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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 17, 2020

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At 10:59 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 1, 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, November 24, 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, November 17, 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 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 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) Conference With Labor Negotiator, 14C) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 14D) Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation pursuant to California Government Code §54957, California Government Code §54957.6, California Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), and California Government Code §54956.9(d)(2).

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 Chen.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Goodrich.

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, November 12, 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 Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred. Supplemental material available for items 6F, 10A, and Oral Communications.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Goodrich announced the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee met the day prior to discuss the first quarter 2020-2021 budget review report. The report along with approved program modifications will be brought to the City Council in early December.

Councilmember Griffiths attended the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy meeting last week and the most recent pulse poll from BizFed identified the most pressing issues businesses face. Torrance had the highest number of responses and respondents noted Torrance was the #1 business-friendly city in LA County. He shared some businesses' concerns and statistics on working from home.

Councilmember Chen attended the celebration of South Bay Fiber Network Connection hosted virtually by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to celebrate the completion of the fiber network that connects all the South Bay cities and six agencies with high speed, lower cost broadband infrastructure.

Mayor Furey announced as work continues on the City's Downtown Revitalization Plan, staff and a consultant team are concluding the diagnostic portion of the analysis and are preparing to move forward with the process. A draft executive summary of the work conducted thus far will be available on the Community Development Department website by the end of the week and the Community Development Department will be hosting two virtual community outreach meetings Tuesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION RE CHERYL HUDDLE

Resolution No. 2020-123 honoring Police Services Officer Cheryl Huddle upon her retirement from the City of Torrance after thirty-three years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-123. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

6B. RESOLUTION RE SCOTT CAMERON

Resolution No. 2020-124 honoring Police Sergeant Scott Cameron upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after nearly twenty-seven years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-124. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kalani and passed by 7-0 vote.

6C. RESOLUTION RE CRAIG MARSHALL

Resolution No. 2020-125 honoring Police Officer Craig Marshall upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after twenty-one years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-125. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

6D. PROCLAMATION RE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

The Proclamation declaring Saturday, November 28, 2020 as Small Business Saturday in the City of Torrance was accepted by Donna Duperron from the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce and Larry Halvorsen from Express Employment Professionals.

6E. PROCLAMATION RE UNITED AGAINST HATE WEEK

The Proclamation declaring November 30, 2020 to December 6, 2020 as United Against Hate Week in the City of Torrance was accepted by Karen Klink from the Racial Equity Committee of South Bay Cares.

6F. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council:

- 1) Review applications and appoint members to fill vacancies on the Planning, Civil Service, Airport, and Commission on Aging Commissions from a list of qualified applicants and consider reappointments of eligible current commissioners; and
- 2) Set the beginning of the term as December 1, 2020 to give appointees time to be sworn in prior to their first meeting. The City Clerk will administer the Oath of Office at a future date.

Mayor Furey requested Planning Commission nominations. Councilmember Goodrich nominated Mario Obejas; Councilmember Ashcraft nominated David Kartsonis; Councilmember Chen nominated Spencer Dela Cruz; Councilmember Kalani nominated Michael Kosidlak.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Ashcraft voted for David Kartsonis; Councilmember Chen voted for Spencer Dela Cruz; Councilmember Goodrich voted for Mario Obejas; Councilmember Griffiths voted for David Kartsonis; Councilmember Kalani voted for Michael Kosidlak; Councilmember Mattucci voted for David Kartsonis; Mayor Furey voted for Mario Obejas. David Kartsonis was appointed with three votes for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Civil Service Commission and nominated Bridgett Lewis. Councilmember Kalani nominated Cinda Herring; Councilmember Goodrich nominated Carol Dean.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Chen voted for Bridgett Lewis and Cinda Herring; Councilmember Goodrich voted for Bridgett Lewis and Carol Dean; Councilmember Griffiths voted for Bridgett Lewis and Cinda Herring; Councilmember Kalani voted for Bridgett Lewis and Cinda Herring; Councilmember Mattucci voted for Cinda Herring and Bridgett Lewis; Councilmember Ashcraft voted for Cinda Herring and Bridgett Lewis; Mayor Furey voted for Cinda Herring and Bridgett Lewis. Cinda Herring and Bridgette Lewis were appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2024.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Airport Commission and nominated Anne O'Brien; Councilmember Mattucci nominated Linden Nishinaga; Councilmember Griffiths nominated Gregory Taylor.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Goodrich voted for Anne O'Brien and Linden Nishinaga; Councilmember Griffiths voted for Gregory Taylor and Linden Nishinaga;

