

**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 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Drevno, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky, 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 the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 18B) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9 (a) and 54956.8. Councilmember Nowatka recused himself from discussion of Item 18A due to a conflict of interest.

The City Council reconvened at 7:02 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 Councilmember Nowatka.

Councilmember Drevno 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, August 9, 2007.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer 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 Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Clerk Herbers announced that the City Council would be making appointments to the Civil Service Commission and the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission on August 28. She invited the public to submit their names for the new certification classes in October and November to be eligible for January commission appointments.

City Clerk Herbers announced the birth of twin grandsons Ryan and Gavin born August 9.

Public Works Director Beste reminded everyone to continue conserving water this summer season. He reported that the state legislature's consideration of AB 640, which would have greatly increased the cost of ground water for the City of Torrance, has been suspended due to strong opposition from cities in the West Basin.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2007-80 RE LOLITA SHROUT PASTRAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-80**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING LOLITA SHROUT PASTRAN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-80. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

*To be presented at a later date.*

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Don Clouch, resident, asked that staff look into the possibility of using "311" as the phone number for all non-emergency city services.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. PURCHASE ORDER FOR POLICE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Recommendation**

The **Chief of Police** recommends that City Council authorize a \$10,000 increase to Blanket Purchase Order number 24824 issued to Gall's/Long Beach Uniform of Long Beach, CA for a total amount not to exceed \$46,000 and extend the term 30 days to September 30, 2007, for police uniforms and equipment on an as needed basis.

**8B. PURCHASE ORDER FOR BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS**

**Recommendation**

The **Chief of Police** recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order to Protective Products International of Sunrise, FL, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, for the purchase of the Police department annual requirement of bullet resistant vests as needed. The purchase order will be from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

**8C. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEM FOR POLICE DEPT.**

**Recommendation**

The **Chief of Police** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate and allocate \$56,748.53 from U.S. Treasury Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture; and
- 2) Authorize a purchase order be issued to Hoffman Video Systems of Glendale, CA in the amount of \$56,748.53 for the purchase and installation of a computer-based audio/video system for the Police department.

**8D. AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE YOUTH ART CLASSES**

**Recommendation**

The **Acting Community Services Director** recommends that City Council approve a one-year agreement with Art to Grow On, Children's Art Center to provide youth art classes at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center for an amount not to exceed \$24,969. Expenditure will be fully reimbursed by class fees.

**8E. AGREEMENT FOR JOINT USE OF ARMORED RESPONSE AND RESCUE VEHICLE**

**Recommendation**

The **Chief of Police** recommends that City Council authorize the Police Department to join into an agreement between the cities of Redondo Beach, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Gardena, and Inglewood for the joint use of an armored response and rescue vehicle.

**8F. AGREEMENT FOR FY2007 RESIDENTIAL SLURRY SEAL PROGRAM, I-6**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Approve the plans and specifications for Fiscal Year 2007 Residential Slurry Seal Program, I-6 (B2007-31); and
- 2) Award a public works agreement to Pavement Coatings Co. in an amount not to exceed \$253,630 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$12,680 for construction of the Fiscal Year 2007 Residential Slurry Seal Project, I-6.

**8G. AGREEMENT FOR CITYWIDE SIDEWALK RAMPING AND GRINDING PROJECT, I-55**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Approve first amendment to public works agreement with Hardy & Harper, Inc. (C2006-148) extending the term to August 31, 2008 and increasing the amount \$400,000 for a new total of \$845,510 to construct Phase X of the Citywide Sidewalk Ramping and Grinding Program, I-55.
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$20,000 for said amendment, and
- 3) Approve first amendment to consulting services agreement with Project Partners (C2006-149) extending the term to August 31, 2008 and increasing the amount \$82,000 for a new total of \$162,000 for construction inspection services for Phase X of the Citywide Sidewalk Ramping and Grinding Program, I-55.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8G. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**10A. STATUS REPORT ON PILOT GREEN WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council accept and file a status report on the pilot green waste collection program.

