

**INDEX**  
**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 16, 2012**

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
<b><u>OPENING CEREMONIES</u></b>	
1. Call to Order/Roll Call	1
2. Flag Salute/Invocation	1
3. Affidavit of Posting/Waive Further Reading	1
4. Withdrawn, Deferred or Supplemental Items	1
5. Council Committee Meetings and Announcements	1-2
<b><u>6. COMMUNITY MATTERS</u></b>	
6A. Resolution No. 2012-75 re Robert Maag	2
6B. Resolution No. 2012-76 re Hrand Ibranosian	2-3
<b><u>7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1</u></b>	
<b><u>8. CONSENT CALENDAR</u></b>	
8A. Approval of Minutes	3
8B. Agreement for Design Services re Transit Training Room Expansion	3, 4
8C. Contract Amendment re Henderson and El Retiro Library Accessibility Upgrades	3
8D. Rejection of Bids for Sea-Aire Golf Course Irrigation Replacement	3
8E. Appropriation re Undergrounding of Street Lights	4
8F. Amendment to Fee Agreement for Legal Services	4
8G. Agreement for Sport Court Refurbishing at Various City Parks	4
8H. Agreement Amendment re Downtown Marketplace	4
<b><u>12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u></b>	
12A. Torrance Conference Center Market Feasibility Analysis	5
12B. Torrance Transit Proposed 2012 Service Changes	6-7
<b><u>17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2</u></b>	
<b><u>18. EXECUTIVE SESSION</u></b>	
<b><u>19. ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

At 9:13 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**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 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 in the Council Chamber 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 the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6.

The City Council reconvened at 7:01 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The flag salute was led by State Assembly candidate Craig Huey.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

**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 11, 2012.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rhilinger 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 Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLMENTAL ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Brewer announced that the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Torrance Unified School District on Thursday, November 8, at 4:00 p.m. in the TUSD board room located at 2336 Plaza Del Amo.

Councilmember Sutherland announced that a City Council Community Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dee Hardison Sports Center at Wilson Park located at 2400 Jefferson Street.

City Clerk Herbers announced that residents may register for the free Commissioner Certification Training class on Tuesday, October 30, by contacting the City Manager's office at 310.618.5880 or online at [www.TorranceCA.gov/CommissionerCert.htm](http://www.TorranceCA.gov/CommissionerCert.htm). She noted that the class is required for Torrance residents to be eligible to submit applications for Commission appointments in January 2013; that the certification is valid for two years; and that the class is strongly recommended for anyone interested in seeking an elected office in Torrance.

City Clerk Herbers announced that voter registration closes on October 22, with additional information available at [www.LAVote.net](http://www.LAVote.net), including finding your voting location, determining whether or not you are registered, and tracking your Vote by Mail applications, which may be filed through October 30. She offered a reminder that all voted ballots must be received either at the polls or at the LA County Registrar's office no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day November 6. She reported that the Los Angeles County Registrar was seeking pollworkers, especially bilingual Chinese and Korean speakers, with additional information available by calling the County's Pollworker Services at 562.345.8294. She noted that training classes are still being held in the area and pollworkers are paid for the day.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-75 RE ROBERT MAAG**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-75**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING SENIOR FIRE INSPECTOR ROBERT J. MAAG UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-75. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Robert Maag, who accepted with appreciation.

Fire Chief Racowschi commended Mr. Maag for his dedicated service and wished him well in his retirement.

**6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-76 RE HRAND IBRANOSSIAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-76**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING HRAND IBRANOSSIAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-76. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Hrand Ibranossian, who accepted with appreciation.

General Services Director Ballew commended Mr. Ibranossian for his dedicated service and wished him well in his retirement.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Craig Huey, State Assembly candidate, announced that a town hall meeting will be held on Monday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center library meeting room.

**7B.** Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, announced that there will be a free walking tour of downtown Torrance on Sunday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m. starting at the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue.

**7C.** Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, reported on the successful Fall Historic Home Tour held the previous weekend.

**7D.** Rick King, resident, expressed concerns about Code Enforcement actions taken against his neighbor Dale Hall.

**7E.** Natalie Marquise, resident, urged that Dale Hall be given more time to correct Code violations.

**7F.** Dale Hall, resident, requested that the City grant him extra time to complete repairs on his home. He expressed concerns that he is no longer able to serve as a science fair judge or have any interaction with children because of a previous conviction for Code violations.

**7G.** Michael Shafer, the Depot restaurant, announced that his friend and fellow restaurateur Jerry Del Conte passed away earlier in the day.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of September 18 and September 25, 2012.

**8B. AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN SERVICES RE TRANSIT TRAINING ROOM EXPANSION/OFFICE RENOVATION**

Considered separately, see page 4.