Councilmember Kalani voted for Anne O'Brien and Linden Nishinaga; Councilmember Mattucci voted for Linden Nishinaga and Anne O'Brien; Councilmember Ashcraft voted for Linden Nishinaga and Anne O'Brien; Councilmember Chen voted for Linden Nishinaga and Anne O'Brien; Mayor Furey voted for Anne O'Brien and Linden Nishinaga. Anne O'Brien was reappointed for a term expiring June 30, 2024 and Linden Nishinaga was appointed for a partial term expiring June 30, 2021.

Mayor Furey requested Commission on Aging nominations. Councilmember Ashcraft nominated Gurpeet Kaur; Councilmember Goodrich nominated Carolyn Snyder; Councilmember Chen nominated Karen Pryor; Councilmember Griffiths nominated Robert Feldman.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Griffiths voted for Karen Pryor and Robert Feldman; Councilmember Kalani voted for Karen Pryor and Robert Feldman; Councilmember Mattucci voted for Karen Pryor and Carolyn Snyder; Councilmember Ashcraft voted for Robert Feldman and Gurpeet Kaur; Councilmember Chen voted for Karen Pryor and Carolyn Snyder; Councilmember Goodrich voted for Carolyn Snyder and Karen Pryor; Mayor Furey voted for Carolyn Snyder and Karen Pryor. Karen Pryor and Carolyn Snyder were appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2024.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public spoke.

10. HEARINGS

10A. PUBLIC HEARING RE CUP19-00020: JOE JUDGE

Recommendation of the Planning Commission that City Council deny the appeal and adopt a Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit to allow the replacement of an existing service station mini mart with a new 2,600 square foot retail store, without the retail sale of beer and wine for offsite consumption, on property located in the C-2 Zone at 3975 190th Street.

-OR-

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council uphold the appeal and adopt a Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit to allow the replacement of existing service station mini mart with a new 2,600 square foot retail store, and to allow the retail sale of beer and wine for offsite consumption, on property located in the C-2 Zone at 3975 190th Street.

Mayor Furey announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Poirier confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Planning and Environmental Manager Oscar Martinez reviewed the staff recommendation with the aid of slides. He touched on the site plan of the proposed project, the parking stall layout, the building elevation on all sides, and the Planning Commission's decision.

Bruce Evans spoke on behalf of the applicant and stated staff determined the design is acceptable and an opportunity to revitalize an outdated site. He added the owner's million-dollar investment in the project to improve the site can't go forward without beer and wine approval. He shared the owner didn't expect any local opposition as he had received Planning Department recommendation and no opposition from the Police Department. He explained the owner, Mr. Judge, took concerns from the neighbors into consideration and volunteered a restriction on

alcohol sales from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with an eight hour reduction. Mr. Evans furthered Mr. Judge would limit the retail space for alcohol to 10%, have no advertising of alcohol, suggested a built-in one-year review, and employees would have to go through mandated training. He concluded the neighbors' concerns can be addressed through added conditions.

Rick Carr, former Torrance Police Department, stated he was brought on the project in February and used to work in licensing of new businesses that sell alcohol. He stressed the importance of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) laws and the municipal laws to Mr. Judge and explained the ramifications of violating those laws. He also explained to Mr. Judge the importance of maintaining relationships with neighbors and addressing all the concerns that they may have. He shared himself and Mr. Judge canvassed the neighborhood immediately to the north of the proposed addition and Mr. Judge voluntarily gave out his cell number to residents. Mr. Carr spoke with Torrance Police Department this morning and they had no issues regarding homelessness in that area outside the usual calls.

Councilmember Ashcraft noted currently the gas station has an auto repair component to it and asked if that will be removed with the remodel.