With the aid of slides, Sanitation Services Manager Knapp provided an update on the status of the pilot green waste collection program, which began on June 18. He reported that trash volume has decreased by 28% in the northern neighborhood and 38%

in the southern neighborhood where the program has been implemented; that the use of plastic bags, which interferes with recycling, has diminished since cautionary stickers have been placed on trash bins; and that staff was recommending that the program be expanded to two more areas. He noted that at the suggestion of residents, staff was considering purchasing vented bins that allow green waste to dry out for the next phase.

Councilmember Witkowsky pointed out that some residents who would like to participate in the green waste program may not have room for three trash bins; related her experience that the recycling bin is often fuller than the regular refuse bin; and suggested the possibility of offering smaller refuse bins to accommodate residents with storage problems.

Mr. Knapp advised that residents may request 64-gallon refuse bins instead of the standard 96-gallon bins and noted that additional recycling and green waste bins are also available at no extra charge.

Councilmember Brewer pointed out that it would be very expensive for the City should a lot residents wish to replace their 96-gallon refuse bins with 64-gallon bins.

Mr. Knapp reported that the larger bins could be re-used for either green waste or recycling by replacing the black lids with gray or green lids.

Mayor Scotto expressed the hope that the green waste program could be expanded throughout the City as soon as possible as it has been well received by residents.

Councilmember Barnett stated that he thought vented bins were a good idea as long as the cost is not prohibitive.

Mr. Knapp advised that the cost is nominal and would be offset by lower recycling costs because dry green waste weighs less than wet green waste.

Councilmember Sutherland questioned whether there are trucks that pick up both recyclables and green waste at the same time. Mr. Knapp explained that split-body trucks usually are not efficient for this type of use because one side will fill up faster than the other necessitating more frequent trips to recycling facilities.

Mayor Scotto requested that staff prepare a report estimating the cost and timeline for implementing the green waste program throughout the City.

## **10B. STATUS REPORT ON SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD REHABILITATION**

### **Recommendation**

The **Public Works Director** recommends that City Council accept and file a status report on the construction of the Sepulveda Boulevard Rehabilitation & Water Main Replacement, T-48/I-89.

With the aid of slides, Project Engineer Overstreet provided an update on the status of the Sepulveda Boulevard Rehabilitation and Water Main Replacement Project. She noted that the project, which runs from Hawthorne Boulevard to the western city boundary, includes the replacement of the water main; repair of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks; the overlay and reconstruction of streets; traffic signal upgrades; and intersection improvements at Palos Verdes Boulevard, Anza Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard. She reported that the project is scheduled to be completed in October 2007.

Councilmember Witkowsky recommended that in the future, contractors be required to provide a flag person when traffic at major intersections is disrupted by construction.

Mayor Scotto stated that he was pleased with the progress of the project and looked forward to its completion.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. APPROPRIATION/INSTALLATION OF GRANICUS VOTING SYSTEM**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$40,632, plus 5% contingency \$2,032 to furnish and install Granicus Inc. Voting System and provide training; and
- 2) Appropriate \$10,200 annually for management, upgrades, and support.

Cable & Community Relations Manager Smith advised that the appropriations are for the electronic voting system software and training for staff and the City Council.

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

**12B. CALPERS TWO-YEAR SERVICE CREDIT FOR DELETED POSITION**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council begin the process of offering a new two year service credit in the CalPERS system to one position whose job has been deleted as a result of a reduction in Workforce Investment Network (W/N) grant funds. The cost to purchase the service credit is \$72,771 and is pursuant to Government Code 20903.

Human Resources Director Winer noted supplemental material clarifying that the \$72,771 will be deducted from the severance package allocated (approximately \$108,000) for the Employment and Training Manager Position, a position which has been deleted.

