

**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 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

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 City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 18C) Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6, 54956.9(a) and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:01 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 Brewer.

Councilmember Rhilinger 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, December 17, 2009.

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 roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Agenda Items 8J and 8L were withdrawn.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Furey announced that a second community meeting and design workshop for the Pueblo Park renovation would be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pueblo Park Community Center, 2252 Del Amo Boulevard.

Councilmember Brewer announced that the City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment held a joint meeting with TUSD Board Members on December 21, 2009 to discuss the possibility of holding a consolidated election with the

Torrance Unified School District. The benefits of a consolidated election include increased service level, focus on local issues, same night results, daily absentee ballot updates, increased sense of local participation, two week canvass as opposed to a 28 day canvass, and financial savings. As an action item, the Committee recommended that the City and TUSD change their election date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of even years. The Committee also directed the City Clerk and staff to obtain information from other agencies related to cost sharing options for similar election collaborations between cities and school districts. Due to the urgency of the matter, the Committee members directed staff to bring forth an item at the January 12, 2010 City Council meeting and at the January 19, 2010 TUSD Board meeting. Upon receiving Council and TUSD Board direction, staff will work with the City Attorney's Office and the TUSD's Attorney to prepare a ballot measure for the June 2010 Torrance Municipal election to change the election dates.

City Clerk Herbers announced that commission appointments would be made by the City Council at the January 19, 2010 City Council meeting. She noted that the Local Appointments List is posted online at <http://www.torranceca.gov/8752.htm>; that Torrance residents who are currently certified are eligible to apply; and that applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office no later than 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2009-110 RE JOHN PRINS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-119

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE SERGEANT JOHN PRINS UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-119. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to John Prins, who accepted with appreciation.

Police Chief Neu commended Sergeant Prins for his dedicated service to the community both on and off duty.

6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2009-120 RE THOMAS WINCHESTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE OFFICER THOMAS WINCHESTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-120. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6C. RESOLUTION NO. 2009-121 RE LLOYD L. DE GONIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-121

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE LIEUTENANT LLOYD L. DE GONIA UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-121. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6D. RECOGNITION OF TORRANCE KENDO CLUB TEAM USA

Mayor Scotto recognized **Torrance Kendo Club Team USA members** for their achievements at the 14th Annual World Kendo Championship. Head instructor Tim Yuge provided background information about the Torrance Kendo Club, noting that it is chartered through the Community Services Department and recently celebrated its 35th anniversary. Mayor Scotto presented certificates to team members: Jason Brown, Jarrod Hatakeyama, Han-Soo Kim, Aya Kuwabara, Grace Lee, Daniel Yang, and Simon Yoo, Men's Captain Christopher Yang, and Women's Assistant Coach Song Choi.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Richard Root, Torrance, presented a petition to the City Council from residents being impacted by helicopter noise and requested that the City facilitate a meeting with the FAA, helicopter operators and affected residents to resolve this problem.

7B. Roberta Blowers, Hollywood Riviera HOA, echoed concerns about helicopter noise.

7C. Efren Joelson, Torrance, expressed concerns regarding the lack of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks near his residence.

7D. Robert Butler, Professional Helicopter Pilots Association, requested that the City Council allow the association to conduct a community meeting/workshop with residents and City staff to resolve issues involving helicopter operations at Torrance airport.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council authorize a fifth amendment to the existing consulting services agreement with Hogle-Ireland, Inc. (C2004-197) to extend its services from January 31, 2010 to August 31, 2010 for the General Plan update.

8B. APPROVAL OF POLICY FOR ARTWORK DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve a policy giving the Cultural Arts Commission the authority to review possible donations and acquisitions of artwork to the City, and to make a recommendation to the City Council on acceptance.

8C. DISASTER COUNCIL 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Disaster Council that City Council accept and file the Disaster Council 2008-2009 Annual Report.

8D. AGREEMENT RE DEVELOPMENT OF CITYWIDE NPDES MASTER PLAN

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council authorize a consulting services agreement to Carollo Engineers, P.C. in an amount not to exceed \$253,292 to provide professional engineering services for the development of a citywide National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Drain Master Plan, CIP No. I-98.

8E. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR NORTH TORRANCE WELL FIELD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept and record a twenty-four (24) foot wide public easement for water line purposes from the Torrance Unified School District at Yukon School along the south side of the property adjacent to the Caltrans right of way; and
- 2) Appropriate \$500,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund and approve a project budget for pre-design of the North Torrance Well Field.

8F. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE EIR FOR 2740 LOMITA BOULEVARD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve an amendment to consulting services agreement with Gruen Associates (C2008-051) to extend the term until July 31, 2010, to complete the Environmental Impact Report currently under progress.

Considered separately, see page 5.