**8C. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE HENDERSON AND EL RETIRO LIBRARIES ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Transit Director that City Council award a consulting agreement with Withee Malcolm Architects of Torrance for \$58,300 for architectural and engineering design services for the Transit Training Room Expansion and Office Renovation (FEAP #716).

**8D. REJECTION OF BIDS FOR SEA-AIRE GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION REPLACEMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council reject all bids received for Sea-Aire Golf Course Irrigation Replacement (B2012-35 and FEAP #771).

**8E. APPROPRIATION RE UNDERGROUNDING OF STREET LIGHTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize an appropriation and expenditure of \$90,000 from the Development Impact Fee for Undergrounding Overhead Utilities to construct the improvements for the undergrounding of overhead utilities along Hawthorne Boulevard from 186th Street to Del Amo Boulevard;
- 2) Authorize an appropriation of \$23,000 from the Development Impact Fee for Undergrounding Overhead Utilities to construct underground service improvements, currently serviced from overhead lines, to energize the north street lights along Del Amo Boulevard from Victor Street to Henrietta Street into Infrastructure Action Plan (IAP) Project No. I 114, Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities and Installation of Underground Street Lights along Del Amo Boulevard between Henrietta Street and Victor Street; and
- 3) Appropriate \$2,300 from the Development Impact Fee for Undergrounding Overhead Utilities and approve a project budget for project administration and inspection of IAP Project No. I 114.

**8F. AMENDMENT TO FEE AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve a third amendment to fee agreement with Jerold A. Goddard, Esq. (C2010-220) to represent the City in defending Pitchess motions, for an additional \$50,000, for total amount not to exceed \$95,000.

**8G. AGREEMENT FOR SPORT COURT REFURBISHING AT VARIOUS CITY PARKS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve an agreement in the amount of \$60,000 with Taylor Tennis Courts Inc. of Anaheim, CA for sport court resurfacing services at various City parks.

**8H. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE DOWNTOWN TORRANCE MARKETPLACE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council authorize an amendment to the consultant services agreement with Michael Shafer (C2012-128) to modify the Downtown Torrance Marketplace hours of operation.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Numark moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8C through 8H. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8B was considered separately at this time.

**8B. AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN SERVICES RE TRANSIT TRAINING ROOM EXPANSION/OFFICE RENOVATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Transit Director that City Council award a consulting agreement with Withee Malcolm Architects of Torrance for \$58,300 for architectural and engineering design services for the Transit Training Room Expansion and Office Renovation (FEAP #716).

Responding to questions from the Council, Transit Administration Manager Mills confirmed that the proposed training room will not duplicate facilities in the new Torrance Regional Transit Center and reported that the project will be paid for by grant funds.

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

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. TORRANCE CONFERENCE CENTER MARKET FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council review and approve a Request for Proposal (RFP) scope of work for an in-depth Torrance Conference Center market feasibility analysis.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan advised that staff obtained a preliminary analysis regarding the feasibility of redeveloping the space formerly occupied by Borders bookstore as a conference center and based on the report findings, staff was recommending that an in-depth market feasibility analysis be conducted to determine the demand for a Torrance Conference Center.

Referring to the proposed Torrance Conference Center Market Study RFP, Councilmember Numark recommended that the Financial Projections include potential additional occupancy taxes and sales tax that would be generated by the conference center.

Councilmember Brewer related his belief that it was an opportune time to explore the feasibility of a conference center due to the upcoming renovation of Del Amo mall, noting that currently there is no conference center between Long Beach and Los Angeles International Airport.

Councilmember Furey noted his agreement with Councilmember Brewer's remarks and pointed out that the data to be gathered for the study will also be useful for purposes of economic development.

Mayor Scotto stated that he believes there is a definite need for a five-star hotel in the South Bay area and the data gathered could provide ammunition for attracting one to Torrance.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed support for the proposed market feasibility study.

Charles Deemer, resident, noted that there are hotels in Redondo Beach that could potentially use a conference center in Torrance and suggested that these hotels be included in the study. He related his understanding that the Borders building is being renovated for another retail use.

Mayor Scotto clarified that the study will not be site-specific.

Nick Green, reporter for the *Daily Breeze*, discussed a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* that mentioned that the convention/conference center business has slowed considerably since the recession and cities have had to resort to cannibalizing each other's business.

Mayor Scotto noted that there are no conference centers in nearby cities so Torrance would not be cannibalizing their business. He related his experience that certain groups have decided not to come to Torrance because existing facilities could not accommodate them.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan emphasized that the study will explore the feasibility of a conference center, not a convention center meant to house large-scale events.

