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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – JULY 14, 2020**

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At 10:42 p.m., the City Council adjourned to July 21, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference or other electronic means.

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 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, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives

Agenda Item 14 was considered out of order at this time.

**14. 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 14A) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, 14B) Public Employee Appointment, 14C) Public Employee Performance Evaluation, and 14D) Real Property – Conference With Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9 (d)(1), Government Code §54957 (b)(1), and Government Code §54956.8.

Mayor Furey disclosed he has a financial conflict of interest for Item 14A, having been named in the lawsuit in both his official capacity and personal capacity. The de minimis cost of personal representation constitutes a financial conflict of interest.

Councilmember Griffiths disclosed he has a financial conflict of interest for Item 14A, having been named in the lawsuit in both his official capacity and personal capacity. The de minimis cost of personal representation constitutes a financial conflict of interest.

Councilmember Goodrich disclosed he has a financial conflict of interest for Item 14A, having been named in the lawsuit in both his official capacity and personal capacity. The de minimis cost of personal representation constitutes a financial conflict of interest.

Councilmember Ashcraft disclosed she has a financial conflict of interest for Item 14A, having been named in the lawsuit in both her official capacity and personal capacity. The de minimis cost of personal representation constitutes a financial conflict of interest.

City Attorney Sullivan stated the law provides if a councilmember has a financial conflict they must disclose it and be disqualified. The disqualification of four councilmembers for 14A causes the Council to lose its quorum. He explained there is an exception that allows one of the councilmembers to waive their disqualification so the meeting can occur. He shared the four names were placed in a hat and a Legal Assistant picked out Councilmember Ashcraft's name at random. Her participation in the item voids her financial disqualification but provides a quorum. Councilmember Griffiths, Councilmember Goodrich, and Mayor Furey did not participate in item 14A.

The City Council reconvened in public session at 7:00 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 Ashcraft.

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

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 Thursday, July 9, 2020, with a revised agenda posted Friday, July 10, 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 Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

No items were withdrawn or deferred. Supplemental material available for items 8C, 8D, 9C, and Oral Communications.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Furey acknowledged the Torrance Police Foundation's grant award of \$25,355.98 to expand the Police Department's Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program with 17 additional AEDs.

Councilmember Chen reminded the public that the 2020 Census is still accepting submissions online, by mail, and by phone. To submit online visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

Councilmember Griffiths announced the City's commitment to opposing the numerous housing and zoning bills that may significantly impact local control. Conveying the urgency and effort needed to address these bills, he requested concurrence for an item to be brought back that provides a summary of active housing and zoning bills, provides the public with contact information of state legislators and authors of these bills, and allows Council and residents to discuss and determine next steps for these impactful bills.

City Manager Jackson confirmed an agenda item can be prepared requesting formal action, such as a resolution. He suggested inclusion of a statewide effort for legislation to preserve local rights, furthering that Council may want to advocate for a constitutional amendment ballot measure.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Goodrich, City Manager Jackson confirmed Council concurrence requests can be made under Council Committee Meetings and Announcements in addition to Oral Communications.

City Clerk Poirier announced the City Clerk's Office is not holding live commissioner certification classes but is offering online certification training. Those interested can email CityClerk@TorranceCA.gov to register for the online class.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS** – None Scheduled

7. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public spoke.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

8A. **APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of June 23, 2020.

8B. **AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**

Recommendation of the Communications & Information Technology Director that City Council approve an eighth amendment to the maintenance agreement with Accela, Inc. of San Ramon, CA (C2012-151) in the amount of \$164,531.57 for annual software support and maintenance of the City's Permit, Business License, and Asset Management software and extend the contract term one additional year to August 22, 2021.

8C. **AWARD PURCHASE ORDER FOR FOUR 2020 FORD ESCAPE PLUG-IN HYBRIDS**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Community Development Director that City Council award a purchase order to Fairway Ford of Placentia, CA (B2020-06) in the amount of \$141,500.24 (including sales tax) for four (4) 2020 Ford Escape SE Plug-In Hybrid compact SUVs.

8D. **LEASE AMENDMENTS TO DEFER RENT PAYMENTS**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve lease amendments to defer three months of minimum and additional rent payments for Torrance Towne Center Associates LLC (C-000004), AutoNation Ford (C-1311), Mercedes-Benz of South Bay (C1996-068), AutoNation Acura South Bay (C1994-031) and Jaguar Land Rover South Bay (C-2606).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Chen moved to approve Items 8A through 8D The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

9A. **COVID-19 RECOVERY UPDATE AND OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO ORDERS FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Receive COVID-19 recovery update; and
- 2) Discuss and consider taking whatever action deemed appropriate for responding to Orders from the County of Los Angeles and the State of California regarding COVID-19.

