

INDEX
TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 15, 2011

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>OPENING CEREMONIES</u>	
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 Withdrawn/Deferred or Supplemental Items	2
5. Council Committee Meetings and Announcements	2
6. <u>COMMUNITY MATTERS</u>	
6A. Presentation of Donation to Torrance Rose Float Association	2
6B. Acceptance/Appropriation of Torrance Centennial Committee Donation	2-3
7. <u>ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1</u>	
8. <u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>	
8A. Approval of Minutes	3
8B. Approval of Final Parcel Map No. 70501/Abandonment of Easement	4
8C. Agreement re Intersection Improvements at Hawthorne Bl/Skypark Dr.	3, 4
12. <u>ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u>	
12A. City Council Dark Nights – January through June 2012	4
12B. Status Report on Quiet Zone Study	4-5
17. <u>ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2</u>	
18. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>	
19. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

At 7:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

November 15, 2011

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened for a Workshop on Preventing Workplace Harassment at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: *Councilmembers Numark and Rhilinger.

Also Present: City Clerk Herbers, City Attorney Fellows, Human Resources Manager Fuentes.

*NOTE: Councilmember Rhilinger had previously attended City of Torrance training on this topic and Council Numark indicated he would satisfy the mandate though his employer, American Red Cross.

Peter Brown, of Liebert, Cassidy & Whitmore, presented two-hour training on Harassment Awareness, Discrimination and Retaliation to satisfy a regular state mandated training requirement.

The City Council recessed at 6:00 p.m.

*

The City Council reconvened for regular business at 7:02 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

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.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by City Attorney Fellows.

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, November 10, 2011.

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 Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Rhilinger reported that she did not attend the Workshop on Preventing Workplace Harassment because she had recently taken the training with City staff.

Councilmember Rhilinger requested an excused absence from the November 22 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Numark reported that he did not attend the Workshop on Preventing Workplace Harassment because he will be completing the mandated training through his employer the American Red Cross.

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers to review the 1st Quarter Budget.

Councilmember Brewer announced that the Armed Forces Day Standing Committee will meet on Monday, November 21, at 4:30 p.m. in the City Manager Assembly Room to discuss the 2012 Armed Forces Day Parade and Observance.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PRESENTATION OF DONATION TO TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION

Gary Johnson, vice president, and Kelli Johnson, president of ACE Clearwater Enterprises, presented a \$75,000 donation to Torrance Rose Float Association President Mary Hoffman.

Mayor Scotto noted the City of Torrance has had to eliminate funding for the Torrance Rose Float beginning in 2013 due to budgetary constraints and expressed appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and ACE Clearwater Enterprises for their generous donation that will allow Torrance to continue the 58-year tradition of having a float in the Rose Parade.

Ms. Hoffman announced that "Restaurants for Roses" fundraisers will begin in January 2012 and each Thursday a different restaurant will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Torrance Rose Float Association, with the first fundraiser to be held on January 5 at Marie Callendar's on Torrance Boulevard followed by Ruby's in Rolling Hills Estates on January 12.

6B. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF TORRANCE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE DONATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Centennial Committee that City Council:

- 1) Accept a \$3,000 donation from Alan Schwartz, president of Asset Management Solutions, LLC; and

- 2) Appropriate the \$3,000 donation to the 2012 Centennial Committee Budget - FEAP #739.

Alan and Adam Schwartz, Asset Management Solutions, LLC, presented a \$3,000 donation to Centennial Committee chair Laurie Love and co-chair Dee Hardison, who expressed appreciation for the generous donation. Mr. Schwartz noted his family's long history of community involvement in Torrance starting with his grandfather Sam Levy.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to accept and appropriate the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Melanie Dreike, Torrance Centennial Committee, introduced Events Committee members Michelle Polcari, Keri Gilbert, Barbara Heughin, Debbie Hays, Janet Payne, Susan Rhilinger, Dee Hardison, and Laurie Love for and thanked them for their assistance in coordinating the "Lights, Camera, Action" event. She displayed the official photograph from the event.

7B. Janet Payne, Torrance Centennial Committee, announced that a postcard packet of five selected photos from "Lights, Camera, Action" will be available for sale in three weeks at various locations to be announced.

7C. Moin Kureshi, Torrance, expressed concerns regarding the safety of children walking to school due to traffic at Vista Montana and Pacific Coast Highway.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of October 11, October 18, and October 25, 2011.

