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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

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At 9:54 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, September 15, 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. Tuesday, September 8, 2020 is a Council dark night.

**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, September 1, 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 I Peña 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) Threat To Public Services Or Facilities, 14B) Real Property – Conference With Real Property Negotiator, and 14C) Conference With Labor Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54957, Government Code §54956.8, and Government Code §54957.6

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 Ashcraft.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Chen.

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

Deputy City Clerk I Peña reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, August 27, 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 Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Items 8C and 9B were withdrawn. Supplemental material was available for items 9D, 9E, Oral Communications, and 4B for the Joint Powers Financing Authority meeting.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Councilmember Goodrich announced September is National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies and promotes family and community disaster planning. The 2020 theme is "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today." He shared each week of the month's focus and more information can be found at TorranceCA.gov/OES.

Chief Serna announced the Torrance Refining Company monthly community alert siren testing will take place Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. For more information contact (310) 212-1852.

Mayor Furey announced the Legislative Advocacy Committee will be holding a virtual meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meeting information will be posted on the City's website and members of the public are welcome to attend.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION RE ALAN EMERSON

Resolution No. 2020-90 honoring Alan Emerson of the Community Services Department upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after thirty-eight years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-90. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE MONTH

Mayor Furey read the proclamation declaring September 2020 as Paint the Town purple month. Michelle Rand, Relay For Life representative, thanked Council for the proclamation and shared the City of Torrance has raised over \$3.2 million dollars to date.

6C. APPOINT TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council appoint eighteen (18) members to the 2020-2021 City of Torrance Youth Council and have them officially sworn in by the City Clerk.

Mayor Furey read aloud the names of the Youth Council members and shared which school each student will be representing.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to approve the appointment to the Torrance Youth Council of 2020-2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public spoke.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE WALNUT STORM WATER CAPTURE AND GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT BASIN PROJECT, I-173

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve first amendment to consulting services agreement with CWE of Fullerton, CA (C2017-116) to extend the term one-year from September 12, 2020 to September 11, 2021.

8B. AWARD PURCHASE ORDER FOR ACQUISITION AND OUTFITTING OF FOUR 2020 FORD FUSIONS

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Transit Director that City Council award a purchase order to AutoNation Ford of Torrance, CA (B2019-45) in the amount of \$106,250.04 for the purchase of four (4) 2020 Ford Fusion Hybrids.

8C. AWARD PURCHASE ORDER FOR EXTERIOR PARK LIGHTING RETROFIT

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Award a purchase order to J. Kim Electric, Inc. of Fullerton, CA (B2020-13) in the amount of \$151,850 with a 5% contingency of \$7,593 for Exterior Park Lighting Retrofit from September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and
- 2) Adopt a finding that the project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class, and therefore, there are no unusual circumstances.

This item was withdrawn.

8D. CONVERSION OF 1,127.7 ACRE-FEET OF UNUSED GROUNDWATER PUMPING RIGHTS

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize the additional conversion of 1,127.7 acre-feet (AF) of Fiscal Year 2019-20 unused groundwater pumping rights to carryover storage; and
- 2) Authorize payment to the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) for \$411,611 for the additional conversion.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani 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 on Friday, August 28, the State announced a new tiered framework to capture the extent of community transition to give guides on sector reopenings. LA County is currently in Tier 1, meaning there continues to be widespread transmission of the virus and is the most restrictive tier. City Manager Jackson shared the current number of new cases per day is 13.1 per 100,000, which is nearly double the threshold. He stated the path forward to recovery depends on being able to reduce community transmissions significantly so children and teachers can return to classrooms and people can return to their jobs with as much safety as possible. He announced the State has indicated hair salons, barber shops, and shopping malls can re-open at 25% capacity but the County is evaluating an actual reopening date. He stated al fresco dining in Old Torrance is entering its third and final month of its pilot study and upon its completion and after additional outreach to businesses in the area, staff will return to Council with an analysis, recommendation, and request direction on the next steps. Restaurants and other businesses interested in pursuing outdoor operations can reach out to the City's Office of Economic Development.

Councilmember Mattucci questioned how a salon is supposed to operate at 25% capacity when their expenses are 100% or how restaurants that had 200 seats can operate with only 50 seats outside. He opined Torrance should be given a waiver as it has adequate medical facilities and low numbers. He urged the City to look into taking legal action against the County and State. He stated the government is unilaterally destroying the City as a municipality with millions of dollars cut from the budget due to politicians making decisions in addition to destroying people's livelihood and right to prosper. He requested legal counsel look into what kind of legal action can be taken by the City.

Councilmember Chen asked City Attorney Sullivan to share options the City has.

Mayor Furey stated asking for legal advice would best be discussed in closed session as opposed to open session.

City Attorney Sullivan explained the only real options are to sue either the County, the State, or both. He added the State has been successful in defending itself except on maybe one or two minor cases. He stated a more in-depth discussion should take place in closed session.

Councilmember Mattucci requested bringing the matter to closed session for discussion.

Councilmember Griffiths thanked staff for the downtown al fresco dining experiment to help restaurants downtown. He agreed with staff's decision to open up additional parking spaces not being used by the restaurants for other businesses and patrons, noting the importance of flexibility and making adjustments as needed.

