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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 24, 2020**

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At 8:53 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. teleconference in the City Hall.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in the Torrance City Hall telephonically.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Chen, Herring, Goodrich, Griffiths, Mattucci, Rizzo and Mayor Furey

Absent: None

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Chaparyan, City Attorney Sullivan, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Herring.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Mattucci

**3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READINGS**

City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Friday, March 20, 2020.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title of 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 Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

City Manager Jackson stated by public order No. 2020-4 issued on March 24, 2020 pursuant to the declared local emergency, the City Manager has continued to advertise public hearings. These were Community Development considerations of appeal planning commission denial of a conditional use permit to allow for a 48 Unit Townhouse development that involved construction of multiple ownership residential structures buildings more than 2 stories in height in development that exceeds a 6.6 to 1 floor area ration in conjunction with a conditional use permit to allow an existing church use, a waiver of height limit for the existing church sanctuary merger and recent division purposes and zone change from A1R2 Zone to the R3 Zone at property located at 2706 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and CUP19-00031, CUP19-00032, WAV20-00002, DIV19-00010, ZON19, 00002: STORM PROPERTIES (CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH)

The second public hearing was consideration of appeal planning commissioner approval of conditional use permit to allow a replacement of an existing service station Mini Mart with a new 2600 square foot retail store to consider the retail sale of beer, property located in the C-2 Zone located at 1975 190<sup>th</sup> Street CUP19-00020.

The Public Order has carried over all public hearings until the conclusion of the declared emergency. The City Manager has taken this action because of the difficulty achieving a full hearing with the prohibition imposed on all public meetings and the difficulty achieving public input by telephone or other electronic means. There were four emails prior to 4 o'clock today. Two for items 9C, one for item 9D and one oral communication comment. These supplemental materials are available to the public.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Furey explained the importance of everyone's participation in the 2020 Census and encouraged the public to complete the survey.

Mayor Furey provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic stating the City has taken extraordinary action in order to protect our citizens, maintain critical services and provide for our employees.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS** – None Scheduled

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR** – None Scheduled

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**9A. AGREEMENTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS, 1-153 (SKYPARK DRIVE AND ARTESIA BLVD. ALLEY)**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Determine that the approval of Miscellaneous Water Main Replacements, 1-153 (Skypark Dr. and Artesia Blvd. Alley) (B2020-02) is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301(b) and Section 15301(c) of the guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
- 2) Approve the plans and specifications for the Miscellaneous Water Main Replacements, 1-153 (Skypark Dr. and Artesia Blvd. Alley) (B2020-02); and
- 3) Award a Public Works agreement to PALP, Inc. DBA EXCEL Paving Company of Long Beach, CA (B2020-02) in the amount of \$1,335,533 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$66,777 to construct miscellaneous water main replacements, 1-153 (Skypark Dr. and Artesia Blvd. Alley) for a two-year term beginning March 17, 2020 and ending March 16, 2022.

Councilmember Griffiths questioned staff if repairs to the alley behind Artesia Boulevard were part of the project. He also questioned if the property located on 234<sup>th</sup> Street City owned or private property.

Public Works Director Bilezerian replied the alley will be repaved after the water line is constructed. He stated 234<sup>th</sup> street is an easement not owned by the City. He confirmed the City would be doing repairs due to past issues.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Griffiths moved to approve all three items under 9A Miscellaneous Water Main Replacements, 1-153. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

A member of the public spoke.

**9B. COST SHARING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR BEACH CITIES GREEN STREETS PROJECT**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the Beach Cities Green Streets Project as part of the adopted FY2019-24 Capital Budget Plan; and
- 2) Approve a cost-sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cities of Torrance, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach (collectively "Beach Cities") to provide for design services for the Beach Green Streets Project; and
- 3) Upon execution of the cost-sharing MOU by the Beach Cities, accept a total of \$412,500 of local matching funds from Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach (\$137, 500 from each city) and appropriate said funds to the Beach Cities Green Streets Project; and
- 4) Appropriate \$137,000 from the Torrance Sewer Enterprise Fund Balance to the Beach Cities Green Streets Project as Torrance's local match; and
- 5) Upon execution of the State Coastal Conservancy and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission grant agreement, appropriate \$2,000,000 to the Beach Cities Green Streets Project for a not-to-exceed project budget of \$2,550,000.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to approve Beach Cities Green Streets Project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 6-0 vote. (Mattucci vote missed)

**9C. UPDATE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Fire Chief that City Council accept and file an update on the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Manager Jackson explained the state of the situation; City staff has been able to restructure operations along with the dedicated efforts from all City employees. The City Manager declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020, which the City council confirmed on March 16, 2020. The City has taken extraordinary action in order to protect its citizens and maintain critical services and provide for employees.

