, 2009 so that staff can continue to study the impact of SB 731 along with existing Torrance Municipal Codes related to the massage industry, and arrive at a more comprehensive approach for regulating this type of business. He reported that since April 28, the Police Department has visited 40 massage establishments, which resulted in 19 arrests for lewd conduct or prostitution and 31 citations for violations of the Torrance Municipal Code. He noted that staff was not recommending that the moratorium on the licensing of new massage technicians be extended.

Councilmember Sutherland questioned why massage establishments that have been cited for violations have been allowed to continue to operate.

Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn advised that staff was in the process of assembling cases to bring before the License Review Board, which handles the revocation of business licenses.

In response to Councilmember Numark's inquiry, Lieutenant Chase reported that there are a total of 87 massage, acupressure and acupuncture businesses in Torrance and staff has only been able to visit about half of them during the temporary moratorium. He noted that staff expects to have a revised ordinance for regulating this type of business ready for the Council's review by the end of July so that a new ordinance will be in place by September 1.

Simos Samang, owner of massage establishment at 24020 Vista Montana, #A, expressed concerns about an article in the *Daily Breeze* regarding the City's Council's action on this matter that cast a bad light on massage establishments.

Newt Young, Torrance, voiced support for continuing the moratorium and related his understanding that massage establishments have proliferated in Torrance because other nearby cities have already banned them.

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

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation and approve an ordinance summary for publication. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3719

AN INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXTENDING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON MASSAGE OR ACUPRESSURE ESTABLISHMENTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65858 AND SECTION 7 OF ARTICLE XI OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3719. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The City Council briefly recessed from 8:18 p.m. to 8:32 p.m.

The Redevelopment Agency was called to order at 8:32 p.m.

Agenda Items 13B and 13C were considered concurrently, along with Redevelopment Agency Item 5A.

13B. PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009-2011

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council continue the public hearing and budget workshop on the City of Torrance proposed two-year operating budget for fiscal years 2009-2011.

13C. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO USER FEES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council continue the public hearing on the proposed changes in fee revenues and Enterprise Fund rate charges for the Community Development, Community Services, General Services, Fire and Police departments.

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.

Assistant City Manager Giordano advised that it has become necessary to lower the projection for sales tax revenues by \$1.2 million due to the continued economic downturn and staff will be seeking direction from the Council on further reductions to address this shortfall.

With the aid of slides, Finance Director Tsao provided an overview of the proposed operating budget for FY 2009-2011 per written material of record.

With the aid of slides, Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn briefly reviewed proposed changes to user fees per written material of record. He noted that a consultant was hired to conduct a fee study to determine the City's cost of providing various services, which was used to develop the revised fees.

Finance Director Tsao reported that the City has deferred action on the Capital Budget, but staff was recommending approval of two items that need to be addressed: 1) Modifications of facilities to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act; and 2) Purchase of a brush chipper which needs to be replaced for safety reasons. He noted supplemental material available at the meeting with responses to Councilmembers' questions about the budget and user fees.

City Manager Jackson invited questions/comments from the City Council.

Councilmember Brewer asked about the possibility of charging more for film permits to increase revenues.

Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn explained that the City may only recover costs associated with filming unless a separate enterprise fund is created.

City Manager Jackson offered to explore this possibility, but cautioned that film crews can cause inconveniences for residents. He noted that additional revenue is received when film crews lease public facilities.

Councilmember Sutherland voiced his opinion that some fees in the Community Development Department, such as the fee for the third inspection for Code violations, should be increased to cover 100% of the City's cost of providing the service.

Community Development Director Gibson explained that it has been staff's focus to obtain compliance when violations occur rather than charging punitive fees.

Councilmember Numark indicated that he also favored increasing fees to recover 100% of the cost when dealing with scofflaws, and City Manager Jackson agreed to bring back information on the pros and cons of doing so.

Councilmember Barnett requested information regarding what various fees would be at 100% cost recovery and the impact on revenues.

In response to Councilmember Barnett's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao advised that the \$1.2 million shortfall in sales tax revenues equates to approximately an additional 1% reduction in department budgets.

Noting that staff was not recommending that fees be charged for ALS (Advanced Life Support) services provided by the Fire Department, Councilmember Numark requested information regarding how other agencies handle this issue and the impact of full cost recovery on revenues.

Mayor Scotto asked about the discrepancy in Parks and Recreation fee increases, i.e. golf fees increase from \$4 to \$5, while fees for swimming increase from \$4 to \$8. City Manager Jackson agreed to provide information about the methodology used to determine these fees.

Councilmember Brewer expressed concerns that sales tax revenues may continue to drop and additional budget cuts may be needed. City Manager Jackson advised that contingency funds are in place should revenues fail to meet projections.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Doug Hath, Torrance Police Officers Association, suggested extending the life of fleet vehicles to save money and adding an officer to the Asset Forfeiture Team to generate more revenue. He also suggested eliminating the 4th of July celebration at Wilson Park because many of the attendees are not Torrance residents and it attracts a criminal element, relating his belief that the \$100,000 it costs the Police Department could be better spent. He urged the Council not to eliminate sworn positions, noting that as the economy goes down, crime goes up.