8B. APPROVAL OF FINAL PARCEL MAP NO. 70501/ ABANDONMENT OF EASEMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve Final Parcel Map No. 70501; and
- 2) Abandon an unneeded utility easement along the easterly side of the project site. This Final Parcel Map merges two lots into one lot on property located at 25700 Crenshaw Boulevard within the Hillside Overlay District. This project is owned by Palos Verdes Financial Corporation. The Final Parcel Map substantially conforms to and meets all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

8C. AGREEMENT RE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD AND SKYPARK DRIVE

Considered separately, see page 4.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

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

8C. AGREEMENT RE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD AND SKYPARK DRIVE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve and adopt the plans and specifications for the Intersection Improvements at Hawthorne Boulevard and Skypark Drive (B2011-39) on file in the City Clerk's Office;
- 2) Award a public works agreement to the lowest responsible bidder, E.C. Construction Company, in the amount of \$144,622.30;
- 3) Authorize an appropriation and expenditure of \$144,622.30 to E.C. Construction Company from the Developer Deposited Funds to construct the improvements;
- 4) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$7,231.12; and
- 5) Appropriate \$15,021.45 from the Developer Deposited Funds and approve a project budget for project administration and inspection.

At Councilmember Brewer's request, Transportation Planning Manager Semaan briefly reviewed the improvements to be made to the Hawthorne Boulevard/Skypark Drive intersection, which include adding another left-turn lane for southbound traffic.

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. CITY COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council declares the following Tuesdays as City Council Dark Nights from January 1 through June 2012: January 3, January 17, January 31, February 14, February 21, and May 29, 2012.

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

12B. STATUS REPORT REGARDING QUIET ZONE STUDY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept and file a status report on the findings and results regarding the Quiet Zone Study; and
- 2) Authorize staff to continue the search for funding for quiet zone implementation that would silence the sound of train horns at eight at-grade crossings within the City limits.

Mayor Scotto noted supplemental material available at the meeting.

Associate Engineer Reis provided a brief summary of the Quiet Zone Study completed by Rail Pros, Inc., which includes a list of improvements that are necessary to implement a quiet zone at eight railroad crossings in Torrance. She reported that the improvements are estimated to cost between \$10,940,000 and \$13,552,000; that most grants cover only civil improvements, which amount to approximately 24% of the total cost; and that staff will continue to search for grant funding to cover the rest of the cost.

Responding to questions from the Council, Associate Engineer Reis clarified that civil improvements consist of intersection improvements, such as extending medians, restriping the roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, and the balance of the project would be improvements to railways, including upgrading automatic gates and warning systems to compensate for the lack of train horns. She explained that staff was recommending that the

project be completed all at once due to cost advantages and because there would continue to be noise until all intersections are completed since trains must sound their horns at least a quarter mile from each crossing. She advised that railroad companies are not obligated to help pay for quiet zone improvements but they have done so in some cases and staff is exploring this option.

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

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Numark announced that Global Entrepreneurship Week, the largest celebration of innovators and job creators, is being held this week and in support of the effort, Torrance is launching the South Bay Entrepreneurial Center, with additional information available by contacting the Torrance Economic Development office at 310.618.5807 or www.economicdevelopment@torranceca.gov.

17B. Councilmember Brewer announced that the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation will be presenting *A Class Reunion to Die For*, an interactive murder mystery, Friday, November 18, at the Miyako Hybrid Hotel, with additional information available at 310.781.7171.

17C. Councilmember Furey noted that he had received a petition from residents in the area of Sepulveda Boulevard and Gramercy Avenue, which he submitted for the record, and asked that staff look into traffic calming measures.

17D. Councilmember Furey encouraged residents to shop in Torrance during the holiday gift-giving season.

17E. Mayor Scotto echoed Councilmember Furey's remarks regarding shopping in Torrance during the holiday season and further encouraged viewers to patronize small businesses in Torrance.

17F. Mayor Scotto announced that he had the opportunity to attend Toyota's 100 Cars for Good event held on November 9, at which Torrance Providence TrinityKids Care, a pediatric hospice service, received a specially built Toyota Sienna minivan to assist mobility-impaired patients.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, November 22, 2011 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, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on December 6, 2011

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary