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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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At 11:43 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, October 6, 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 29, 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 22, 2020 at 7:00 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

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Goodrich.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Griffiths.

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, September 17, 2020.

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

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred. Supplemental material was available for items 1, 8B, 9B, 9E, 10A, and Oral Communications.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Furey announced The Social Services Commission will host its second Homeless Plan Listening Session virtually on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Griffiths 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 this week's focus as part of National Preparedness Month is teaching youth about preparedness in the event of a disaster. For more information visit ready.gov/kids or TorranceCA.gov/OES.

Donna Duperron, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, announced the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy Group has voted to oppose Proposition 15 and shared the problems identified by the Chamber. She added the California Assessor's Association and the League of California Cities also do not support Prop 15.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION RE LEROY J. JACKSON

Resolution No. 2020-100 honoring City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after fifty-four years of service.

Assistant City Manager Aram Chaparyan congratulated City Manager Jackson on behalf of the Executive Team, noting Mr. Jackson empowered his team to be proactive, take charge, and always have the best interest of Torrance at heart.

Torrance Unified School District Interim Superintendent Dr. Tim Stowe thanked City Manager Jackson for his many years of service and commitment by supporting and nurturing programs for children in the community.

City Manager Jackson thanked Mayor and Council for the years he has been allowed to serve the city and for all the opportunities open to him. He shared his pride in the organization he has managed and wished Torrance all the best.

Mayor Furey presented a surprise proclamation declaring September 30, 2020 as LeRoy J. Jackson Day to City Manager Jackson.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-100. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

The City Council recessed at 7:36 p.m. and reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public spoke.

10. HEARINGS

10A. PUBLIC HEARING RE EAS15-00001, CUP15-00014, DIV15-00006, ZON15-00003: PEYKAN CORPORATION.

Recommendation of the Planning Commission that City Council:

- 1) Deny the appeal; and
- 2) Adopt Resolutions denying without prejudice a Conditional Use Permit and Division of Lot, and denying without prejudice of the Zone Change, to allow the subject project on property located in the C-R Zone on the east side of Prairie Avenue approximately 100 feet north of 176th Street (APN: 4088-002-021).

– OR –

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Uphold the appeal and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 2) Adopt an Ordinance approving a Zone Change from C-R (Restricted Commercial District) to C3-PP (Solely Commercial – Precise Plan); and
- 3) Adopt a Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit and Division of Lot, to allow the subject project on property located in the C-R Zone (C3-PP Pending) on the east side of Prairie Avenue approximately 100 feet north of 176th Street (APN: 4088-002-021); and
- 4) Approve an ordinance summary for publication.

With the aid of slides, Planning & Environmental Manager Oscar Martinez reviewed the staff recommendation, noting this Item was continued from December 3, 2019 to allow the applicant to work with staff on concerns raised at the meeting related to scale, privacy, off-street parking, and traffic impacts. He stated the project has reduced the overall square footage by approximately 2,200 square feet, adding the current basement level parking garage plan has 92 parking spaces and the prior design had 55 parking spaces. He touched on the building height reduction, modified south elevation, and proposed median modification.

Proponent Kruschen Karl Evangelista stated the property has been vacant for some time and noted the modifications the applicant has addressed over the years with Planning staff.

Councilmember Goodrich asked how long the lot has been vacant.

Community Development Director Danny Santana responded this parcel has been vacant since it was a leftover piece when the freeway was expanded and has been in its current state for many years, limited to a holiday tree lot and pumpkin patch.

Councilmember Chen asked how easy it would be to accidentally turn into the development.

Community Development Director Santana stated the median modifications were designed by the applicant's traffic engineer and reviewed by the Public Works Department's Traffic Engineering Division. He added it would be difficult to accidentally turn in with existing lanes on northbound Prairie and additional left turn pockets for 175th Place and 175th Street. He noted Public Works will verify the median modification is implemented correctly.

Community Development Director Santana explained the Community Development Department and Public Works will do everything possible to avoid head-on collisions in response to Councilmember Chen's concerns about turning into the project.

Councilmember Mattucci asked if the applicant considered doing a lower density project, noting the concern about traffic created from the commercial square footage in front. He added the guest parking is shared with the commercial parking, and the commercial aspect is needed to allow a higher density project. He asked if there is an analysis of what a lower density project would look like without the commercial area and if a townhome project could go in.

Community Development Director Santana explained the project would need to be a different zone than what is currently proposed as the subject request is for senior condominiums, which is conditionally permitted in the C-3 Zone and a non-age-restrictive project is not. He continued that a standalone residential project would result in fewer units and because the properties to the north are zoned C-3, the applicant has proceeded in a senior condominium

direction to avoid inconsistent zoning. Community Development Director Santana clarified although the current project does allow for the commercial parking spaces to be shared with additional guest parking, the project is currently providing all required guest spaces within the underground parking garage itself.

Councilmember Mattucci asked about the floor area ratio (FAR) if the project became a low-density townhome style.

Community Development Director Santana stated strictly residential limited to 0.6 FAR and assuming an average unit square footage of 1,200 square feet would bring the total down to 36 units.

Councilmember Mattucci expressed his concern about density with commercial retail in the front and only one driveway going in and out.

Councilmember Goodrich stated the commercial size of 1,500 feet is fairly small in the scope of project. He asked if traffic trips generated from the commercial use alone combined with possible avoided trips from the mixed-use development for residents who don't have to drive offsite mitigates that.

Community Development Director Santana explained in reviewing Traffic Table 5.1, a total of 52 trip ends are envisioned for the commercial retail space. He stated depending on the nature of use, because this is a senior development, if the commercial space was a medical or convenience service it likely would reduce the number of trip ends from the residential component out of the project.

Councilmember Griffiths asked the applicant if parking is assigned to specific units.

Mr. Evangelista replied since there is enough parking for all of the units it would be assigned tandem parking.

Community Development Director Santana added the code requires the spaces be dedicated to the units they are intended to serve.

Councilmember Griffiths questioned since this is a senior project, what protections will there be to ensure the property is lived in and owned by seniors.

Community Development Director Santana explained the conditions of approval require the Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions for the project include a deed restriction that limits who the occupants can be. He furthered because it is a condition of approval, in order to obtain an amendment to that restriction, they would have to secure some sort of legislative action voiding those requirements statewide or come before a public body in Torrance to request to modify that requirement.

Councilmember Griffiths asked what the penalty would be if a non-senior purchased and/or lived in these units and who would enforce that.

Community Development Director Santana replied code enforcement would enforce and the penalty could involve prosecution by the City Prosecutor's Office for noncompliance.

Councilmember Griffiths expressed concern there isn't a way to exit left and go south, adding the first left turn options going north are no U-turns so it is impossible for someone to head south on Prairie without taking a considerable detour and increasing traffic problems.

Community Development Director Santana explained there is not an alternative workaround to that and a vehicle exiting the property would have to follow the restrictions at various intersections and would maybe need to go westbound or further north to Redondo Beach Blvd.

Councilmember Griffiths shared he drove through the area and had a hard time without taking an extended detour and stated people will want to go south into Torrance.

Councilmember Kalani mentioned she couldn't find anything in the staff report regarding owner-occupancy requirements and someone 55 and over purchasing and using as a rental.

Community Development Director Santana stated there is no condition restricting it, as it has not been a consistent condition the City has applied to any other residential projects.

Members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

Mayor Furey noted when this Item was discussed previously, he was concerned with the balconies, setbacks, and parking and stated the applicant has tried to comply with everything Council discussed before.

Councilmember Ashcraft explained this project has been in the works with the Community Development Department since 2016 and has gone through several iterations and developments. She read comments and commission notes and issues have been fulfilled and she stated her support of the project.

Councilmember Chen noted the applicant has met all the requirements. He opined he is not as concerned about the inability to turn left out of this project because it is safer to turn right. Regarding some of the callers, he mentioned there are elevators and asked staff about the public mixing terms like low income and senior housing.

Mayor Furey clarified this project is market rate and not low income housing. He added the distinction between senior and elderly with senior being 55 and over. He mentioned New Horizons is senior housing and their Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions state it can be rented as long as a resident is 55 and older. He concluded the City is not building the project and a property owner can build what they want on their land when they go through the proper channels.

Councilmember Mattucci reiterated his concerns about density and asked if this project could still have restrictions limited to senior housing if it removed the commercial space and brought down the floor area ratio to 36 units.

Community Development Director Santana stated Council could make a motion, but it would not guarantee the applicant would proceed with a project with those types of conditions as it might not be feasible to pursue. He added the applicant could file a new application for something larger or have Council reconsider the conditions restricting their proposal.

Councilmember Mattucci clarified he is not anti-development, but he would support a smaller project, as he believes 53 units is too high density.