Mr. Judge stated the service station was removed and they are located on Spencer Street now so he is operating only as a gas station and going forward the location will be a gas station and convenience store.

Councilmember Ashcraft asked about lighting, explaining currently the gas station is an eyesore and is dark at night. She questioned having motion sensor lights.

Mr. Judge replied the lights will be pointed away so the neighborhood is not disturbed. In response to follow-up questions regarding lights, he added he will be working very closely with the neighborhood and will address and correct any concerns regarding lighting.

Councilmember Ashcraft mentioned concern for loitering and vagrancy because of alcohol, adding better lighting will be a positive. She asked how employees will be trained by the ABC or the Police Department.

Mr. Judge explained he is required to have all employees trained and touched on the tenure of his employees. He added his first priority is to handle all issues professionally and communicate with police if there are problems. He concluded he has a no-nonsense business that does not take safety, cleanliness, and courteousness lightly.

Mr. Evans stated there is a condition of approval proposed by the Planning Department that specifies non-glare lighting in the parking lot included in the design and Mr. Judge would work further with the neighbors if there was an issue. He added there is a mandate for very specific types of surveillance camera in the parking lot and as far as training goes there's no legal requirement that Mr. Judge train his employees, but one of the conditions he has volunteered is that all employees would have mandated responsible alcohol retailing training conducted by the ABC or Torrance Police Department.

Community Development Director Danny Santana specified condition #11 on page 14 and #21 and #22 on page 15 addressed non-glare security lighting and the requirement for surveillance cameras with the hope of avoiding any negative impacts to the area as well as facilitating police investigations into any incidents that do take place.

Mayor Furey mentioned the letter from local HOA endorsing this project as long as they adopt all conditions listed and in the item on page two it indicated each and every one of those voluntary conditions by the owner were adopted into the conditions of this approval.

Councilmember Griffiths asked what the current hours of the service station are and what the hours will be for the proposed convenience store.

Mr. Judge stated the requirements of the oil company in the contract requires the station to be open 24-hours as well as the convenience store to be open 24-hours with limited hours for sale of beer and wine as stated in the conditions. Responding to a follow-up question about current hours, Mr. Judge stated at present he is shutting down around 9:00 at night early because of COVID, having lost about 70% of sales at this point.

Councilmember Griffiths disclosed he had a telephone conference with Mr. Carr prior to the meeting tonight but his decision will be based on all the facts presented and that meeting will not affect his decision.

Councilmember Ashcraft disclosed she also had a telephone conversation but all the findings she has read plus tonight's discussion will be where she places her opinion.

Mayor Furey disclosed he had a conversation with Mr. Carr about eight or nine months ago and will base his determination on everything presented as well as anything received later.

Councilmember Mattucci disclosed he met with the applicant at least once or twice and spoke on the phone as well and will make his decision based on the information presented tonight.

Members of the public spoke.

Planning and Environmental Manager Martinez clarified some of the points brought up by members of the public; staff modified the one-year Planning Commission review to be for alcohol-related issues but can make the one-year review automatic. He touched on the letter of support from the North Torrance Home Owners' Association and explained currently the condition of the perimeter wall is to be raised six feet but the code allows a maximum of eight feet and Council can make that modification. He responded to a caller comment regarding the propane tank and stated it is currently being relocated from the rear of the property to the east side of the property.

Mr. Evans mentioned discussion about the voluntary conditions and clarified no single beer sales was not volunteered because the police made it part of the original recommendation. He stated it is a common recommendation to curb abuse and the products that are a concern regarding homeless people won't be sold such as single beer and malt liquor. He concluded the project would be the most recent alcohol use in Torrance for off-site alcohol sales and reiterated the offer to automatically go to Planning Commission for a one-year review of the CUP and pay for public notification for it.

Mr. Carr explained eliminating single sales tends to cut down on the amount of homeless people trying to get alcohol and in reviewing calls for service with Torrance Police, there were not many calls regarding the homeless. He added the owner has been instructed to call Torrance Police Department if there are incidents with the homeless.

Mayor Furey asked about the eight-foot wall mentioned by a neighbor.

Mr. Judge confirmed he would be okay with an automatic one-year review and an eight-foot wall.