8G. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE WILSON PARK POND RESTORATION PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve a contract amendment with Sea Clear Pools (C2009-091) for improvements identified in the Wilson Park Pond Restoration Project (FEAP #709) to extend the term from December 2, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

8H. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE AIRPORT NOISE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve a first amendment to the contract with Lochard Corporation (C2005-129) be approved changing the name of the contract from "ANOMS System Maintenance" to "Noise Office Services" to provide maintenance services for the airport noise system.

8I. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SENIORS BOOKLET DISTRIBUTION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and Disaster Council that City Council approve the distribution of the Emergency Preparedness for Seniors booklet, at a cost of \$150.

8J. APPROPRIATION FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS TO CITY HALL

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve an appropriation in the amount of \$26,900 from the Program Contingency Reserve to fund additional security enhancements to City Hall.

Item was withdrawn.

8K. FEE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve the third amendment to the fee agreement with the law firm of Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart (C2008-188) for an additional \$10,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$99,000.

8L. PURCHASE OF 2010 FORD ESCAPE HYBRID SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Find the bid from Wondries Chevrolet non-responsive
- 2) Find the bid from Wondries Fleet Group non-responsive, and
- 3) Authorize a purchase order to Power Ford of Torrance, CA in the amount of \$119,355.20 including sales tax and tire fees, to furnish four (4) Model Year 2010 Ford Escape Hybrid Sport Utility Vehicles (B2009-51).

Item was withdrawn.

8M. LEASE AGREEMENTS RE YOUTH BASEBALL FIELDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the Parks and Recreation Commission that City Council approve new lease agreements for use of City-owned properties as youth baseball fields with Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League, Torrance American Baseball League, and West Torrance Little League, for five-year terms from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014. Revenues of \$1 dollar per year per lease agreement.

MOTION: Councilmember Numark moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E, 8G through 8I, 8K and 8M. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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

8F. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR 2740 LOMITA BOULEVARD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve an amendment to consulting services agreement with Gruen Associates (C2008-051) to extend the term until July 31, 2010, to complete the Environmental Impact Report currently under progress.

In response to Councilmember Numark's inquiry, Planning Manager Lodan reported that staff expects the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed project at 2740 Lomita Boulevard to be forwarded to the Planning Commission in February.

John Bailey, Southeast Homeowners Association, noted that the time-frame for the EIR has already been extended and urged that a firm date be set for its completion.

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

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 22780 LUPINE DRIVE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution determining certain City-owned property as not required for City purposes and that leasing the property is in the public interest; and
- 2) Approve a lease by and between the City of Torrance, a municipal corporation and T-Mobile West Corporation, a Delaware corporation to utilize a portion of City-owned property to construct and operate a cellular phone antenna site at 22780 Lupine Drive known as Sea Aire Golf Course.

It is further recommended that the lease proceeds be appropriated to the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine reviewed the proposal to lease a portion of Sea Aire Golf Course to T-Mobile for the construction of a cell phone antenna (mono-palm) and supporting equipment for \$27,600 per year plus 3% annual increase.

Councilmember Brewer expressed concerns that artificial foliage can deteriorate and questioned whether a clause could be added to the contract requiring that the mono-palm be properly maintained.

Tom Johnson, Trillium Consulting representing T-Mobile, expressed confidence that the mono-palm would remain in good condition for the term of the contract due to the use of improved, more durable materials.

Steve Busch, president of Belmar Homeowners Association, reported that cell phone reception has greatly improved at Belmar since T-Mobile installed a new cell tower in the vicinity.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-122

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DETERMINING THAT CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IS NOT REQUIRED FOR CITY PURPOSES AND THAT LEASING THE PROPERTY IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. (22780 LUPINE DRIVE)

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-122. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12B. REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COMMISSION REVIEW

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Commission Review that City Council receive the Committee report and provide direction with respect to an action item proposed at the November 16, 2009 committee meeting.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Commission Review met on August 24, and November 16, 2009 to discuss the potential consolidation and/or realignment of City commissions and due to overwhelming support from commissioners and the community, the Committee was recommending that the current

structure be maintained for all commissions with the following exceptions: 1) Signage related issues to be moved from the Environmental and Energy Conservation Commission to the Planning Commission; and 2) Traffic Commission to review the traffic analysis for development projects before they are submitted to the Planning Commission. He noted that staff was recommending that the Traffic Commission's review be confined to the adequacy/ accuracy of the traffic analysis; that it be limited to one meeting to prevent undue delay in the approval process; and that there be a one-year trial period before finalizing this change.

Councilmember Barnett, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, explained that the recommendation was made to allow the Traffic Commission to review the traffic analysis for projects prior to the Planning Commission's review because Traffic Commissioners had expressed frustration that they had no input on traffic matters until after the fact.

Councilmember Rhilinger expressed concerns about limiting the Traffic Commission's review of a project to one meeting because there may be instances where additional time is needed. She recommended that staff track added costs, time delays, and the quality of the information derived by having this extra layer of review by the Traffic Commission during the one-year trial period. She indicated that she favored having issues involving airport noise handled by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission instead of the Airport Commission because she felt that the EQECC would be more objective. She suggested merging the Airport Commission with the Traffic Commission so all transportation-related issues would be handled by one commission.