Councilmember Goodrich expressed this project has been through several iterations over the years and is better than a vacant lot. He added the mixed-use will reduce traffic trips as there is potential for neighbors in the area to walk over and shop at the commercial area. He noted underground parking is expensive and attempting to reduce the number of units will lose the underground parking. He voiced his support for the project.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to uphold the appeal, adopt a mitigated negative declaration, adopt Ordinance No. 3883, approve an ordinance summary for publication, and adopt resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-101 and 2020-102. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

The City Council recessed at 9:57 p.m. and reconvened at 10:06 p.m.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of August 25, 2020.

8B. GRANT FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council accept and appropriate grant funding in the amount of \$156,000 from the State of California – Office of Traffic Safety for the Child Passenger Safety Program.

8C. FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM 2019 NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY GRANT PROGRAM

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Financial Reports from the 2019 Non-Profit Social Services Agency Grant Program.

8D. AGREEMENT FOR YUKON AVENUE STORM DRAIN PUMP STATION REHABILITATION, I-151

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Determine that the Yukon Avenue Storm Drain Pump Station Rehabilitation, I-151 is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301(b) of the Guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
- 2) Approve the plans and specifications for the construction of Yukon Avenue Storm Drain Pump Station Rehabilitation, I-151; and
- 3) Appropriate \$164,000 from the Citywide Sewer System Improvements Project, I-191 to the Yukon Avenue Storm Drain Pump Station Rehabilitation, I-151 for a new not-to-exceed budget of \$571,000; and
- 4) Award a Public Works agreement to Lucas Builders, Inc. of La Habra, CA (B2020-16) in the amount of \$371,055 and authorize a 10% contingency of \$37,105 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$408,160 to construct the Yukon Avenue Storm Drain Pump Station Rehabilitation, I-151 for a two-year period beginning September 22, 2020 and ending September 21, 2022.

8E. AGREEMENT RE CONSTRUCTION ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR TORRANCE TRANSIT PARK AND RIDE REGIONAL TERMINAL

Recommendation of the Public Works Director and General Services Director that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with the S/L/A/M Collaborative, Inc. ("SLAM"), formerly Frank R. Webb Architects, Inc., of Los Angeles, CA in the amount of \$250,000 to provide as-needed construction architectural and engineering support services for the Torrance Transit Park and Ride Regional Terminal, FEAP 764.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to approve the Consent Calendar in its entirety. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen 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 LA County remains in Tier 1, meaning there continues to be widespread transmission of the virus. The number of daily hospitalizations continues to be declining. LA County has met the threshold to go from purple to red and if the county can maintain same numbers for 14 days, additional sectors can reopen. Per the Mayor's request and with Council concurrence on September 16, a letter signed by South Bay mayors was sent to Governor Newsom and shared with LA County requesting consideration for the State of California to permit the cities in the South Bay region of Los Angeles to open businesses consistent with the red tier for COVID-19. The letter is included as Attachment C of the staff report. Barbershops and hair salons are allowed to reopen indoor operations at 25% capacity. City Manager Jackson shared a breakdown of businesses permitted to open outdoor operations, adding expenditures for the assistance with outdoor setup is \$52,509 with an overall total cost of \$97,923 spent on business assistance to-date. Staff continues to evaluate the downtown outdoor pilot program and multiple departments are reviewing the reconfiguration of the monthly antique street faire. Restaurants and other businesses interested in pursuing outdoor operations can reach out to the City's Office of Economic Development.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to accept and file Item 9A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

9B. AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT NOISE MONITORING SYSTEM (ANOMS)

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve a Noise Office Services Agreement with Brüel & Kjær of Sacramento, CA in the amount of \$448,455 (approximately \$149,485 annually) for licensing and maintenance of the Airport Noise Monitoring System (ANOMS), Noise Abatement System, Noise Office Services, WebTrak and Technology Management and for a three-year period beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2023

Deputy Community Development Director Linda Cessna reviewed the staff recommendation, adding the vendor has changed a clause in the contract allowing the City to terminate at the end of each year.

Councilmember Kalani recused herself.

Councilmember Mattucci asked about going month-to-month without the 15% surcharge.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna responded it was discussed with the vendor and for month-to-month they would charge the 15% withheld the past three months.

Councilmember Mattucci stated he does not support the amount of money spent on this service and the fact the City has not gone out to bid on this.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated the City has renewed it because of the proprietary equipment in place. She added to replace all the equipment would be a much greater expense than to continue the service with the existing equipment and going out to RFP will include the significant expense of replacing the equipment.