Councilmember Kalani questioned controlling single container sales with regards to wine.

Mr. Evans responded the condition pertains to beer and not regular sized bottles of wine. He furthered there will be no breaking apart six packs of beer and 24 ounce cans cannot be sold. He stated a normal sized bottle of wine could be sold and Council can add a condition that no fortified wine be sold, elaborating that it is cheap wine that has a high alcohol content.

Councilmember Kalani stated she would like that considered. She asked if staff is able to refuse service to someone that already appears to be intoxicated and who determines it.

Mr. Carr stated it is part of the training that both the Police Department and ABC provide and will make very clear to Mr. Judge and his employees that anyone under the influence can and will be refused service.

Councilmember Kalani asked if the Police Department will be supportive if intoxicated persons are on the premises in such a state.

Mr. Carr confirmed there is a section in the California Penal Code for being drunk in public and in his experience Torrance Police are proactive in assuring the quality of life for the citizens of Torrance and eliminating people that are drunk in public.

Councilmember Goodrich noted in selling alcohol across the street from the park the two different mindsets are if somebody really wants to drink, they can get alcohol a half a mile away and they will walk that ten minutes if they really want it. He added the other school of thought is the easier it is the more likely there's going to be a problem. He asked for staff feedback on which is more correct.

Community Development Director Santana replied it could be either scenario, but if someone is truly seeking to obtain an alcoholic beverage, there are other locations in the city in immediate proximity. He stated the closest is a liquor store further east on 190th Street near the intersection of Felbar and there are two existing locations at 182nd and Prairie as well as two grocery store operations on Hawthorne south of 190th street. He reiterated if an individual is desirous of acquiring those substances there are other locations in the city where they could go.

Councilmember Goodrich received confirmation the liquor store on 190th is closer than the half mile to 182nd and Prairie, adding it makes it a little difficult to discriminate.

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

Councilmember Mattucci stated after listening to the testimony, he understands what the neighbors are going through and it seems this is more of a homeless and vagrant issue than it is an alcohol and sales issue. He noted as mentioned by Councilmember Goodrich, alcohol is for sale in the vicinity so Council shouldn't deserve to say who gets to sell alcohol and who doesn't. He agreed with the idea of an eight-foot wall if the neighbor is adamant about it and the applicant is okay with building it. He mentioned the single sales ban but conceded someone who is going to be drinking can easily drink a 6-pack or 12-pack. He stated it shouldn't be up to Council to say that's the problem with this project. Councilmember Mattucci furthered the issue is homeless and vagrants around the park, which should be addressed separately. He supported the recommendation of the Community Development Director with the eight-foot wall and stated he is against the automatic review by the Planning Commission unless there are complaints or issues, then it would go to a review in twelve months.

Mayor Furey shared he lives closest to the location and as the former president of the HOA was opposed beer and wine licensing at that very site many years ago. He stated the concern back then was proximity to Columbia Park as one of the two largest parks in Torrance where people go. He expressed the previous assertion was beer and wine are available nearby for purchase and he would not support this without a one-year automatic return to Planning Commission to review the Conditional Use Permit. He appreciated the idea of fixing up that corner and helping businesses do something, but not by abandoning the community that lives right there. Without that condition attached, he stated he will vote no and encourage everybody to vote no. He furthered the food mart would be a nice addition, but he has reservations about the beer and wine. He concluded Mr. Judge has to prove to the community that he's deserving of the Conditional Use Permit and will only support this with the automatic review condition in addition to an eight-foot wall, no sale of fortified wine, and ABC training.

Councilmember Ashcraft voiced her support for renovating that corner as it is an eyesore and it needs to be done. She agreed adding the conditions of the one-year review, an eight-foot wall, and no fortified wine are good recommendations and that is how she would vote for it.

Councilmember Griffiths asked if staff has any knowledge of other establishments that sell alcohol, beer, and wine across the street from parks.