With regard to merging commissions, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that there was strong support for maintaining the current commission structure at the Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Community Development Director Gibson advised that the Permit Streamlining Act requires that development proposals be reviewed in a timely manner, therefore staff recommended the one-meeting limit for the Traffic Commission's review of a project.

Mayor Scotto suggested that the Traffic Commission could schedule a second, special meeting on those rare occasions when they run out of time due to extensive public comment.

City Manager Jackson recommended that the Council specify that the special meeting must be held within 14 days of the original Traffic Commission meeting to avoid delaying the approval process.

Councilmember Numark stated that he believed the airport noise abatement system should remain under the purview of the Airport Commission, but felt the issue of noise pollution should be handled by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. He suggested that animal control matters could be transferred to another commission if the EQECC is over-burdened.

Councilmember Brewer indicated that he favored the current system of having the entire development project reviewed by the Planning Commission including traffic issues in order to avoid the inconvenience of extra meetings for both the public and commissioners. He commented on the difficulty of confining the discussion to the traffic analysis should projects be considered by the Traffic Commission. He related his belief that the Airport Commission was the logical place for residents to discuss their concerns about airport noise.

Councilmember Furey, member of the Ad Hoc Committee, explained that the Committee viewed the Traffic Commission's review of a development project as an opportunity

to streamline the approval process, not delay it; that they envisioned the Traffic Commission would take public comment on traffic issues and then make recommendations to be forwarded to the Planning Commission; and that he doubted there would be many projects that would require more than one meeting. With regard to changing the responsibilities of other commissions, he noted that there was strong support at Ad Hoc Committee meetings for maintaining the status quo.

Councilmember Sutherland, member of the Ad Hoc Committee, noted his concurrence with Councilmember Furey's remarks.

Councilmember Barnett stated that the Committee was impressed by the large number of volunteers willing to serve on City commissions and the passion with which they approach their responsibilities. He voiced support for staff's recommendation for a one-year trial period.

Mayor Scotto asked about the Committee's discussion on Animal Control, and Councilmember Barnett reported that it was the consensus of the Committee that this matter was best left to the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment, and no one from the public came forward to speak.

Councilmember Brewer reiterated his position that involving the Traffic Commission in Planning cases would only add extra meetings as the Traffic Commission does not have the authority to take any action on a project. He asked about the rationale for shifting the responsibility for approving signage to the Planning Commission from the Environmental and Energy Conservation Commission.

Community Development Director Gibson advised that it was felt that it would be more efficient for the Planning Commission to review signage as part of their overall review of a project rather than involving another commission. He noted that most signs can be approved administratively and only those that do not comply with City standards are subject to the discretionary review process.

Councilmember Brewer indicated that he favored having the Planning Commission review only those signs that are part of a new development, or leaving the process as it is.

Councilmember Sutherland reported that this recommendation was based on input from a large contingent of commissioners at Ad Hoc Committee meetings. He pointed out that changes could always be reversed after the trial period.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to concur with the recommendation to move the signage related issues from the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission to the Planning Commission; and to have the Traffic Commission review the traffic analysis of development proposals going before the Planning Commission, that the review be limited to the traffic components (not including Zoning, Land Use, Development Standards, and Design) and that the Traffic Commission review be limited to one meeting or if more, that such be held within 14 days and further, that this be for a one-year trial period. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and discussion continued.

Councilmember Numark proposed a substitute motion adding a provision directing the Ad Hoc Committee to determine which commission is appropriate to deal with animal control issues, relating his understanding that the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission would prefer to focus on conservation and "green" issues.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan recalled that Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commissioners did not object to this responsibility, and Councilmember Numark withdrew his substitute motion.

Mayor Scotto called for a vote on the original motion and **the motion passed by a 6-1 roll call vote, with Councilmember Brewer dissenting.**

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The City Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:45 p.m. to 8:56 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Furey, with the concurrence of Council, requested that staff bring forward an item to subsidize the rental fees of the Toyota Meeting Hall for the JROTC Ball.

17B. Councilmember Numark announced that the League of California Cities is placing a measure on the June 2010 ballot "Local Taxpayer Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010" to prevent the State from taking local funds and with the concurrence of Council, requested that staff prepare a resolution supporting the measure.

17C. Councilmember Sutherland read a Christmas poem.

17D. Mayor Scotto thanked City staff for all their hard work this past year and for weathering the storm in this difficult economic climate. He extended holiday wishes to employees and residents of Torrance.

17E. Councilmembers, City Manager Jackson, City Treasurer Barnett, and City Clerk Herbers extended wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:53 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. **December 29, 2009 and January 5, 2010 will be Council dark nights.**

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Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on February 9, 2010