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

9B. RESOLUTION APPOINTING CITY MANAGER

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution appointing Aram Chaparyan as City Manager.

This item was withdrawn.

9C. APPROVE AGREEMENT, ADOPT RESOLUTION, AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO VAN NESS AVENUE WATER WELLS AND TRANSMISSION MAIN, I-145

Recommendation of the Public Works Director and Finance Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the State Water Resources Control Board Installment Sale Agreement establishing the terms and conditions for a \$16,000,000 State Revolving Fund Loan for the Van Ness Avenue Water Wells and Transmission Main, I-145; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving said Installment Sale Agreement and authorize the City Manager or Interim City Manager to sign the agreement and any amendment thereto; and
- 3) Appropriate \$16,000,000 of Revolving Fund Loan proceeds to the Van Ness Avenue Water Wells and Transmission Main, I-145; and
- 4) Appropriate \$750,000 of Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Project Grant funds to Van Ness Avenue Water Wells and Transmission Main, I-145 for a new not-to-exceed I-145 appropriated budget of \$18,682,578.75.

Engineering Manager John Dettle reviewed the staff recommendation.

Mayor Furey explained the importance of water independence in terms of cost and in the event of a natural disaster.

Councilmember Griffiths echoed Mayor Furey's sentiments regarding the City's investment in water infrastructure. He recounted his time on the Environmental Commission and trips to different water facility tours to learn about water usage and delivery. He stated how much effort the City has made in becoming water independent by not requiring as much imported water and many other cities don't have that luxury. He asked if the loan interest rate is a fixed 1.4% interest and not a variable.

Engineering Manager Dettle confirmed it is fixed at 1.4%.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to concur staff recommendation and adopt Resolution No. 2020-93. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

9D. APPROVE BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council approve the additional mitigation measures to rebalance the 2020-21 Operating Budget.

Finance Director Eric Tsao reviewed the staff recommendation. With the aid of slides, he provided a status of budget implementation items, COVID-19 impact on revenues, revised revenue projections for the current fiscal year, budget plan, and staff recommendation.

Councilmember Griffiths brought up the concern for public safety and reduction of sworn officer numbers and requested confirmation the staffing level is similar to a year ago.

Finance Director Tsao confirmed no layoffs have happened in the Police Department for sworn personnel. He added the vacancy factor in the Police Department hasn't affected the delivery of service.

Finance Director Tsao also confirmed for Councilmember Griffiths that a police officer who retires during this freeze period would be replaced and there isn't recruitment and hiring for new officers.

Councilmember Griffiths stated there is a shortage of sworn officers and it has been a difficult process to find and recruit officers. He reiterated the City is not cutting police force and public safety. He added as economy recovers and sectors open up, the City will be able to free up frozen positions to re-hire in the most important areas. He stated the budget adjustment is a prudent effort that continues to provide services the public expects.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to concur with staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

Item 9F was considered out of order.

9F. APPROVE DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council approve new Disclosure Policies and Procedures for the City of Torrance and the Torrance Joint Powers Financing Authority. The members of the City Council are the members of the Torrance Joint Powers Financing Authority's Board of Directors.

Mayor Furey introduced the item.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the staff recommendation, noting the disclosure policies and procedures are intended to ensure the City is in compliance with all applicable federal and state security laws.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved approve new disclosure policies for the City of Torrance and the Torrance Joint Powers Financing Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

9E. RESOLUTION APPROVING OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE FOR 2020 LEASE REVENUE BONDS

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution approving the Official Statement and Continuing Disclosure Certificate for the Lease Revenue Bonds to be issued by the Torrance Joint Powers Financing Authority and directing certain related actions.

Finance Director Tsao reviewed the staff recommendation and provided an overview of process and timeline for issuing the bonds to potential buyers or investors.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to concur with the Finance Director's recommendation and adopt Resolution No. 2020-94. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

9F. APPROVE DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Considered earlier, see above.

10. HEARINGS – None scheduled

11. AGENCY AGENDAS

11A. JOINT POWERS FINANCING AUTHORITY

The Council met as the Joint Powers Financing Authority from 9:16 p.m. to 9:25 p.m. (*Minutes under separate cover*)

12. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

12A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3882

Second and Final reading of Ordinance No. 3882 amending Chapter 2 of Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code by adding Article 44 to prohibit shared mobility devices from being placed in any public right of way or on public property or offered for use in the City of Torrance.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3882. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by 7-0 vote.

Mayor Furey stated though he voted no on the original ordinance, he wanted to show his agreement with the body of the Council by voting yes.

13. CITY COUNCIL ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

Councilmember Mattucci requested concurrence to bring back an item to discuss Council meeting public Oral Communications call processing.

Mayor Furey requested concurrence to have staff work with the LA County Registrar-Recorder to come up with a dropbox program agreeable for the City.

City Attorney Sullivan clarified the vote whether to reconsider the item would take place at the following Council meeting.

14. CLOSED SESSION


Considered earlier, see page 1.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:54 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, September 15, 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), streaming on TorranceCA.Gov, Facebook @ City of Torrance CA Government, and YouTube Channel TorranceCitiCABLE. Tuesday, September 8, 2020 is a Council dark night.

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

Attest:


for Rebecca Poirier
City Clerk of the City of Torrance



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Approved on October 6, 2020