

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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmembers Barnett and Furey.

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

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Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:01 p.m., the City Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:06 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Rhilinger.

Councilmember Brewer 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, October 9, 2008.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Barnett and Furey).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Brewer announced a Citizens Development and Enrichment Committee meeting on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Assembly Room. He noted that the public is invited, with topics to include the design of the newly acquired corner of the Madrona Marsh (Madrona and Sepulveda) and a possible message board at this location.

Fire Chief Rachowski provided an update on Torrance and South Bay strike teams that have been assisting with the Marek and Sesnon fires in the San Fernando Valley.

Police Chief Neu updated the public on the deployment of the Area G South Bay Platoon, which was called to assist in the area of the Sesnon fire.

Public Works Director Beste announced that residents may request a larger 96-gallon recycling container by calling 310.781.6900 or going to the City of Torrance website under Public Works to complete a request form.

Public Works Director Beste reported that paving taking place on 190th Street would be completed this week with striping to follow within two weeks.

City Clerk Herbers noted that Torrance residents could still register for the October 22 Commissioner Certification class online or by calling the City Clerk's office at 310.618.2870.

City Clerk Herbers reminded the public of the upcoming November 4, 2008 election and that the deadline to register to vote is October 20.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE GERBER AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation commending and expressing appreciation to Gerber Ambulance Service for 20 years of outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the community to Robert Gerber, president and CEO of Gerber Ambulance Service.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE "CODE COMPLIANCE MONTH"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring October 2008 as **Code Compliance Month** in the City of Torrance to Environmental Quality Officers Sharron Jones and Nora Duncan.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Dale Hall, Torrance, spoke regarding code enforcement issues at his residence.

City Attorney Fellows noted that neither the City Council nor staff could comment on Mr. Hall's statements due to current legal action.

7B. Sara Wermers, Torrance student, asked for the City to support Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z.

7C. Lisa Wermers, Torrance student, asked for the City to support Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z.

7D. Gene Higginbotham, president of the Torrance Historical Society, commented on the success of the 2008 Historical Home Tour.

7E. Kelly Evans, Torrance, encouraged a yes vote on Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z, noting that more information can be found at www.yesonyandz.com.

7F. Michelle Nadeau and six members of South Bay 4 Soccer Club spoke in favor of Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z.

7G. Jimmy Wakimoto, Torrance, spoke in favor of Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

8A. **PURCHASE ORDER FOR PRINTING/DELIVERY OF TORRANCE SEASONS PUBLICATION**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council authorize a purchase order to A-1 Printing and Graphics, Torrance, CA, to print and deliver the Torrance Seasons publication for \$95,400, plus \$7,870.50 sales tax and a \$10,327.05 10% contingency for an amount not to exceed \$113,597.55. (Bid B2008-42)

8B. **PROPOSITION C TRANSIT SECURITY FUNDS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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 allocation of Proposition C 5% Security funds for the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Barnett and Furey).

12. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

12A. **AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT RE DEL AMO BOULEVARD EXTENSION/ GRADE SEPARATION**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Agreement, MOU/LOA.P0004314S (C2007-102) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to extend the lapse date by one year through May 31, 2009 to complete the acquisition of easements needed for the Del Amo Boulevard Extension/Grade Separation, T-30.

Engineering Manager Overstreet reported that the proposed one-year extension would allow staff to complete the acquisition of easements, obtain federal authorization to advertise the project for construction bids, and initiate the bidding process.

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

12B. **AGREEMENT RE OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEMS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve an agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the City documenting the roles and responsibilities of each agency with respect to traffic signal systems.

Engineering Manager Bilezerian explained that the proposed agreement was necessary to implement traffic signal synchronization on Torrance Boulevard, Madrona Avenue/Prairie Avenue, Artesia Boulevard, Carson Street, 190th Street, Sepulveda Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard.

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

12C. PURCHASE ORDER RE ASPHALT PLANT MIX

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to be issued to Sully-Miller Contracting Company of Anaheim, California, in the amount not to exceed \$730,000, for the sole source purchase of asphalt plant mix on an as-needed basis, from October 18, 2008 through October 17, 2009.

Street Operations Manager Cooper noted that Sully-Miller Contracting Company was the sole bidder because it is the only company that meets the requirement that the asphalt plant be within 10 miles of Torrance so that City crews can pick up the hot asphalt mix rather than incurring the additional expense of having it transported in a thermally-heated truck.

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

12D. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR TORRANCE TRANSIT SYSTEM FARE STRUCTURE CHANGES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve public comment process on proposed changes to the fare structure of Torrance Transit System.

Transit Administration Manager Mills provided an overview of the proposed changes to the fare structure of Torrance Transit System. He explained that fare increases were necessary due to a reduction in funding levels and rising fuel and labor costs, noting that the last fare increase was in 1995. He advised that staff was proposing the following public outreach/ information meetings: 1) Katy Geissert Civic Center Library on October 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., and 2) Long Beach Civic Center Library on November 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. He noted that the process would culminate in a public hearing at the December 9, 2008 City Council meeting and if approved, the new fare structure would go into effect on January 5, 2009.

Councilmember Brewer suggested that staff explore the possibility of obtaining additional revenue by allowing a wider range of advertising on buses.

City Manager Jackson offered to bring back a separate information item on this issue, noting that the Council rejected this idea in the past due to potential controversies.

Councilmember Numark requested that staff provide information regarding the number of seniors and college students currently riding Torrance Transit buses and the potential impact of fare changes when this matter comes back to the Council on December 9.

Mayor Scotto requested that a monthly analysis be provided to determine whether rising gasoline prices have created an increase in bus ridership.

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

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The City Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:02 p.m. to 8:03 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

17A. Councilmember Brewer announced an informational meeting regarding School Bond Measures Y and Z at North High School on October 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. sponsored by the North Torrance Homeowners Association.

17B. Councilmember Brewer inquired about Open Mic telecasts by CitiCABLE regarding the Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures.

Cable and Community Relations Manager Smith reported that the Open Mic segment featuring Bond Measures Y and Z will air each night beginning October 15 until November 3 on CitiCABLE Channel 28 at 9:00 p.m. (repeating for ½ hour).

17C. Councilmember Numark announced a free Torrance Symphony performance on Saturday, October 18, 2008, 8:00 p.m., at the Armstrong Theatre.

17D. Councilmember Rhilinger invited the public to attend the Riviera Garden Club's Private Garden Tour on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

17E. Councilmember Rhilinger announced the Halloween Ball and Benefit to be held at the Depot Restaurant on Saturday, October 18, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to benefit the Pediatric Therapy Network.

17F. Councilmember Sutherland commented on Torrance Unified School District Bond Measures Y and Z.

17G. Mayor Scotto asked for City Council concurrence to waive the fees for the use of a Torrance facility by the California Air Resources Board to hold a one-day Hydrogen Fuel Cell Workshop in Torrance.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:09 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 21, 2008 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 December 16, 2008

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary