

December 7, 1999

**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 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 1999, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kim Fuentes, Rideshare Coordinator.

Rabbi Steven Silver, Temple Menorah, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Captain Matthew Culbert, a retired Torrance Firefighter; Jan Jackson, who was active in the Torrance Race Relations Forum; and the Worcester, Massachusetts Firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. She requested that flags be flown at half-mast on Thursday, December 9, 1999.

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3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilman Lee 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 Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS

City Manager Jackson announced that there were no items withdrawn or deferred, but there was supplemental material available at the meeting (Redevelopment Item 4a and City Council Item 12a) and an addendum item (11c) to be added to the agenda.

Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda, City staff received information that it did not have authority to pay for off-site fueling of City vehicles required after the City yard fueling facility was closed for repair. As it was necessary for Council to take immediate action due to the time frames involved, a motion was made by Councilman Messerlian, seconded by Councilman Horwich, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, to add the item as part of the public session agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2).

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy City Clerk Robinson reminded the public that applications are being accepted for commission appointments in January, with applications available in the City Clerk's office.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced that as part of the ongoing arrangement with members of the Torrance Artist's Guild, the works of three artists are on display through December in the City Clerk's office with a winter/holiday theme: Carol Lindgren's photo entitled "October Snow"; a pastel entitled "Holiday Glow" by Richard Whitehorse; and Robin Wade's watercolors of angels. She invited the public to stop by to view the display during business hours.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. RESOLUTION NO. 99-130 RE POLICE OFFICER CINDY LOU GAYDA

RESOLUTION NO. 99-130

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING
POLICE OFFICER CYNDY LOU GAYDA UPON HER
RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-ONE
YEARS OF SERVICE.**

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-130. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

To be presented at a later date.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 12 AND OCTOBER 19, 1999

7b. **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS SUBMITTED IN NOVEMBER 1999**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council accept donations from Virco Mfg. Corp. and Toyota.

7c. **EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT RE "TORRANCE SEASONS"**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a one-year extension of an agreement with Rodgers & McDonald Graphics to be drafted by the City Attorney in an amount not to exceed \$55,540 to print and deliver four issues of Torrance Seasons.

7d. **APPROVAL OF YOUTH COUNCIL DONATIONS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council that City Council approve a donation of \$7,250 from the Torrance Youth Council Donation Fund in the following amounts:

- 1) \$6250 to the Torrance Parks and Recreation Department's Make*A*Circus program; and
- 2) \$1,000 to the Volunteer Center for Operation Teddy Bear.

7e. **YOUTH COUNCIL DONATION TO TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council that City Council approve a \$5,000 donation from the Torrance Youth Council Donation Fund to the Torrance Rose Float Association, and authorize the Staff Liaison to issue a warrant on the Youth Council's behalf.

7f. **FUNDING FOR PILOT PROGRAM TO REHABILITATE YOUTH SPORTS FACILITIES**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council appropriate \$50,000 from the Park Rehabilitation and Open Space Preservation Fund for a Pilot Program to Rehabilitate Youth Sports Facilities.

7g. **PURCHASE ORDERS RE VANPOOL VEHICLE AND EXTENSION OF CAR PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Approve a purchase order and appropriate funds for the purchase of a vanpool vehicle, to replace an existing vehicle in the vanpool fleet, in the amount of \$22,000 from AB2766 fund balance dollars.
- 2) Appropriate \$44,948 of 1998-99 vanpool fare box revenue for continued funding of the City's Vanpool Program; and

- 3) Approve the extension of the purchase order agreement for one year, to continue the City's CAR Program, with Western Motivational Incentives Group in the amount of \$95,000 with the use of AB2766 funds.

7h. CHANGE ORDER RE REMOVAL OF FUEL TANKS AT ZAMPERINI FIELD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve an amendment to the Universal Petroleum Services contract for additional costs incurred during the removal of fuel storage tanks at Zamperini Field.

7i. PURCHASE ORDER RE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF OFFICE SUPPLY ITEMS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council award a purchase order in an anticipated amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 to Office Depot Business Services Division for the purchase of the City's annual requirement of office supply items.

7j. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE INSPECTION SERVICES AT WILSON PARK GYMNASIUM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve an amendment to the Twining Laboratories contract (C99-202) for inspection services at the Wilson Park Gymnasium.

7k. PURCHASE ORDER RE FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH OFFICE WORKSTATIONS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued for an amount not to exceed \$26,903.88 to Xybix Ergonomic Systems, Littleton, CO, for the sole-source purchase of workstations to be furnished and installed in the Fire Department's Dispatch office.