Mayor Furey announced the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to accept the recommendations of the Community Development Director and adopt a resolution approving a conditional use permit to allow the replacement of the service station with the new store and allow the sale of beer and wine as long as there is no single container sales, there's a restriction on fortified wine, an eight-foot wall, and the mandatory twelve-month review. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-126 with the conditions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

Planning and Environmental Manager Martinez confirmed for Mayor Furey conditions #3 and #4 can be modified and the bullet points that talk about single serve can be modified and the resolution would not be brought back.

The Council recessed from 10:07 p.m. to 10:17 p.m.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROPRIATE FUNDS AND ACCEPT AND FILE EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR PERIMETER SECURITY CONSTRUCTION AT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Recommendation of the Police Chief that City Council:

- 1) Accept and appropriate a \$45,000 donation from the Torrance Auto Dealership Association to partially fund the perimeter security wall installation project; and
- 2) Appropriate \$128,075 of asset forfeiture funds to replenish available budget for training opportunities; and

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council accept and file this report of an emergency expenditure pursuant to Torrance Municipal Code section 22.3.12.

8B. AMENDMENTS TO MEASURE R FUNDING AGREEMENTS WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve Amendment No. 2 to Measure R Funding Agreement #MOU.MR312.26 with LACMTA (C2014-072) for the I-405 at 182nd Street/Crenshaw Boulevard Operational Improvements, T-155 to extend the term of all Funds programmed for FY 2014-15 and FY 2016-17 to June 30, 2022;
- 2) Approve Amendment No. 3 to Measure R Funding Agreement #MOU.MR312.40 with LACMTA (C2014-056) for the Pacific Coast Highway at Vista Montana/Anza Avenue Intersection Improvements, T-154 to extend the term of all Funds programmed for FY 2013-14 to June 30, 2022;
- 3) Approve Amendment No. 3 to Measure R Funding Agreement #MOU.MR312.10 with LACMTA (C2012-035) for the Pacific Coast Highway at Hawthorne Boulevard Intersection Improvements, T-131 to extend the term of all Funds programmed for FY 2014-15 to June 30, 2022.

8C. AMENDMENTS TO MEASURE R FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR TORRANCE TRANSIT PARK AND RIDE REGIONAL TRANSIT TERMINAL AND CRENSHAW BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve Amendment No. 3 to Measure R Funding Agreement #MOU.MR312.23 A-1 (C2013-069) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the Torrance Transit Park and Ride Regional Transit Terminal, FEAP 764 to extend the terms of all funds programmed for FY2013-14 to June 30, 2022 and all funds programmed for FY2018-19 to June 30, 2023; and
- 2) Approve Amendment No. 3 to Measure R Funding Agreement #MR312.60 (C2015-043) with the LACMTA for the Crenshaw Boulevard Intersection Improvements and 208th Street Extension, T-157 to extend the terms of all funds programmed for FY2014-15 and FY2015-2016 to June 30, 2022.

8D. REASSIGNMENT OF CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES

Recommendation of the Interim Finance Director that City Council approve the reassignment of the consulting services agreement (C2016-041) with White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP effective November 1, 2020 for the duration of the current agreement expiring March 29, 2021.

8E. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS AT HENRIETTA BASIN AND MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE AND NATURE CENTER

Considered separately, see below.

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

8E. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS AT HENRIETTA BASIN AND MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE AND NATURE CENTER

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Accept and appropriate \$30,000 grant award from the California State Coastal Conservancy for Torrance Henrietta Basin Wetland Recovery Project; and
- 2) Accept and appropriate \$469,900 grant award from the California State Coastal Conservancy for Madrona Marsh Vernal Pool Restoration; and
- 3) Accept and appropriate \$147,473 grant award from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for Enhancing Environmental Education Opportunities (EEEE) for Madrona Marsh Preserve and Henrietta Basin; and
- 4) Accept and appropriate \$140,000 grant award from the California Natural Resources Agency for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Grant Program for Torrance Urban Tree Project; and
- 5) Accept and appropriate \$80,000 grant award from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities (OEEF) for Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center Outdoor Educational Facilities.

Councilmember Ashcraft explained how important this Item is and thanked Community Services for writing and applying for grants. She noted the City has \$867,373 coming through grant programs to enhance Madrona Marsh and the Henrietta Wetlands Recovery Project and shared her excitement to see the nature center and basin improved.