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

## **12B. TORRANCE TRANSIT PROPOSED 2012 SERVICE CHANGES**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve the Torrance Transit proposed fall 2012 service changes

With the aid of slides, Ian Dailey and Bradley Tollison, Torrance Transit, briefly reviewed proposed service changes to be implemented in fall 2012, with the goal of improving reliability, simplifying access to the regional network, increasing service spans, improving network efficiency and productivity, and spending funds more efficiently. Mr. Dailey reported on community outreach efforts to obtain input from the public on the proposed service changes, which included three public hearings.

Councilmember Numark noted that a petition has been submitted signed by 160 people who object to the proposal to discontinue Line 2 service to downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Tollison reported that there are several alternatives to the Line 2 service that will get passengers from Torrance to downtown Los Angeles significantly faster than the existing service, including the new Line 4. Mr. Dailey suggested that those who signed the petition may object to having to change buses rather than having "single-seat service."

In response to Councilmember Numark's inquiry, Mr. Tollison confirmed that staff will continue to monitor the routes after the service changes are implemented in case they need to be adjusted.

Mr. Tollison and Mr. Dailey discussed the various methods to be used to inform the public of the service changes and promote bus ridership, including social media and outreach to El Camino College.

Councilmember Brewer commended Transit staff for this very comprehensive overhaul of bus routes that will make bus service more reliable and user friendly.

Councilmember Rhilinger questioned whether the service changes will mean increased fares for bus riders.

Mr. Dailey reported that there will be little change in fares; Mr. Tollison noted that there will be no change in the price of bus passes, which are more economical for people who ride buses on a regular basis.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Charles Deemer, resident, expressed concerns about the shifting of a transit hub from Madrona Avenue/Carson Street to Hawthorne Boulevard/Carson Street due to the potential stacking of buses. He questioned whether additional changes will be necessary in the next budget cycle.

David DeWitt, resident, noted that bus ridership may be affected when the HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes on the 110 Freeway are changed to toll lanes in November thereby opening up these lanes to vehicles with single drivers.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Transit Director Turner advised that the services changes will be implemented on November 18; that notices will be passed out to bus riders to inform them of the impending changes; and that the Council will be updated on a quarterly basis regarding the impact of the changes.

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

## **17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Rhilinger announced that Torrance Transit will be kicking off the new Rapid and Express Lane bus service on Thursday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m. in the Del Amo Fashion Center parking lot. She noted that free rides will be offered on Line 3 on Thursday, October 25, and Friday, October 26, with additional information available at 310.618.6226.

**17B.** Councilmember Rhilinger announced that the final event in the City's Centennial celebration will be the Birthday Bash to be held at Wilson Park on Sunday, October 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and free train rides will be offered by the Live Steamers.

**17C.** Councilmember Barnett reported that the Birthday Bash will include a Kids Zone with jumpers, petting zoo, pony rides and games; that there will be entertainment throughout the day, including strolling Mariachis and a performance by American Idol finalist Tim Urban; and that there will also be craft booths, demonstrations, a cheer exhibition and baseball competitions.

**17D.** Councilmember Brewer reported that there will be a picnic area and an assortment of gourmet food trucks at the Birthday Bash and there are also fast food restaurants within easy walking distance of Wilson Park.

**17E.** Councilmember Rhilinger noted that the Birthday Bash will end with the release of 100 doves marking the City's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will feature the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sky Divers, a precision sky diving team.

**17F.** Councilmember Barnett thanked City staff who helped make the visit of the Kashiwa, Japan delegation last weekend a huge success.

**17G.** Councilmember Brewer announced that the Skechers Pier-to-Pier Walk, benefitting local schools, will take place on Sunday, October 28, and the entire \$25 registration fee will go to the school designated by the walker, with additional information on the Skechers website.

**17H.** Councilmember Furey echoed comments on the Kashiwa, Japan delegation's visit.

**17I.** Councilmember Numark announced that the Torrance Symphony will present an encore performance featuring the three winners of the 2012 Young Artists Concerto Competition and a selection of Broadway favorites on Saturday, October 20, at 8:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre, with additional information [www.TorranceSymphony.org](http://www.TorranceSymphony.org).

**17J.** Mayor Scotto commended the Sister City Association and City staff for their efforts to make the visit of the Kashiwa, Japan delegation a success.

**17K.** Mayor Scotto requested that staff review the City Council's travel budget to see if funding will be available for a trip to Kashiwa, Japan.

**17L.** Mayor Scotto requested that staff consider replacing the groundcover under the benches at the Centennial Plaza with cement using a City crew to minimize the expense.

**17M.** Charles Deemer, resident, recommended that the City look into a new legislation concerning Infrastructure Financing Districts.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:13 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers  
Sue Herbers, CMC  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on November 6, 2012