Assistant City Manager Chaparyan confirmed the City of Torrance has taken and continues to take all precautions to protect its employees and citizens from the COVID-19 virus. In order to assist the City during this time of emergency, five million dollars have been transferred from the Economic Reserve Fund. Residents are encouraged to sign up with Torrance Alerts to receive the latest updates regarding COVID-19 from the City of Torrance at [www.TorranceCA.gov/TorranceAlerts.com](http://www.TorranceCA.gov/TorranceAlerts.com).

Fire Chief Serna provided an overview of Fire Department operations since the pandemic was declared. He stated their response model has been adjusted, only allowing one responder to enter a premise in order to declare it all clear and confirm everyone involved does not have symptoms or have been diagnosed with COVID-19, which will limit exposure. They have also modified the call center questions to include COVID-19 symptoms, as well as setting up weekly meetings with local hospitals in order to implement and share best practices.

Police Chief Berg updated the council on the precautions and policy changes due to COVID-19. Until further notice only single officer units are patrolling and dispatched, except training units. The Lobby is closed unless it is absolutely necessary for civilians to enter; crime reports are taken by telephone except in situations of an active suspect or person injured. All officers are practicing the 6 foot distance policy when approaching calls. All department trainings

have been canceled through May 23<sup>rd</sup>, as well as suspending police involved community activities. Torrance Police Officers are not stopping anyone or asking them where they are going, there is no curfew at this time. The department will continue to take all precautions necessary in order to keep the community and employees safe.

In response to Councilmember Mattucci's query, Fire Chief Serna replied he does not have an inside track as to how many testing kits are available, as the shortage is nationwide. Recently, 20,000 kits have been made available for patients who are symptomatic.

Mayor Furey encouraged social distancing because the virus is spread so easily and many carriers are unaware they are carrying the virus.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to accept and file update on COVID-19 Pandemic. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

**9D. RATIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF PUBLIC ORDER**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution ratifying and extending the Public Order (now referred to as Public Order No. 2020-01) issued on March 16, 2020.

City Manager Jackson introduced item 9D.

City Attorney Sullivan explained Public Order No. 2020-01 was issued on March 16, 2020.

Councilmember Mattucci suggested listing a date for the Public Order to be lifted matching the Governor's timeline.

Mayor Furey agreed the City orders and restrictions should coincide with the Governors timeline.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to adopt Resolution 2020-14 with the timeframe to match the State's guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to adopt Resolution 2020-14 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

**10. HEARINGS** – None scheduled.

**11. AGENCY AGENDAS** – None scheduled.

**12. SECOND READING ORDINANCES**

**12A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3866**

Second and Final reading of Ordinance No. 3866 amending Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code to reclassify certain property in the City of Torrance located at 2751 Skypark Drive (APN: 7377-009-019) from P-D (Planned Development District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Griffiths moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3866. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**13. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No members of the public spoke.

Councilmembers Mattucci, Rizzo, Chen, Goodrich, Griffiths, and Herring spoke.

Mayor Furey encouraged community kindness and staying in touch through phone calls or social media. He also thanked all City employees and first responders for their tireless efforts during this challenging time.

City Manager Jackson recognized City Council for their efforts and hard work during this time of uncertainty. He commended the staff's quick response in setting up the virtual meetings and their participation in maintaining communication amongst each other and the community.

**14. CLOSED SESSION**


The City Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on the above-mentioned item and agenda matters listed under 14A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Threat to Public Services or Facilities, 14B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, 14C) Conference with Labor Negotiator, and 14D) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54957, §54956.9(d)(2), §54957.6 and §54958.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

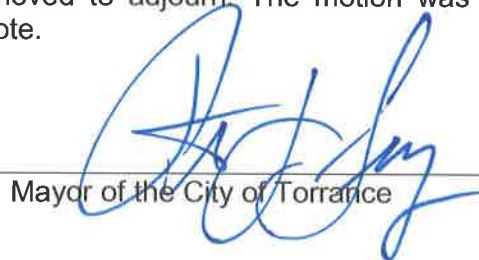
At 8:53 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Tuesday, March 31, 2020 is a Council Dark Night.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by 7-0 vote.

Attest:



Rebecca Poirier  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

  
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Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on May 5, 2020