MOTION: Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. NOVEMBER 2, 1999 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council adopt Resolution No. 99-131 declaring the results of the Special Municipal Election held on November 2, 1999.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson indicated that she was available to answer questions.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-131

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION CONSOLIDATED WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED ELECTION HELD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE ON NOVEMBER 2, 1999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID CITY A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-131. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison commented about problems with the consolidated election of November 2, 1999, conducted by the Los Angeles County Registrar, and stated that she hoped the City Clerk had addressed the problems in writing with the Registrar/Recorder's office, sharing a copy with Council and the Mayor.

11b. APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION/SALARY RANGE FOR NATURE CENTER MANAGER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the newly created job description for Nature Center Manager; and
- 2) Adopt a supplemental Resolution establishing the monthly salary range for the Nature Center Manager.

Senior Human Resources Analyst Weinmeister reported that the Nature Center Manager will be responsible for overseeing the construction of the Nature Center and developing and implementing educational programs and activities. He noted that the salary range was based on an internal comparison of similar positions.

Ms. Shirley Turner, 23216 Juniper Avenue, Friends of Madrona Marsh, expressed the hope that the marsh would continue to be managed under the business plan developed by the Friends of Madrona Marsh and the marsh's naturalist and that it would remain open and free for all to enjoy and experience. She stated that the Friend's goal has always been to allow individuals to view the preserve in an unregimented environment and that the current operations serve the public and maintain the integrity of the preserve (submitted copy of remarks for the record).

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the approval of the job description for Nature Center Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-132

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 99-74 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING THE WAGES, HOURS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CERTAIN FULL TIME SALARIED AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-132. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. PURCHASE ORDERS RE OFF-SITE FUELING OF CITY VEHICLES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve a change order to the existing purchase orders for off-site fueling of gasoline vehicles for a five-month period not to exceed \$122,000;
- 2) Authorize the use of Capital Improvement Funding designated for facility retrofit of compressed natural gas (FEAP#10) in the amount of \$27,000 to pay for the additional cost of retail fueling; and
- 3) Authorize pre-payments of \$12,000 to each of two vendors for initial delivery of fuel.

General Services Director Tilden advised that the purchase orders would provide funding for the off-site fueling of gasoline vehicles while the fueling facility at the City yard is closed for the abatement of contaminated soil. He noted that the process could take several months and promised to update the Council as soon as staff can determine exactly how long the facility will be out of commission.

MOTION: Councilwoman Cribbs moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. HEARINGS

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At 7:25 p.m., the Council convened in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency, and Agenda Item 12a was heard concurrently with Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4a.

12a. PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO TORRANCE SKYPARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Redevelopment Agency staff that City Council hold a City Council/Redevelopment Agency joint public hearing to adopt an Ordinance approving and adopting the proposed Amendment to the Skypark Redevelopment Plan, and adopt Resolutions finding that no additional environmental review is required.

Planning Manager Bihn reported that the proposed Amendment would increase the amount of tax increment that can be received from the Project Area, allowing the Agency to pay off of existing indebtedness. He noted supplemental material available at the meeting, consisting of a summary of the Ordinance for publication.

Mayor Hardison opened the public hearing. There being no requests to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-133

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING THAT NO ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IS REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TORRANCE SKYPARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-133. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3476

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2708 APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TORRANCE SKYPARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 3476. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved for the approval of the summary of the Ordinance for publication. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

At 7:32 p.m., the Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned.

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. City Manager Jackson commended staff for assistance with the recent train derailment and noted that the Red Cross had been very helpful in providing shelter and food for those persons evacuated during the crises.

Councilwoman Cribbs echoed the compliments to staff, noting that the cleanup of the derailment necessitated assistance from city workers for a long period of time.

15b. Councilman Horwich echoed Rabbi Silver's wish of a "Happy Chanukah" to all, as well as a joyous Christmas season. He also noted an enjoyable experience on the TPOA Santa Float.

Councilman Lee agreed with earlier comments and wished everyone a "Happy Chanukah."

15c. Councilman Messerlian asked that a few moments of silence be observed on Thursday, December 9, at the time of the memorial service for firefighters from Worcester, Massachusetts.

15d. Councilman Messerlian invited all to attend the holiday concert sponsored by the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation featuring the Torrance Symphony on December 17 at the James Armstrong Theatre.

15e. Councilwoman O'Donnell commented on the Worcester Fire Department tragedy.

