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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 1, 2020

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At 11:57 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference or other electronic means.

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting on Tuesday, December 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 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) Public Employee Performance Evaluation, 14B) Public Employee Appointment, and 14C) Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation pursuant to California Government Code §54957(b)(1), and California Government Code §54956.9(d)(4).

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 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

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 Wednesday, November 25, 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 WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred.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 available for items 6A, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10A, and Oral Communications.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Ashcraft announced the Armed Forces Day Special Committee met the day prior to receive an update on the planning activities for the 2021 Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration. Because of the cancellation of the 2020 parade staff will return with an item on December 15 for discussion.

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

Mayor Furey announced the Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2020-2022 Priority Projects and grant funding opportunities.

Mayor Furey shared an invocation from Rabbi Didi Thomas, with Temple Emet on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 will start the City's Chanukah Celebration and on December 15, 2020 a performance by the Torrance Civic Chorale will be shown during the council meeting.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION RE JOHN JONES

Resolution No. 2020-128 honoring John Jones of the Community Services Department upon his retirement from the City of Torrance after forty years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-128. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

6B. RESOLUTION RE MARIA PRINS

Resolution No. 2020-129 honoring Maria Prins of the Finance Department upon her retirement from the City of Torrance after thirty-nine years of service.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-129. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

6C. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council:

- 1) Review applications and appoint members to fill vacancies on the Cultural Arts, Environmental and Energy Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Library Commissions from a list of qualified applicants and consider reappointments of eligible current commissioners; and
- 2) The City Clerk will administer the Oath of Office at a future date.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Cultural Arts Commission and nominated Toni Sargent; Councilmember Griffiths nominated Totran Radke; Councilmember Mattucci nominated Clara Trevisan and Jon Mitsui.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Kalani voted for Toni Sargent and Jon Mitsui; Councilmember Mattucci voted for Jon Mitsui and Clara Trevisan; Councilmember Ashcraft voted for Toni Sargent and Totran Radke; Councilmember Chen voted for Toni Sargent and Totran Radke;

Councilmember Goodrich voted for Toni Sargent and Totran Radke; Councilmember Griffiths voted for Totran Radke and Toni Sargent; Mayor Furey voted for Toni Sargent and Totran Radke. Toni Sargent and Totran Radke were appointed to the Cultural Arts Commission with terms expiring 6/30/2024.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission and nominated John Stecker.

MOTION: Councilmember Ashcraft moved for John Stecker to be appointed to Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission by unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Historic Preservation Commission and nominated Marifrances Trivelli.

MOTION: Councilmember Kalani moved for unanimous appointment of Marifrances Trivelli to the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by 7-0 vote.

Mayor Furey requested nominations for the Library Commission and nominated Raymond Lambert. Councilmember Chen nominated Dennis Piotrowski.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Chen voted for Dennis Piotrowski; Councilmember Goodrich voted for Raymond Lambert; Councilmember Griffiths voted for Raymond Lambert; Councilmember Kalani voted for Raymond Lambert; Councilmember Mattucci voted for Dennis Piotrowski; Councilmember Ashcraft voted for Raymond Lambert; Mayor Furey voted for Raymond Lambert. Raymond Lambert was appointed to the Library Commission for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

7. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public spoke.

10. **HEARINGS**

10A. **PUBLIC HEARING RE PRE18-00015: FERNANDO RUIZ (NIZAM AND TAHERA MOHAMMED)**

Recommendation of the Planning Commission that City Council:

- 1) Deny the appeal; and
- 2) Adopt Resolution denying without prejudice a Precise Plan of Development for the proposed project, on property located within the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 Zone at 22528 Warmside Avenue.

– OR –

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that the City Council:

- 1) Uphold the appeal; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving a modified project for a Precise Plan of Development to allow first-story additions and a roof deck to an existing one-story single-family residence, on property located within the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 Zone at 22528 Warmside Avenue.

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 modified project the setbacks on all sides, the elevations on all sides, photos from the adjacent neighbor's house, and the staff determination the modified plan does not adversely affect light, air, and privacy.

Councilmember Chen disclosed he walked by the site location and his decision will be based on information provided.

Councilmember Griffiths disclosed he visited the property site to view the silhouette and his decision will be based on facts presented tonight. He asked if the current proposed configuration was not presented to Planning Commission and if this is different than what they viewed and voted on.

Planning and Environmental Manager Martinez confirmed that is correct.

Councilmember Ashcraft disclosed she also walked by the property, she did not speak to anyone, and she looked at the silhouette. Her decision is based on what is heard tonight.

Councilmember Kalani disclosed she walked the neighborhood and surrounding area. She stated as she was leaving, the homeowner approached her and asked if she was there looking at the project, which she confirmed. She identified herself as a councilmember, but did not discuss details of the project and her decision will be based on the facts presented.

Councilmember Mattucci disclosed he drove by and looked at the property and elevations and will be making his decision based on what he sees tonight.

Mayor Furey shared he went there this weekend and walked the neighborhood, looked at the silhouettes and the properties, and spoke to no one. His decision will be based on documentation presented to as well as staff presentation and any testimony received tonight.

City Council recessed from 9:10 p.m. to 9:19 p.m.

Project designer Brian Alejandro reviewed the design changes from the original proposed two-story single family home to a single-story addition with a roof deck. He stated the height of the structure was lowered by just over five feet and the design was brought down to not obstruct the neighbor's view. He added the roof slope is at the bare minimum.

Members of the public spoke.

Mr. Alejandro reiterated everything has been done to lower the roof height and to comply with codes and restrictions of the Planning Department. He added the height limit is 18' and the proposed height is lower at 16.2' and the design changed from a two-story to single-story.

A member of the public spoke.

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

Councilmember Mattucci opined the homeowner that's looking to build has made significant modifications to the original project that fall within guidelines the City prescribes within its code.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to concur with the Community Development Director's recommendation and uphold the appeal and adopt a resolution approving the modified project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-130. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen and passed by 7-0 vote.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of November 10, 2020.

8B. 2019-2020 LIBRARY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation of the Library Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the 2019-2020 Library Commission Annual Report.

8C. REVISED CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR POLICE OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Recommendation of the Civil Service Commission and the City Manager that City Council approve the revised class specification for the Police Operations Supervisor.

8D. PROPOSED CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR RANGER SUPERVISOR

Recommendation of the Civil Service Commission and the City Manager that City Council approve the proposed class specification for the Ranger Supervisor.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to approve the Consent Calendar in its entirety. 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 on November 28 LA County issued a temporary Safer At Home Order effective November 30 through December 20. He provided overview of how the new Order aims to reduce the risk of transmission in several ways and stated outdoor dining is prohibited until December 20. He encouraged residents to order takeout and mentioned playgrounds were required to close. LA County confirmed highest number of new cases and hospitalizations earlier in the day and Public Health advises to self-quarantine after traveling and get tested twice. He noted the case rate in Torrance remains relatively low and the health and safety of community members is Torrance's top priority.

Councilmember Griffiths relayed Torrance is 21 square miles and population of 147,000 but the county itself is over 4,300 square miles and 10,000,000 in population with one health director making all public health decisions for all of LA County. He noted LA County is greater

than the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined and has a larger population than 41 states. Councilmember Griffiths suggested one size does not fit all in the areas of the county and a study from UCLA shows the South Bay and Beach Cities have by far the lowest rates of COVID-19 and deaths. He stated lumping Torrance in with the rest of LA County is a great disservice to Torrance citizens and businesses. He explained councilmembers publicly defying county and state orders would subject them to potential legal ramifications.

City Attorney Sullivan explained an Order is no different than any other law so a willful defiance of it could subject the City or the Council themselves to liability either for administrative citations, misdemeanor citations, or injunctions brought by the County of Los Angeles.