City Manager Jackson provided an update on the COVID-19 recovery efforts. He shared in the past week LA County has experienced a significant increase in daily reported cases of COVID-19. He shared the indoor closures still in effect from the previous week and announced the closure of: fitness centers; worship centers; protests; offices for non-essential sectors; nail salons; body waxing; tattoo parlors; hair salons and barbershops; malls. He touched on other reopenings in the city and the Downtown Dining Program.

Councilmember Chen noted the more restrictive orders and brought up street sweeping fines as a topic for discussion with more people working from home. He touched on the ten intersections with automatic walk signals, requesting they be re-programmed to coincide with new traffic patterns.

City Manager Jackson confirmed staff can look into the matter. He shared the Police Department's concern for more street parking than anticipated since street sweeping was addressed last week and may be advised to delay it. He confirmed for Mayor Furey it can be an Administrative decision made in the coming week and brought back to Council next Tuesday.

Councilmember Goodrich suggested tying street sweeping enforcement to a specific phase of the governor's reopening plan.

Mayor Furey urged residents to move their car for street sweeping.

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

#### **9B. LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR 2015 CALL FOR PROJECT FUNDS**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a Letter of Agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for \$1,902,371 in 2015 Call For Project funds for the purchase of four replacement buses.

Transit Manager James Lee reviewed the staff recommendation.

Responding to Councilmember Ashcraft's questions regarding bus manufacturing, Transit Manager Lee explained the department will select a vendor and it will take six months to a year to construct a bus. He stated an item will be brought back to Council to award to a vendor and select the make-up of the fleet that will be ordered, adding most heavy duty bus manufacturers are out of state and none are in the South Bay.

Councilmember Kalani asked if the new buses will be adding to the fleet or replacing buses.

Transit Manager Lee responded some buses will be auctioned to recuperate costs at a minor recovery due to the age and amount of miles, as most buses have several hundred thousand miles on them.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kalani moved to approve the letter of agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

**9C. SUBMISSION OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT APPLICATION**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize the submission of the Transit Department's Fiscal Year 2019-20 Federal Transit Administration, Urbanized Formula (Section 5307) grant application in the amount of \$3,915,230; and
- 2) Appropriate \$1,665,230 for purchase of bus tires, fare box upgrades, additional funding for a Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Charging Station, and Electronic and Communication System Upgrades.

Transit Manager Lee reviewed the staff recommendation.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to authorize submission of Transit Department's grant application and appropriate funding. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

**9D. CLAIM FOR TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT AND STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FUNDS**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve the Transit Department's annual submittal to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Transportation Development Act, State Transit Assistance and other regional transit funds for the first quarter of the Torrance Transit System's Fiscal Year 2020-21 operating budget totaling \$5,758,788.

Transit Manager Lee reviewed the staff recommendation.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Chen moved to approve Transit Director's application to claim Transportation Development Act State Transit Assistance funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

10. **HEARINGS** – None scheduled
11. **AGENCY AGENDAS** – None scheduled
12. **SECOND READING ORDINANCES** – None scheduled
7. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Councilmember Ashcraft, Councilmember Chen, Councilmember Goodrich, Councilmember Griffiths, Councilmember Kalani, Councilmember Mattucci, and Mayor Furey spoke.

Councilmember Goodrich requested Council concurrence to direct staff to send a letter to appropriate parties in support of a national police independent database, National ID, which is a list of police officers who have had workplace issues. He cited large cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, along with the Torrance Police Officers Association, as supporting this concept.

Councilmember Goodrich requested concurrence from City Council to request staff to initiate a sign campaign to promote positive messaging be spread throughout the City to remind the public to combat hate with kindness.

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

The City Council recessed to closed session at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 10:40 p.m. No formal action was taken on any item considered in closed session.

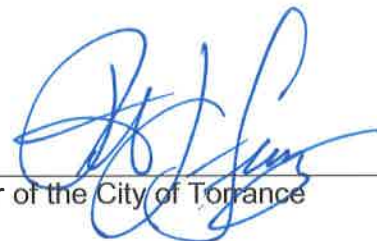
**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:42 p.m., the City Council adjourned to July 21, 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 Ashcraft 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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on July 21, 2020