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

**12C. FUNDING REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF BANNERS ON TORRANCE BL.**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council consider a request from the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation for the City to fund and approve the installation of 24 banners along Torrance Boulevard between Maple Avenue and Hickory Avenue from September 9, 2007 through November 9, 2007 with an estimated expenditure of \$2,694.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine reported that the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation has submitted a request to install banners to publicize upcoming events and for funding to pay for their installation. He noted that the City currently has no policy with regard to the installation of banners, therefore, staff was recommending that the Council consider establishing the following criteria:

- 1) The proponent must be a non-profit organization;
- 2) The event must be held within the City of Torrance;
- 3) The event is sponsored or co-sponsored by the City of Torrance; and
- 4) Banner requests must meet temporary sign criteria and may not be installed for a period longer than 90 days.

Mayor Scotto stated that he favored requiring that requests for banners be considered on a case-by-case basis because he felt the use of banners should be the exception and not the rule.

Councilmember Brewer voiced his opinion that allowing the banners to remain in place for 90 days was too long because Torrance Boulevard is a main thoroughfare and banners tend to get tattered and lose their impact.

Mr. Sunshine noted that the City has placed conditions on other requests for banners requiring that any damaged banners be replaced within 24 hours.

Councilmember Witkowsky stated that she appreciates the foundation's efforts to bring quality entertainment to the Cultural Arts Center and supports their request for the banners, however, she favored a 60-day limit on them. She recommended that there be some uniformity to the banners to make them easily recognizable as promoting TCAC events.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed concerns about the request for funding, noting that the City already provides funding for the foundation on an annual basis. He indicated that he would support this request, but believed that this type of expense should be included as part of the Foundation's annual budget in the future.

Kurt Weideman, vice-chair of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, reported that the foundation would like to have the banners in place between September 4 and November 9, 2007, to raise awareness about the Cultural Art Center and encourage the purchase of season tickets. He noted that the funding the foundation receives from the City is typically for indirect labor, in-house printing, and subsidized rental fees and this is the first request for funding for marketing. He reported that the foundation is paying for the banners at a cost of \$3,900 and that the requested funds are for their installation.

Scott Gobble, Southern California Edison, noted that SCE owns the light poles on which the banners would be hung and any banners must be in conformance with the agreement SCE has with the City of Torrance.

Mayor Scotto indicated that he favored limiting banners along Torrance Boulevard to Cultural Arts Center events.

Councilmember Brewer noted that there may be other organizations, such as the Torrance Education Foundation, that wish to use banners to advertise their events and suggested that the Council may wish to consider establishing a policy for banners at some point in the future.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky to approve the request as proposed, with the banners to conform to SCE guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **13. HEARINGS**

#### **13A. PRE06-00039, WAV06-00022: 330 CALLE DE ARBOLES**

##### **Recommendation**

The **Community Development Director** recommends that City Council approve the appeal and take the following action on property located in the R-1 zone in the Hillside Overlay District at 330 Calle De Arboles:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution approving a Precise Plan of Development to allow the construction of first and second story additions to an existing one-story single family residence; and

- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving a Waiver for a reduction in the front and rear yard average setback requirements.

The Planning Commission recommends that City Council deny the appeal and deny the project. **PRE06-00039 and WAV06-00022: KANON KOONTZ**

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, Planning Manager Lodan briefly reviewed the proposed project and shared photographs of site and surrounding neighborhood. He reported that the Planning Commission denied the project by a vote of 4-2 and the applicant subsequently reduced the height of the project by 16 inches to address concerns about view impact.

Responding to questions from the Council, Planning Manager Lodan advised that the Waiver would allow the applicant to retain existing front and rear yard setbacks, which do not meet current standards; that the existing swing-in garage would be changed to a front-facing garage; and that the proposed 19-foot driveway is similar in length to other front-facing driveways on this block.

Kanon Koontz, 330 Calle de Arboles, applicant, explained that he carefully considered the impact on neighbors when designing the project and mirrored the silhouette of the home below to avoid blocking views. He reported that he has revised the project three times to address the concerns of his neighbor at 402 Calle de Arboles, most recently reducing the overall height by 16 inches and the height of the parapet by 2 feet. He clarified that the driveway will actually be 20 feet in length due to the slope and noted that two adjacent neighbors have shorter driveways and their parked vehicles do not obstruct the sidewalk. He submitted the following: 1) Petition signed by neighbors in support of the project; 2) Photographs of other homes in the vicinity with a contemporary design; and 3) Map indicating nearby homes that have been remodeled in the last 3-5 years with a FAR (floor area ratio) similar to the proposed project.

Lesli Koontz, 330 Calle de Arboles, applicant, stated that she and her husband would like to expand their home to accommodate their growing family and urged approval of the project as submitted.

David Leach, 322 Calle de Arboles, voiced objections to the project's boxy design and suggested a Dutch barn roof design instead of the proposed flat roof.

Planning Manager Lodan advised that the sloping sides of the roof Mr. Leach proposed would interfere with the operation of the garage door and the placement of windows.

Marian De Meire, 402 Calle de Arboles, submitted photographs to illustrate the encroachment on view. She stated that despite the revisions, the project would still impact ocean views from the second story, which was constructed in 1967, and expressed concerns about the compatibility of contemporary design with the rest of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted the dramatic difference in the view impact shown by Ms. De Meire's photographs and the photographs taken by staff. Ms. De Meire clarified that the photographs in question were taken from a deck, not inside the home.

Steve Slepcevic, 431 Via Mesa Grande, voiced support for the project, relating his experience that remodeled homes increase property values.

Byron Freeman, 334 Calle de Arboles, stated that he has no objections to the project and while he personally doesn't like the roofline, he believes the applicants should be able to build according to their own taste.

Responding to audience members' comments, Mr. Koontz explained that he would have preferred a peaked roof but went with a flat roof to minimize the impact on views and related his belief that different architectural styles add character to a neighborhood.

In response to Councilmember Sutherland's inquiry, Mr. Koontz confirmed that the roof will not be used as a deck.

Responding to questions from the Council, Planning Manager Lodan advised that that the latest revision did not affect the project's FAR, which remains at 0.59. He confirmed that the applicant will be required to replace the parkway tree to be removed for the new driveway.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that according to the information submitted by the applicant, the proposed FAR is consistent with other recently remodeled homes in the area and indicated that she would support the project as proposed.

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

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to approve the appeal and approve the project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2007-81**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 41 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST AND SECOND STORY ADDITIONS TO AN EXISTING ONE-STORY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 330 CALLE DE ARBOLES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-81. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Drevno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2007-82**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A WAIVER AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW A REDUCTION IN THE FRONT AND REAR YARD AVERAGE AND MINIMUM SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR A TWO-STORY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE AND TWO-STORY ADDITIONS, TO AN EXISTING ONE-STORY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE, ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 330 CALLE DE ARBOLES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-82. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:53 p.m. to 8:54 p.m.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Nowatka announced that the public would have an opportunity to meet former astronaut, retired Navy Captain Dick Richards, on Saturday, August 18, at 2:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Library.

**17B.** Councilmember Sutherland requested, with the concurrence of Council, that an item be brought forward to waive rental fees for the 9th annual Employee Variety Show on September 15, 2007. City Manager Jackson agreed to schedule this item for the August 21 Council meeting.

**17C.** Councilmember Witkowsky reported that the first case of West Nile virus has been reported in Los Angeles County and reminded residents to eliminate any standing water on their property.

**17D.** Councilmember Witkowsky encouraged everyone to attend a performance of West Side Story at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, with final shows on August 16, 17 and 18.

**17E.** Councilmember Witkowsky announced that Martin Short would be performing at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center on Friday, September 28, with ticket information available at 310.781.7171.

**17F.** Councilmember Brewer announced Hot Fun Sunday on August 19, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Walteria Park, with smooth jazz by Cal Bennett.

**17G.** Scott Gobble, SCE, encouraged residents to continue conserving energy between peak hours of 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 21, 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 October 9, 2007

Sue Sweet  
Recording Secretary