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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MAY 26, 2020

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At 9:56 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference and other electronic means.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a special meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Chen, Goodrich, Griffiths, Kalani, Mattucci, and Mayor Furey

Absent: None

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Chaparyan, City Attorney Sullivan, Deputy City Clerk III Harbaugh-Shirazi and other staff representatives

Agenda Item 6 was considered out of order at this time.

6. CLOSED SESSION

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 6A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation and 6B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9(d)(4) and §54956.9(d)(2).

The City Council reconvened in public session at 7:12 p.m. No formal action was taken on any item considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Mattucci.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Ashcraft.

3A. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING

Deputy City Clerk III Harbaugh-Shirazi reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths 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 Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

3B. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred. Supplemental material available for items 4A and Oral Communications.

3C. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Kalani announced citations will be issued for oversized vehicle parking violations beginning Saturday, May 30, 2020. Police Department staff will provide warnings to violators for one week prior to the effective date. For a full list of equipment and vehicles that qualify as an oversized vehicle, visit www.torranceca.gov.

Councilmember Goodrich announced staff will be holding a community meeting Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. regarding homelessness in North Torrance. The meeting will be held on Zoom and registration is required. For more information, visit www.torranceca.gov/NTorranceMeeting or contact the City Manager's Office, (310) 618-5880.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

4A. OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO ORDERS FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RE COVID-19

City Council directed staff to prepare an item in response to the County of Los Angeles' Safer at Home Order and the State of California's Stay at Home Order. The attached item has been prepared pursuant to City Council's direction. City Council may discuss and consider taking whatever action that it deems appropriate.

City Attorney Sullivan introduced the item and noted the State of California had issued updated guidance, attachments D, E, F, and G to the supplemental. He also relayed that the County issued a new Safer At Home Order at 5:50 p.m. that tracks along with the State's guidelines on retail and churches.

Churches can resume in-person services with occupancy at 25% of the building's capacity or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is lower. Indoor and outdoor retail shops can open at 50% capacity. Flea markets, swap meets, and drive-ins can resume operations and pools, hot tubs, and saunas in multi-unit residences and Homeowners Associations can reopen.

In response to Councilmember Griffiths' question regarding restaurants, City Attorney Sullivan confirmed there is no provision for in-person dining yet.

Mayor Furey commented his belief that restaurants are part of Stage 2 and will hopefully be the next relaxation when new orders are made.

Members of the public spoke.

Councilmember Griffiths thanked staff and County Supervisors and stated his belief that the pressure put on state and county officials has helped move the time table forward and is pleased with the steps the county and state have taken to help move businesses forward.

Councilmember Ashcraft thanked Supervisor Hahn and Senator Allen and acknowledged fear of rising numbers but shared her belief that everyone needs to work together and follow the protocols and criteria that have been provided.

Councilmember Chen thanked county leadership and stated the county will request variances from the state to move forward with Stage 2 integration. He also mentioned the letter that was sent to the County Board of Supervisors with a point-by-point breakdown of the criteria that the city has met.

Councilmember Goodrich acknowledged the letter mentioned by Councilmember Chen, but stated that getting the actual data has been hard and the points made in the letter have not been specifically addressed. He shared his belief that getting a better handle on the metrics will bolster the city's differentiation from other highly impacted cities.

Councilmember Mattucci expressed his appreciation for staff and for some of the changes that happened over the past week. He relayed that the most recent revisions to the County's orders are not truly opening much and puts limitations on retailers and negatively impacts them. He believes history will show these events as textbook examples of government overreach and believes some of the laws in the form of public orders have been unjust. He encouraged taking legal action against the county and the state and reiterated the right to protest the government.

Councilmember Kalani stated Torrance is moving in the right direction and would like to see reopening under the proper health protocol. She thanked staff for their efforts and believes that Council's voices have been heard.

Mayor Furey agreed with Councilmember Kalani and praised the efforts that were put in by local representatives to get the state's attention. He asserted the need to be pragmatic regarding lawsuits, citing the lawsuits from other cities have fizzled out and are costly. He thanked staff and fellow councilmembers for their efforts in putting together the agenda and calling local representatives. Mayor Furey recounted the number of deaths in Torrance and nationwide and urged citizens to continue to wear face coverings and to practice social distancing.

Councilmember Chen thanked Council for all of their efforts to reach out to representatives of the State of California and County of Los Angeles and to announce that the State of California and County of Los Angeles have updated their Orders.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to let local businesses know they are supported and Council is working hard with the State of California and County of Los Angeles to get them back open as soon as possible; to thank the Governor for releasing new guidelines on opening up retail and churches; to thank the Health Officer of Los Angeles County for releasing their updated Safer at Home Order this evening that follows the State's guidelines on retail and churches subject to certain restrictions; and to continue to encourage the State of California and County of Los Angeles to open up additional businesses like in-person dining as well as personal services such as hair salons, barbers, and nail salons as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public spoke.

Councilmembers Ashcraft, Chen, Goodrich, Kalani, Mattucci, and Mayor Furey spoke.

Councilmember Griffiths requested Council concurrence to direct staff to include an agenda item regarding the COVID-19 situation on the next agenda.

6. CLOSED SESSION

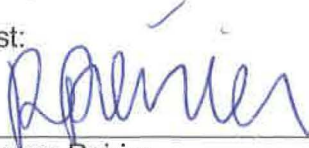
Considered out of order, see page 1.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:56 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act, members of the Torrance City Council and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference and other electronic means in our continuing effort to practice social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Members of the public are encouraged to watch the meeting via CitiCABLE Channel 3 (Spectrum) and Channel 31 (Frontier), Over-the-air on 25.2, streaming on TorranceCA.Gov, Facebook @ City of Torrance CA Government, and YouTube Channel TorranceCitiCABLE.

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

Attest:



Rebecca Poirier
City Clerk of the City of Torrance



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 23, 2020