Joseph Wollner, Torrance, noted that he submitted written information detailing his concerns about downsizing operations staff at Torrance Airport.

Nancy Clinton, representing Torrance Airport Association, voiced objections to the proposed downsizing of airport operations staff, noting potential safety and security issues.

Bill Harper, West Los Angeles, reported that he has leased a hangar at Torrance Airport for several years; expressed concerns about the proposed changes to airport staffing; and contended that staff's analysis underestimates the risks to the City and overestimates cost savings. He noted that he sent an email earlier in the day detailing his concerns.

Stephen Robbins, member of the Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission, urged the Council to continue to provide recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for residents.

Jim Sheldon, Torrance, member of the Torrance Library Commission, noted the wide variety of programs offered by the library for people of all ages and stressed the importance of these programs to the community. He acknowledged the need for budget cuts due to the current economic downturn, but encouraged the Council to preserve funding for the library as much as possible.

Mitch Kmiecik, Torrance, stated that he works at the Torrance Airport and believes a reduction in staff would result in safety issues, submitting written material on this subject.

Karen Fitch, Torrance, noted that she sent correspondence detailing her concerns about changes to staffing at the airport and reductions in the Police Department's budget.

Caroline Elam, Torrance, indicated that she favored cutting recreational and cultural programs in order to preserve basic services.

David Richardson, Torrance, expressed concerns about the loss of airport personnel due to safety issues, noting that they are the first responders when emergencies occur. He related his understanding that they were trained to use fire suppression equipment, but it's been removed from truck #102 at the airport.

Anne O'Brien, Torrance, noted that she is a pilot and leases a hangar at Torrance Airport; provided examples of the valuable service airport personnel provide; and expressed concerns that the airport will deteriorate without adequate staffing.

Howard Schneider, Torrance Fire Fighters Association, offered statistics to demonstrate that the Fire Department is already understaffed and expressed concerns that any additional cuts in personnel will hinder the Fire Department's ability to serve the public. He noted that they are not staffed to provide a true crash rescue at the airport.

Steve, Treskes, Torrance Fire Fighters Association, expressed concerns about the proposal to reduce the Hazmat (hazardous materials) Response Team from 9 members to 5. He explained that the Fire Department uses cross-staffing so team members perform front-line fire suppression duties when not responding to hazmat calls; that the 9-member team is able to respond to calls anywhere in the City within 5-7 minutes to quickly contain hazmat incidents; and that they will have to take only defensive action and wait for LA County to provide backup if the team is reduced to 5 members.

Tim Cummings, Torrance Fire Fighters Association, voiced his opinion that revenue generated by fire prevention fees should be used to offset reductions in the Fire Department's budget instead of going into the General Fund, thereby preserving funding for the Hazmat Response Team. He noted that the Fire Department accounted for 21% of the City's budget in FY1998-99, but accounts for only 19.6% in the proposed budget.

The Council recessed from 9:59 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

Tim McAtee, Torrance Fire Fighters Association, reported that 20 years ago the City Council recognized the potential for incidents involving hazardous materials and made the decision to fund the Hazmat Response Team and urged that funding be preserved for the nine-man team.

James Duarte, Torrance, voiced objections to the proposed reduction in the staffing of the Hazmat Response Team.

Harvey Horwich, Torrance, expressed concerns that fee increases for Parks and Recreation programs could mean that some children will not be able to take advantage of them and could even lead to a reduction in revenue because fewer people will participate and encouraged the Council to direct staff do an in-house survey of the impact of the proposed fee increases.

George Renfro, Torrance, echoed concerns about the reduction in airport staff.

Collette Miller, Torrance Airport tenant, reported that airport personnel provide valuable assistance to pilots and urged that staffing levels be maintained.

Howard Orpe, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, expressed the hope that the City will be able to maintain the high level of community services that residents have come to expect.

Jeannie Moorman, AFSCME, Local 1117, stated that she appreciates that the burden of budget cuts was being shared among all City departments because in the past a disproportionate number of cuts were made to positions held by AFSCME members. She reported that she had two areas of concern about the proposed budget: 1) the elimination of 26 crossing guards; and 2) the reallocation of 4 airport workers. She contended that eliminating highly trained workers at the airport would create safety issues because incidents requiring their assistance occur on a regular basis. She related her belief that replacing the full-time duty officer with two part-time positions would not be efficient or cost-effective due to the time involved in training for this position and the high attrition rate for part-time employees.

Charlene Lambert, Torrance crossing guard, expressed concerns about the elimination of the crossing guard program due to the impact on children's safety.

The Council provided direction to staff.