Councilmember Griffiths noted the information provided by City Attorney Sullivan affects Council's ability to make decisions that could be subject to legal ramifications as a City Councilmember and the potential of not being defended by the City. He mentioned Pasadena has allowed restaurants to remain open due to the fact they have their own health department but as a slightly smaller city than Torrance they have over twice the number of COVID cases and almost twice the deaths. He opined it is odd that because they have a health department they get to keep their businesses open yet with numbers a health department is not necessary to show Torrance is a much safer city to have business open. He expressed his disappointment in being unable to take a stronger stand on this and voiced his displeasure about the kids not being able to use the playgrounds. He stated his desire to vote against the orders that have been imposed upon Torrance by the State and the County but conceded he cannot do that and be responsible. He was hopeful that fellow cities will get together in an effort to try and bring some sanity to the rules that are being imposed upon the beach cities. He requested reinvestigating more deeply the idea of going to an independent Health Department or jointly with other beach cities.

Mayor Furey expressed his disappointment at the Department of Public Health ordering all restaurants to close as of last Wednesday night at 10:00 p.m. He questioned shutting down restaurants considering the cost they've incurred for outside dining and the financial impact it will have on the owners and the employees. He contacted Torrance's member of the Board of County Supervisors, Janice Hahn, and had a number of conversations seeking different options. He communicated his concerns to fellow mayors in El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, and the hill cities, and all agreed that restrictions on dining in restaurants did not appear fair. He shared most, if not all, submitted letters to the Board asking that restaurants be permitted to continue outdoor dining. Mayor Furey encouraged restaurateurs to submit letters or emails to the Board of Supervisors prior to Tuesday's meeting, adding he personally submitted a public comment and letter asking the Board to not order the closure of restaurants. He relayed Supervisors Hahn and Barger argued and pleaded for the Board to rescind the restaurant closure order but were outvoted 3-2. He stated he and a number of mayors reached out to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments seeking options and a collaborative method to address the new health orders and an emergency meeting of the Council of Governments was scheduled Monday evening to strategize how to proceed.

Councilmember Chen shared the evening prior the South Bay Cities Council of Governments unanimously voted to take look into developing some type of emergency health district through either an emergent health district or being absorbed by Pasadena and focus on keeping restaurants and retail businesses open. He requested concurrence that Council also send letters to the governor and the LA County Board of Supervisors asking them to give Torrance a waiver because the 15 cities in the Council of Governments have flat lined compared to the rest of the county and would like to decide for themselves which areas of business should open and close.

Mayor Furey mentioned Pasadena stepping out differently is first time a health district has stepped out whereas Long Beach went with the County of Los Angeles. He stated the mayors from the south bay felt the restaurant industry was singled out without any empirical data showing that there was a rise in cases coming from restaurants. He noted the money spent to create an outdoor dining space and mentioned there's a lawsuit against the County Health Department by the California Restaurant Association. He shared case numbers and death numbers for the county and Torrance and stated his preference for enforcement of masks as there is empirical data showing wearing a mask protects other people and the mask wearer. He concluded it is unfair to close down an industry without empirical data.

Councilmember Griffiths explained the South Bay Cities Council of Governments was going to advocate for a re-vote by the County Board of Supervisors as the vote was 3-2 against keeping restaurants open for outdoor dining and Supervisor Thomas on his last meeting in office voted against the restaurants. He was hopeful the new incoming Board of Supervisors member being seated this week will allow for re-vote.

Councilmember Goodrich expressed he vehemently disagrees with the County Board of Supervisors in closing restaurants as there is no hard data that shows restaurants are driving the spread with outdoor dining. He stated a few months ago when outdoor dining re-opened there was not a spike at that time and with colder weather there's bound to be fewer people sitting outside in the chilly conditions and that inherently reduce the occupancy restaurants would experience. He furthered that taking people that would otherwise meet outside is driving some of them inside into their own homes to meet with other people, driving the spread even further. He shared his frustration in what restaurant owners have gone through and what's been asked of them only to be baselessly shut down a couple months later. He was hopeful the new incoming Supervisor will change this decision, adding he will be sending her an email congratulating her and urging her to vote or establish a carve-out for cities not as affected. He concluded he would be in full support of a resolution similar to other cities opposing the County Board of Supervisors decision from last week

Mayor Furey added the resolution can include supporting restaurants and other businesses as well. He posited there will be a tremendous spike because of Thanksgiving but there's not going to be a way to measure a correlation with restaurants. He gave kudos to Supervisors Hahn and Barger for listening to cities and shared Supervisor Hahn said this is the first time she has heard all 88 cities are opposed to closing the restaurants and not one city was in disagreement. He encouraged patronizing restaurants.

