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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – AUGUST 11, 2020

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At 9:18 p.m., the City Council adjourned to August 18, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:30 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, August 11, 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 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) Real Property – Conference With Real Property Negotiator, 14B) Public Employee Appointment, and 14C) Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8 and Government Code §54957(b)(1).

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 Griffiths.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Kalani.

3. 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, August 6, 2020.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci 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. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Item 9B was deferred to a later date. Supplemental material available for Oral Communications.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Goodrich reminded the public that the 2020 Census is still accepting submissions online, by mail, and by phone. To submit online visit 2020census.gov. September 30 is the new deadline to respond.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION RE KENYON SEDBERRY

Resolution No. 2020-85 honoring Kenyon Sedberry of the General Services Department upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after thirty-four years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-85. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

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 July 21, 2020.

8B. 2020 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council approve the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application.

8C. AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve a first amendment to the lease agreement with West Torrance Little League of Torrance, CA (C2019-130) amending the indemnification language in response to COVID-19.

8D. AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve a first amendment to the lease agreement with Torrance Little League of Torrance, CA (C2019-129) amending the indemnification language in response to COVID-19.

8E. AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve a second amendment to the lease agreement with West Torrance Field Restoration Inc., of Torrance, CA (C2016-086) amending the indemnification language in response to COVID-19.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to approve the Consent Calendar Items 8A-8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths 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 the County Department of Public Health is seeing signs of stability in key indicators of daily hospitalizations and deaths. Community Development Department staff is continuing to work with businesses to assist with changing operating conditions and restaurants and other businesses interested in pursuing outdoor operations can reach out to the City's Office of Economic Development. He touched on the Dare 2 Care campaign, downtown dining in Old Torrance, and the programming offered by the Community Services Department. He shared parking enforcement for street sweeping and permit parking is suspended and temporary commercial use of park permits for the fitness sector will be implemented in the upcoming week.

Community Services Director John Jones shared what the Recreation Services Division has been providing to the community: the Park Ambassadors program, senior COVID-19 hotline, adaptive recreation, teen programs, virtual recreation center, Camp Torrance, The Plunge, and the Sea-Aire Golf Course.

In response to Councilmember Chen's question regarding the reopening protocol for youth sports leagues, Community Services Director Jones stated the County has relaxed the standard of equipment for sports camps, allowing for teens to practice with emphasis on skill development and conditioning. He stated the standard six-foot social distancing guidelines are in place, with an eight-foot distance for instances of exertion. His department is working with youth organizations, sports organizations, and clubs to work out a reopening plan to utilize parks.

Community Services Director Jones confirmed for Councilmember Chen the contracts approved under the Consent Calendar are for use of the fields and the other little leagues will approach the City to make modifications to their agreements to modify the indemnification language.

In response to Councilmember Griffiths' question about Park Ambassadors' visibility and accessibility, Community Services Director Jones explained prior to the day camp program all parks had Ambassadors. He furthered there isn't enough staff to do both programs so most went to the day camps. He added he will take Councilmember Griffiths' suggestion for a brighter, easily identifiable uniform into consideration.

Councilmember Griffiths asked how much staff is utilized for the Farmers' Market curbside pickup and suggested ending the program if it isn't being utilized.

Community Services Director Jones confirmed the curbside pickup numbers for the last two weeks has diminished, but there was no dedicated staff for the program. His department will be evaluating removing the program and focus attention on the inside of the Farmers' Market.

Councilmember Griffiths voiced his concern regarding the downtown dining program preventing people from parking on Sartori. He stated blocking all the parking spaces affects the ability for non-restaurants to attract clients. He recommended blocking off the stub end of El Prado on the east side of Sartori and leave the street open and allow restaurants to use their protected parking area for dining.

Councilmember Mattucci suggested better communication with restaurants regarding restrictions on their outdoor spaces. He stated his wishes to defy the public protest portion of the governor's order, believing it goes against the first amendment. He requested putting in writing that the City won't follow that part of the order and asked when the City will take action against the County and State. He concluded that every business is essential.

City Attorney Sullivan believed the Governor's orders did allow protests, but he noted he would have to look into the latest orders.

Assistant City Manager Chaparyan stated there was no prohibition on assembly.

According to Community Development Director Danny Santana, the latest Public Health orders from the County allow public protests outdoors with social distancing measures in place. He clarified the distinction between public protests and public gatherings that involve 50 or more individuals, as those are prohibited. He added any public gathering that is permissible needs to social distance.

Councilmember Mattucci requested taking legal action against the State and County if the shutdown continues.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to accept and file Item 9A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

9B. RESOLUTION RE FRANCHISE FEE ON THE CITY'S WATER, WASTEWATER, AND SANITATION ENTERPRISES FOR USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution to levy 2% franchise fees on the gross revenues of the City's water, wastewater, and sanitation utilities.

This item was deferred to a later date.

10. HEARINGS – None scheduled

11. AGENCY AGENDAS – None Scheduled.

12. SECOND READING ORDINANCES – None scheduled

13. CITY COUNCIL ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Mattucci, Councilmember Goodrich, Councilmember Griffiths, and Mayor Furey spoke.

14. CLOSED SESSION


The City Council recessed to closed session at 8:36 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 9:18 p.m. No formal action was taken on any item considered in closed session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 p.m., the City Council adjourned to August 18, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:30 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), streaming on TorranceCA.Gov, Facebook @ City of Torrance CA Government, and YouTube Channel TorranceCitiCABLE.

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

Attest:



Rebecca Poirier
City Clerk of the City of Torrance



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on August 25, 2020