Councilmember Mattucci posited if the equipment figuratively is \$200,000 but the City saves \$80,000 a year in fees, the City wouldn't know that unless it went out to RFP. He noted the spending of enterprise funds at a high rate, adding if staff shopped around they could possibly get less expensive servicing.

City Manager Jackson explained Council could do both to a certain extent; he suggested renewing the contract because it will take a period of time to develop the RFP, go out on the RFP, and review the RFP. During that period of time the current vendor will monitor and review the current equipment. He continued by the time the RFP comes back to Council, it can be decided to go out and see other options with the capability of closing the contract at the end of the year. If the RFP were to be put out, Council can see whether there was a real difference in pricing, with the understanding the current vendor would have the advantage of not having to build equipment and may come in lower on actual costs. He concluded staff would have to evaluate the cost and the facilities replacement when it returns to Council at a later date. He suggested Council send it the Airport commission for review and comment.

Councilmember Chen noted per the supplemental, the number of flights in the airport has reduced since the noise ordinance was developed. He added the system is coming to the end of its life and the Airport Commission can provide a variation on what Mr. Jackson suggested and maybe suspend operation of this system to take back to the Commission to determine if there is a need for an outside noise monitoring system. He asked if this is something staff can do that doesn't require additional unique licensing, and he added his preference not to renew the contract if the equipment is at end of its life.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna recommended it would be prudent to maintain the contract at least a year and then go to the Airport Commission and talk to the public. She opined to cease a program that's been in existence for as long as it has without any public input would be an unusual step for the City to take.

Councilmember Chen reiterated landing numbers have gone down.

Councilmember Griffiths voiced his opposition to the amount of money spent over three years using older equipment. He questioned the need for the system when the number of complaints is relatively low. He suggested taking the matter to the Airport Commission to let them evaluate need for a noise monitoring system and put out an RFP for a new system that uses modern technology and if it will reduce the cost. He recommended keeping the system in place for a maximum of one year with the current product, have the Commission do public outreach

regarding noise issues, develop an RFP, and put out the RFP to see what products and pricing come back. Councilmember Griffiths stated after the Commission speaks with the public and presents its findings, maybe the City will not need to implement a monitoring system for a small number of violations.

Councilmember Goodrich shared his concerns about cost, noting when cutting \$20M from the budget, half a million dollars for three years is a lot. He brought up a Torrance resident with professional aerospace experience who is interested in getting involved and requested staff have a conversation with him to explore what he can do. Councilmember Goodrich added technology has evolved to the point where it might be feasible for somebody with programming experience and electronics experience to develop a system like this without as much trouble as what might have been 10 years ago with considerable cost savings. He mentioned the airports that have noise monitoring are the large airports like LAX and Santa Monica, which has considerable money but is closing down. Regarding public comment, he stated this is the third time Council has talked about this contract in two months so it's not fair to say Council hasn't accepted public comment on this issue.

Councilmember Ashcraft asked how many employees it takes to run this program.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna responded half a person working at the airport, a senior, and herself get involved. A senior usually does the Airport Noise Hearing Board so less than one full person is working the system at any time. Responding to follow-up questions from Councilmember Ashcraft, she explained the senior is code enforcement so they have lots of other job responsibilities not at the airport. She clarified code enforcement staff uses the data that the system generates and the software is handled by the company providing it to the City.

Councilmember Ashcraft stated it is too much money right now and should go to the Commission to give residents an opportunity to speak and listen to what community says to determine if the City really need this software.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to not fund this Item and take it to the Airport Commission for review and possible RFP if they so decide. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 4-2 vote, with Councilmember Griffiths and Mayor Furey voting no, and Councilmember Kalani recused.

Councilmember Griffiths explained his vote and his preference would be to leave the system in place for a year while staff researches an RFP and conducts public outreach.

Mayor Furey stated he voted no because in conducting public hearings, the public will be upset that there is no monitoring system or data tracking and there may not be something cheaper.

9C. ORDINANCE RE PIPELINE FRANCHISE TO TRANSPORT WATER ALONG PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Open the item and take testimonial and documentary evidence; and
- 2) Adopt a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 (existing facilities) of the Guidelines implementing CEQA; and
- 3) Read by number and title only and introduce an Ordinance granting California Water Service Company, a California Corporation, a 25-year extension to the existing Franchise Ordinance No. 3664; and
- 4) Approve an Ordinance Summary for publication.

Planning Manager Gregg Lodan reviewed the staff recommendation.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to concur and adopt Ordinance No. 3884. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

9D. RATIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Recommendation of the City Manager and City Attorney that City Council adopt a Resolution ratifying Administrative Orders by the City Manager issued from July 17, 2020 to September 17, 2020.

City Attorney Sullivan reviewed the staff recommendation.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-103. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by 7-0 vote.

9E. OPTIONS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider options to receive telephonic public comments during City Council meetings during the coronavirus pandemic:

- 1) Continue to receive public comment at the beginning of the meeting for 60 minutes; and separately during public hearings (no change); or
- 2) Receive public comment limited to oral communications at the beginning of the meeting for a certain duration; receive public comment for routine items collectively for a certain duration (separately from oral communications); and continue to receive public hearing comments separately; or
- 3) Receive public comment limited to oral communications at the beginning and/or end of the meeting for a certain duration; receive public comment for routine items and public hearings as they appear individually throughout the meeting for a certain duration; and
- 4) Continue with in-house call center or outsource.

Cable & Community Relations Manager Michael Smith reviewed the staff recommendation and provided a brief overview of each option and explained how the call center works.

Councilmember Mattucci mentioned criticism from the public regarding the system of one hour for calls and one minute per caller. He clarified Council did not make the decision to eliminate Orals #2 and the per-item call in ability. He acknowledged the desire to simplify, but noticed a lot of residents have stopped calling in as they have gotten busy signals or called over 70 times to no avail. He suggested people may have questions after the staff presentation so every caller should have the ability to call in on those items separately from Oral Communications. He stated the necessity of increasing call volume and queue capability with more than five lines. He suggested separating Oral Communications into 30 minutes, one minute per caller at the beginning of the meeting, then allow calls to come in for each item. He recommended Option #3 with staff's guidance on how to expand the system to keep it in-house and keep costs down without further equipment or outsourcing.

Councilmember Goodrich stated he is in favor of more transparency, but Council is hampered by the virus and format in which meetings are conducted. He added the current format is probably the best the City is going to get. He shared he has received far more complaints about bad language during the meetings than inability to provide public comment. He continued those who comment about vulgarity know there are alternative ways to contact Council since they have

emailed their comments without having to call in to provide their comments. Councilmember Goodrich explained it has been determined bad language is free speech and the City cannot by law censor it. He noted many people watch the meeting on CitiCABLE with their family and if all public comment is at the beginning, parents can skip past that section with bad language to the substance of the meeting and children won't hear the vulgar language. He concluded it is a balancing act for the next couple months and the way calls are done now is probably the best option.

Councilmember Chen referenced the cities that staff compared, noting only Los Angeles County and Santa Barbara County still meet four times per month. He requested staff come back to see if it is feasible during the pandemic period to have two Council meetings per month. He suggested bringing Orals down to 30 minutes for items not on the agenda with one minute per caller and allow public comment per Administrative item. He added the public might have questions based on staff's presentations, rather than early on in the meeting. Regarding the call system, he suggested trying to utilize the Zoom waiting room feature for one or two meetings as Zoom is already paid for.

Mayor Furey voiced his disagreement with Councilmember Chen, stating fewer meetings per month means having longer meetings and the public would have to stay up later to wait for items at end of agenda. He added Torrance is a sophisticated, educated constituent city and emails received as public comment or for an item are distributed accordingly. He furthered the meetings won't run this way forever and Council may be a month away from going back to the Chambers. He stated the current system works, it is within the Governor's orders, compliant with the Brown Act, and modeled off Los Angeles County. He noted moving public hearings to the beginning reduces staff time and a lot of thought went into this format. He concluded he has done countless Zoom meetings and they are far from perfect; the call center is doing a good job.

Councilmember Griffiths expressed it is important for the public to have an opportunity to have a dialogue as an item is being discussed, since information comes up that isn't in the staff report; under the current configuration the public doesn't have the opportunity for that dialogue. He acknowledged because of the way meetings are run it is much more complicated to have staff manage calls and the call center and try to categorize callers by item. He shared optimism that video conference meetings and public comment in this format will not be continuing for many more months. He stated he did not view any of the formats being proposed as being better or worse than the others. Though he agreed the public is being shut out of the conversation because they aren't able to speak on items when they are being discussed, Councilmember Griffiths noted the public has the right to call or email ahead of time. He added he can wait couple of months until Council returns to the original meeting format in the Council Chambers. He opined under current circumstances with the complexities of the call center and staffing, it would be beneficial to continue the current way for a couple more months. He mentioned he would like to see a way to incorporate comment on the items without creating a large undertaking for the call center.