Councilmember Numark requested that staff provide information detailing the role of airport personnel with regard to airport safety.

Councilmember Sutherland requested additional information about the proposal to have a Sr. Business Manager at the airport since a Business Manager has been performing these duties for some time and asked that staff explore the possibility of retaining two workers at the airport.

Councilmember Rhilinger requested that staff provide information regarding the missing fire suppression equipment on Truck 102 at the airport and about the lack of a crash rescue unit.

Mayor Scotto indicated that he was inclined to support a 1.2% reduction in the Police Department's budget; a 2% reduction in the Fire Department's budget, and a reduction between 2-4% in other departments in order to address the \$1.2 million additional shortfall. He asked for information concerning the number of people affected by each proposed rate increase with the goal of identifying where fee increases could cause a hardship. He requested that staff meet and confer with the Torrance Fire Fighters Association to explore the possibility of reducing the premium paid to Hazmat team members from 13% to 7% in order to retain the nine-member team. He asked staff to look into the feasibility of using the City Council's travel budget to offset the cost of Sunday hours at the library and/or additional budget cuts.

Councilmember Furey requested that staff provide alternate scenarios for the proposed reductions in airport personnel and the Hazmat Response Team.

A brief discussion ensued concerning proposed user fee increases.

Councilmember Furey indicated that he was inclined to favor 100% recovery of costs for most development fees and a market-based approach for fees associated with residential remodeling projects.

Councilmember Brewer stated that he believed the proposed increases were modest as compared to the departmental budget cuts the City is facing.

Councilmember Rhilinger suggested that staff consider increasing Code enforcement fees, since even at 100% cost recovery they are lower than in other cities, and also suggested increasing non-resident fees for Parks and Recreation classes.

Councilmember Sutherland pointed out that a 1% across-the-board reduction in City employees' salaries would result in savings of over \$1 million and called for union presidents to consider this option should further budget reductions become necessary so the City could avoid eliminating more positions.

Councilmember Numark indicated that he also favored increasing most development fees and Code enforcement fees to recover 100% of the City's costs.

Councilmember Brewer noted that development fees were unlikely to generate much revenue due to the current economic situation and expressed concerns should there be a significant reduction in actual revenues.

City Manager Jackson advised that staff was relatively confident that contingency funds could cover shortfalls, noting that the State is limited in the funds that can be seized.

Councilmember Barnett noted his concurrence with the proposed rate increases and voiced his opinion that the burden of budget reductions should be shared among all departments as much as possible.

Mayor Scotto wanted to make clear that he would not support the elimination of the Crossing Guard program.

Councilmember Numark noted that Mayor Scotto's targets for budget reductions, Police = 1.2%; Fire = 2%; other City departments = 2-4%, were flexible and the Council would welcome staff's recommendations.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to continue the public hearing on Agenda Items 13B and 13C to June 23, 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 11:24 p.m. to 11:25 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

17A. Councilmember Brewer thanked staff for taking prompt action on his request that the public be allowed to park in employee parking west of City Hall after 6:00 p.m. in order to provide overflow parking for City Council/Commission meetings.

17B. Councilmember Brewer asked, with the concurrence of Council, that the North High School Girls Softball team be recognized for winning their second consecutive CIF championship at a future City Council meeting.

17C. Councilmember Furey noted he caught the first pitch at the City of Torrance Dodger Day on June 7.

17D. Councilmember Furey requested an excused absence from the June 16 City Council meeting.

17E. Councilmember Numark thanked everyone for their input on the budget.

17F. Councilmember Numark announced that the Torrance Symphony fundraiser would be held on Saturday, June 13, at the Armstrong Theatre at 8:00 p.m. with tickets available for \$30.

17G. Councilmember Numark thanked City employees who donated at the Torrance Saves Lives blood drive, noting that 60 pints were collected.

17H. Councilmember Numark asked, with the concurrence of Council, that the Torrance Chinese School be recognized for their 20th anniversary at a future City Council meeting.

17I. Councilmember Numark requested an excused absence from the June 16 City Council meeting.

17J. Councilmember Rhilinger noted that tickets for the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation's Vintage Vegas Gala fundraiser on June 26 are priced at \$175 only until June 10 and will increase to \$200 after that date, with additional information available at 310.378.8100 or www.torrancearts.org.

17K. Councilmember Sutherland encouraged everyone to attend the Torrance Symphony fundraiser, noting that the silent auction begins at 7:00 p.m.

17L. Councilmember Sutherland noted that this was his second budget process and it was much more difficult this time due to the current economic situation. He commended staff and bargaining units for cooperating and working together to create the City's budget.

17M. Councilmember Barnett echoed comments thanking staff for working together in creating the City budget.

17N. Mayor Scotto also echoed comments thanking everyone for working together in creating the City budget.

17O. Mayor Scotto invited everyone to attend the City's first Environmental Fair on Saturday, June 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Madrona Marsh.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:33 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 16, 2009 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 21, 2009