15f. Councilwoman O'Donnell announced a special holiday promotion of free rides on MAX from December 13-17, 1999. For route information call (310) 618-6266.

15g. Councilwoman O'Donnell noted that, in response to a request from the Airport Commission, noise complaints received about LAX-related air traffic will now be logged separately from complaints about Torrance-based aircraft.

15h. City Manager Jackson, in response to Councilwoman O'Donnell, stated that he would report back on a recent complaint received from a citizen concerning the length of time taxis wait for passengers.

15i. Councilwoman O'Donnell commended the Youth Council for donating \$7,250 to worthwhile causes.

15j. Councilmember Walker noted the importance of the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day.

15k. Mayor Hardison commended the quick response to the train derailment by staff and the Red Cross. The Mayor requested appropriate thanks for the Red Cross. City Manager Jackson shared his efforts to pursue information from various agencies on the cause of the derailment.

15l. Mayor Hardison commented further on the airport noise abatement issue, explaining that noise from large airplanes between 12:00 midnight and 2:00 a.m. can be attributed to LAX traffic because Zamperini Field has a curfew. She noted that there has been an increase in complaints about such flights because of changes in flight patterns due to weather conditions.

15m. Transit Director Whittle gave chronological information on the bus route restructuring that went into effect in October including publicizing methods and noted that staff has been and will continue monitoring the effects of the changes since implementation. He indicated that concerns expressed by the public have centered on proposed cuts to Lines 2 and 3, Phases 2 and 3. He reported that Phase 1 of the

restructuring program had resulted in improved service for 90 percent of Line 1 riders; that the majority of Line 1 passengers going to and from Los Angeles during off-peak hours had transferred to Line 2; and that because of the shift in ridership, proposed changes to Line 2 were being reevaluated. He stated that in response to expressed public concerns, staff does not think it advisable to bring either Phase 2 or Phase 3 forward in the foreseeable future.

Ms. Betty Alvarez, Torrance, stated that she has found in her work with mentally ill clients that confusion occurs with too many stops and line changes.

Ms. Elaine Johnson, Torrance, claimed that the new route for Line 1 is unsafe due to the location of stops, condition of stops, and problems with MTA schedules. She indicated that she does not use her personal vehicle because of traffic and environmental concerns.

Noting that her grandson attends a school for the disabled in Beverly Hills, Ms. Nora Johnston, Torrance, stated that he has gotten confused going from Harbor General to the school and that the new route makes the trip too long.

Mr. Joseph Azim, Torrance, stated that he objects to the restructuring of any lines and that buses should run on weekends like in Gardena.

Mr. Alan Lee, AFSCME President, voiced AFSCME support for Torrance Residents United for Safe Transit (TRUST) and asked Council to reconsider the restructuring and hold more public hearings and meetings with the bus riders affected.

Mr. Dana Gabbard, Los Angeles, outgoing president of Southern California Transit Advocates, asked that changes to Lines 2 and 3 be put on hold until the impact of changes to Line 1 has been studied. He noted that the Imperial Station is not conducive for handicapped/wheelchair access and voiced his opinion that the hearings should be reopened and held during the day when it is more convenient for users to attend.

Mr. Harold Peace, Torrance Bus Operator, commented on the safety of the Imperial/Figueroa stop and the loss of weekend service. He expressed concerns about safety issues, including tight scheduling of stops making it necessary for bus drivers to speed and inadequate layover time.

Ms. Mariana Kollar, Torrance Bus Operator, stated that with the restructuring of Line 1 her handicapped son was unable to go downtown. She commented on safety concerns in keeping to a schedule and overcrowding issues.

Mayor Hardison directed staff to provide follow-up on safety issues she had asked for previously. She stated that AFSCME had done a disservice to the community by hiring a public relations firm which has spread misinformation, and that the City would continue to counteract their efforts by putting out correct information. The Mayor stated that the City would take all comments under advisement.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:31 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(c), 54957 and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda.

Upon the Council's return from closed session at 10:10 p.m., City Attorney Fellows announced that the matter of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. v. City of La Habra, 74 Cal.App 4th 707, a case that concluded that California Code of Civil Procedure Section 338.a establishes a three-year statute of limitations for challenging taxes imposed pursuant to Proposition 62, had been accepted for review by the California Supreme Court. The Council, in a unanimous 7-0 vote, authorized him to file a friend of the court brief on behalf of the City of La Habra.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hardison directed staff to give consideration to December 28, 1999, and January 4, 2000, as Council dark nights.

At 10:22 p.m., the Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 14, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

***** Adjourned in Memory of *****

Captain Matthew Culbert and Jan Jackson