Councilmember Chen asked what steps need to be taken to generate letters and send them out and how to proceed with action.

Mayor Furey listed a resolution in support of businesses and opposition of the Public Health Department order for restaurants and playgrounds, having staff looking at a health department again with cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, and a letter to Governor Newsom and County Supervisors.

Councilmember Griffiths suggested pushing for a re-vote of the County Supervisors after the new Supervisor is seated.

Mayor Furey explained it would be preferable to utilize the connections of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to reach out to the incoming supervisor and put in the letter to ask for a re-vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Chen moved to generate letters to Governor Newsom and the County Board of Supervisors, create a resolution in support of businesses in opposition of the closure of restaurants and playgrounds, have staff look into the creation of a Health Department, and utilize the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to request a Board of Supervisors re-vote. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

Councilmember Mattucci expressed Torrance needs to take a stronger approach, adding that the decision makers are completely out of touch with the pain, suffering, and investment that goes into businesses, having never run a business. We've seen many businesses go down. He urged look into the possibility of suing the County and the State for constitutional rights violations and government overreach. He stated there's no evidence that justifies shutting down outdoor dining. He requested concurrence look into hiring a constitutional rights attorney since it's not the expertise of the City Attorney's Office. He opined if California can defy federal immigration law with SB 54, then Torrance can defy County and State Law with ordinances. He concluded there is no proof restaurants are causing spikes and urged looking into the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the County.

Councilmember Chen stated he would give concurrence at looking into what can be done.

Mayor Furey explained money is required when talking concurrence with hiring counsel, asking if Council wants to limit how much money is concurrent. He furthered there is no constitutional right when licensing is involved. He asked about setting aside \$5,000 to put away to hire a constitutional law attorney and added the South Bay Cities Council of Governments has an attorney who can certainly look at it as a collective thing. He mentioned the litigation going on with the California Restaurant Association and explained thus far the only constitutional attacks on any of these health orders is the recent one that was New York that had to do with churches. He opined there is no constitutional right to violate health orders and concluded money and time are big issues.

Councilmember Mattucci posited as a city, Council can invest \$5,000 to buy eight hours to have an attorney to look into it for peace of mind and exhausting every legal option. He clarified constitutional violation is one approach to take but there are other things to litigate and litigation is not the first option. He explained he is fighting for the right for people to make a living without the government getting in the way. He opined there is no scientific evidence that shows there are higher infections in outdoor patios than government buildings and requested investing \$5,000 to look into this for peace of mind that everything was done as a City.

Councilmember Chen if it was possible for the Torrance City Attorney to reach out to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments' attorney.

Mayor Furey explained Council would have to reach out to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments first.

Councilmember Kalani asked if Chen can reach out to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to get answers and come back next and share any information he might receive.

Councilmember Chen stated he will make the inquiry.

Councilmember Ashcraft was hesitant about paying an attorney for discussing if closing restaurants is an unconstitutional thing. She stated strength should be put with the Supervisors as they have the power right now. She furthered engaging an attorney is a lengthy process no matter what. She stated she is going to press the Board of Supervisors and urged every city, mayor, and council in the South Bay to do the same.

Mayor Furey stated every elected official is putting pressure on their Supervisor and mentioned other cities in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments are in other County districts. He stated he doesn't see a benefit in litigation at this point or looking at constitutional litigation.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to invest \$5,000 to look into litigation to protect business rights. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Kalani asked if there's something that can be done immediately to support businesses in the meantime through a campaign or effort to inform the community of restaurants and small businesses that are trying to make it through these changes such as a website that lists all restaurants and small businesses to encourage residents to eat at and shop small in Torrance.