Councilmember Ashcraft agreed with Councilmember Griffiths. She stated her preference to add the time during agenda items to let people call but conceded call center staff would have to stay on longer to take calls. She stated if meetings will continue in this format beyond two months she would like to revisit this and give people the option to call in on agenda items. She noted two Council meetings per month would not be a good idea, citing long late nights and she added meetings get cancelled due to lack of business.

Councilmember Kalani asked if it is possible to have the first 40 minutes of 60 minutes for general comment and reserve the last 20 minutes for comments solely on agenda items.

Mayor Furey responded multiple callers will call in again for the sake of it. He explained putting all callers together combats this, which is why the County does it. He shared his optimism for conducting business in the Chambers sooner than two months. He mentioned going to two meetings a month doesn't make sense for a city of Torrance's size. He added the full 60 minutes from Orals hasn't been used in a long time so everyone gets the opportunity to speak and Council receives a lot of emails about agenda items. He stated emails asking questions get passed on to staff.

Councilmember Mattucci stated it is Council's duty to allow everyone to speak during Administrative items. He added when a resident calls to comment on an item, they should be able to get through, be put in a queue, and Administrative Matters should not have limits to how many people can call. He mentioned the potential cost of staffing the call center for the duration of the meeting, adding it is the least the City can do for the public by allowing them to call in and speak. He concluded staff should separate calls into 30 minutes with one minute per caller for Orals and allow calls for each and every item.

Regarding frequency of meetings, Councilmember Goodrich stated Council meets more frequently than is needed, adding if Las Vegas can meet two times a month so can Torrance. He reiterated people would like to watch the meetings without interruptions of vulgarity. He stated the process should be left as-is for a few months since something will probably change before long.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved that Council take Administrative Matters separately from 30-minute initial oral comments limited to one minute each and continue until Council goes back to its normal schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and failed by 5-2 vote, with Councilmember Chen and Councilmember Mattucci voting yes.

MOTION: Councilmember Goodrich moved to select Option #1 and bring back Item mid-November. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

9F. STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE'S POSITION ON LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES RESOLUTION AND POSITIONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

Recommendation of the State Legislative Advocacy Committee that City Council approve and concur with Committee's positions on:

- 1) League of California Cities Resolution; and
- 2) 2020 Ballot Measures on the California General Election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Mayor Furey reported the State Legislative Advocacy Committee met on September 14, 2020 to review the League of California Cities Resolution and the measures on the 2020 General Election ballot; discussed the criteria used to determine if the City should take a position on a measure; and provided a brief summary of the ballot measures and the Committee's recommendations.

A Resolution of the General Assembly of the League of California Cities calling for an amendment of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to require social media companies to remove materials which promote criminal activities. Committee Recommendation: Support (3-0)

Council concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendation.

Proposition 15 – Increases Funding Sources for Public Schools, Community Colleges and Local Government Services. Committee Recommendation: Oppose (3-0)

Council concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendation.

Proposition 16 – Allows Diversity as a Factor in Public Employment, Education, and Contracting Decisions. Committee Recommendation: Neutral (3-0)

Council concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendation.

Proposition 19 – Changes Certain Property Tax Rules. Committee Recommendation: Oppose (2-1)

Councilmembers Ashcraft, Chen, Griffiths, Kalani, Mattucci, and Mayor Furey voted to oppose and Councilmember Goodrich voted to remain neutral. Council concurred with the Committee's recommendation.

Proposition 20 – Restricts Parole for Certain Offenses Currently Considered to be Non-Violent. Authorizes Felony Sentences for Certain Offenses Currently Treated only as Misdemeanors. Committee Recommendation: Support (3-0)

Council concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendation.

Proposition 21 – Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Committee Recommendation: Neutral (2-1)

Councilmembers Ashcraft, Chen, Griffiths, Kalani, and Mattucci voted to oppose. Councilmember Goodrich and Mayor Furey voted to remain neutral. Council voted to oppose this Proposition.

Proposition 25 – Referendum on Law that Replaced Money Bail with System based on Public Safety and Flight Risk. Committee Recommendation: Oppose (3-0)

Council concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendation.

11. **AGENCY AGENDAS** – None scheduled

12. **SECOND READING ORDINANCES** – None scheduled

13. **CITY COUNCIL ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

14. **CLOSED SESSION** – None scheduled

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:43 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, October 6, 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 29, 2020 is a Council dark night.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft 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 20, 2020