MOTION: Councilmember Ashcraft moved for approval of 8E. 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 (for Discussion Only); and
- 2) Determine whatever action deemed appropriate for responding to Orders from the County of Los Angeles and the State of California Regarding COVID-19.

City Manager Chaparyan provided an update on the COVID-19 recovery efforts. He shared LA County remains in the Purple Tier in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy and many counties have moved from the Red Tier into the Purple Tier, with 40 out of the 58 counties are in the most restrictive tier. He shared to date, 25 Torrance businesses have secured financial assistance for outdoor setup from the Business Assistance Program, eight fitness-related businesses have been permitted to operate in City parks, and 116 business have been approved for outdoor operations. He relayed the County and State both announced they are experiencing a surge in COVID-19 transmissions and could worsen as Thanksgiving approaches. Governor Newsom announced stricter mask mandates. LA County Department of Public Health issued a

press release implementing tighter safeguards and restrictions to curb COVID-19 spread. City Manager Chaparyan shared cases have doubled since the beginning of November and hospitalizations have increased. The first measures effective this Friday include for non-essential businesses permitted to operate outdoors 25% capacity. Patrons at outdoor restaurants, breweries, wineries will be limited to 50% capacity and services at personal care establishments may only be provided by appointment. Outdoor restaurants, bars, breweries, and non-essential retail establishments must be closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and outdoor gatherings remain the only gatherings permitted at 15 people maximum and no more than 3 households. He relayed the county average of reported case numbers and hospitalizations and shared there is a voluntary travel advisory. He concluded with the recommendation of best practices to reduce spread and mentioned the experimental vaccine is nearly 95% effective in preliminary analysis.

Mayor Furey shared this week the National League of Cities held its virtual conference and explained other states looked to California for doing the right thing early on. He noted the east coast, rust belt, and Midwest are experiencing a horrific time, adding El Paso hospitals are overrun and bringing in a refrigerator truck for temporary morgues much the same as back in March for New York and Washington. He stated he is supportive of the business community but is also supportive of the residential community of the people who live in Torrance.

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

9B. AWARD AGREEMENT FOR RIDESHARE CONSULTING SERVICES

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council award a consulting services agreement with Kim Fuentes of Monrovia, CA (RFP B2020-32) for an amount not-to-exceed \$196,560 (\$65,520 annually), to provide Commuter Transportation (Rideshare) consultant services for the City of Torrance for a three-year period, beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023, with two one-year options to extend, with City Council designee, the City Manager, approving the last two one-year extensions.

Planning Manager Gregg Lodan reviewed the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Mattucci asked if Kim Fuentes will be the one performing the work or if she has employees.

Planning Manager Lodan stated Ms. Fuentes does the bulk of the work but she also works with a person to fulfill the gift card portion of the contract and she has been the provider for many years.

Councilmember Mattucci asked if Ms. Fuentes is still a full time employee of the Council of Governments.

Planning Manager Lodan explained Ms. Fuentes is a contract employee to Jacki Bacharach so she does work for part of the time with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

Councilmember Chen posited in looking at the proposal, Ms. Fuentes also supports these kind of activities similarly for other local South Bay Cities. He asked if staff knows what other cities outside the South Bay Cities Council of Governments do to meet these transportation requirements. He furthered if only one consultant can meet these requirements, and at some point in the future the City doesn't develop some capability without costing more than the consultant it would be prudent for longevity to know what other cities do outside the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

City Manager Chaparyan expressed there are concerns with regards to limited options in the marketplace. He shared in a conversation with Community Development Director Santana about long-term coverage, the City is requesting the ability to have a transitional opportunity to grow and expand existing staff but given the current demands for COVID response in addition to several vacancies, the Community Development Department needs the opportunity to come back with some options to address not being reliant on a single vendor or individual for this service.

Councilmember Chen reiterated he was looking at the bigger picture down the road.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to concur with staff recommendation to award consulting service to Ms. Fuentes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Mattucci voting no.

9C. RESOLUTION SETTING PAY RANGES FOR ALL JOB CLASSES

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution setting pay ranges for all job classes in compliance with California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) requirements for reporting employee pay.

Management Associate Katie Wand reviewed the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Kalani asked if someone not on Council in 2018 should be voting on this.

City Attorney Sullivan clarified this is a formality updating CalPERS, so Councilmember Kalani can vote on it.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-127. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

9D. APPROVE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA AND AWARD AGREEMENT FOR SIDEWALK REPAIR FOR DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Determine that the approval of Sidewalk Repair for Disabled Accessibility (CDBG #602190-20), I-135 is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the Guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"); and
- 2) Approve the specifications for the Sidewalk Repair for Disabled Accessibility (CDBG #602190-20), I-135 (B2020-21); and
- 3) Appropriate \$107,797 of TDA Article 3 funds to the Sidewalk Repair for Disabled Accessibility, I-135, and authorize any future interest earned on these funds to also be appropriated to the project; and
- 4) Appropriate \$20,000 of Proposition A funds to the Sidewalk Repair for Disabled Accessibility, I-135; and
- 5) Determine that the apparent low bids received from EBS General Engineering Inc., and Martinez Landscape Co., Inc. are non-responsive, and reject both bids; and
- 6) Award a public works agreement to Kalban, Inc. ("Kalban") of Santa Clarita, CA, (B2020-21) in the amount of \$1,672,680 and authorize a 5% contingency of \$83,634 for construction of the Sidewalk Repair for Disabled Accessibility (CDBG #602190-20) I-135, for a two-year period beginning November 17, 2020 and ending November 16, 2022.

Engineering Manager Shin Furukawa reviewed the staff recommendation and outlined the boundaries of the Marble Estates area to be worked on.

Councilmember Griffiths explained one of the things that makes Torrance better than other cities is projects like this to improve streets and sidewalks and fixing damage caused by trees. He expressed displeasure at 150 trees being removed and replaced with very small trees. He asked if any extra money available not used in the contingency funds can be used to plant some additional trees.

Engineering Manager Furukawa confirmed, adding that staff always tries to plant more trees than are removed and if there is any leftover contingency money towards the end of the project, he has already spoken to the City Arborist about doing just that.

Councilmember Griffiths opined there are a lot of spots in that neighborhood that don't have trees currently that could benefit from them and since the money will be allocated anyway, he would like to see it increase by more than two of what is being removed.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to concur with the recommendation of the Public Works Director. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

9E. ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE, ASSUMPTION OF LEASE, CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT, AND AMENDMENT TO LEASE FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 3215 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve an assignment of lease and modifications to a lease (C89-031) by and among the City of Torrance (Landlord), a municipal corporation, Jerry Lee Heuer and Debra Adkins-Messenger, Trustees of The Adkins Family Trust Established April 16, 1991 (Assignor), and Beach Gale, LLC (Assignee), a California limited liability company operating as South Bay Hyundai, LLC for City-owned property located at 3215 Pacific Coast Highway, which includes: Assignment of Lease, Assumption of Lease, Consent to Assignment, and Amendment to Lease.

Interim Deputy City Treasurer Kristopher Awshee reviewed the staff recommendation.

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

11. AGENCY AGENDAS – None scheduled

12. SECOND READING ORDINANCES – None scheduled

13. COUNCIL ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

Councilmember Goodrich requested concurrence to ask staff to explore alternative ways of doing the budgeting process and take a deeper dive allowing for more community involvement and more public feedback.

14. CLOSED SESSION

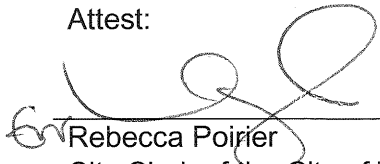
Considered earlier, see page 1.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

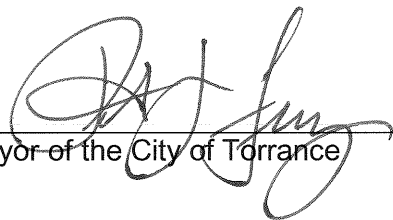
At 10:59 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. In compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act, members of the Torrance City Council and staff 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, November 24, 2020 is a Council dark night.

MOTION: Councilmember Ashcraft 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 December 8, 2020