City Manager Chaparyan responded today Torrance launched its takeout Tuesday campaign. He stated staff can expand that and use existing available resources like the website and working with the Chamber of Commerce, Office of Economic Development, and Cable and Community Relations to expand the campaign to have broader reach and highlight all the takeout and dining options available for Torrance residents, visitors, and employers.

Mayor Furey concluded the City has a good relationship with the Chamber so the City can certainly partner up with them to get the word out.

9B. FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FIRST QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW REPORT AND PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Recommendation of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee that City Council:

- 1) Accept and file the Fiscal Year 2020-21 First Quarter Budget Review Report; and
- 2) Approve the program modifications for the City Manager's Office and Police Department.

Councilmember Goodrich introduced the item.

Interim Finance Director Sheila Poisson reviewed the staff recommendation and touched on a Management Assistant program modification within the City Manager's Office and a program modification regarding recruitment incentives within the Police Department.

Councilmember Griffiths stated he is in support of the lateral incentive program, but asked with recent news of LAPD and Sheriffs downsizing and freeing up some officers who may potentially become candidates for Torrance Police if that kind of incentive program is necessary.

City Manager Chaparyan explained typically staffing reduction is "last in first out" and the target audience for the lateral program is above-entry officers who come with experience in their respective agencies have already gone through training and have a wealth of information. He added Torrance Police Department has a hiring standard and someone leaving their agency may not be automatically hired and seasoned individuals are better able to make the transition.

Chief Berg noted while LAPD and the Sheriff's Department may be downsizing, the issue may be that all the other agencies within the county are vying for the same pool of candidates. She furthered that Torrance must be attractive to those people as other departments have ways to entice employees so it is important to make it more desirable to come to Torrance.

Councilmember Griffiths shared he was in support of the lateral program when it was implemented originally a couple years ago, but that was a different time where there weren't any available officers at all. He added he is in general supportive doing what is necessary to recruit the best.

Councilmember Chen asked staff for clarification regarding airport landing fees and renting out hangars for non-aviation use.

Interim Finance Director Poisson explained the intent was to bring back a separate item for Council consideration for the alternate fees that were initially introduced, the non-aviation hangar fees, and the potential hangar rate increases. She noted if there is a new fee or increased fee it will have to be approved separately and would have to be a resolution.

Councilmember Chen asked if it will go to the Airport Commission first or if staff sends it directly to Council.

Interim Finance Director Poisson stated the landing fees were already taken to the Airport Commission for consideration and they unanimously voted no 4-0. She added the two other alternate fees are not required to go to the Airport Commission, but if Council directs, they can choose to.

Councilmember Goodrich recommended not exploring a couple of these items further. He stated the hangar rents are already at the upper end and the non-aviation uses are more concerning. He shared he spoke with the General Services Director and learned this time of year there tend to be more vacancies because of upcoming property taxes. He explained he is not in support of non-aviation uses at the airport due to security concerns as there's no way of knowing what is being stored in those hangars.

Councilmember Ashcraft countered that she would like to pursue the non-aviation related fees because that is what the smaller hangars are being used for which is against policy. She opined people are using the smaller hangars because the fees that the City charges are much cheaper than using a storage unit. She voiced her support in looking into non-aviation fees.

Mayor Furey agreed with Councilmember Ashcraft that the City should look at those hangars and if they aren't being used for aircraft purposes perhaps they can pay a different rate because there's no aircraft.

Councilmember Ashcraft mentioned she spoke with the attorneys and General Services Director and it requires different insurance, adding if something happens to a hangar the City could be liable so the insurance would need to be upped if this continues.

Councilmember Mattucci disagreed with airport landing fees and asserted it does not need to be brought back as it would be a waste of staff time. As far as non-aviation storage, he posited non-aviation tenants means less airplane traffic which is something the neighbors may like. He suggested with a waiting list situation, aviation tenants should have priority in getting a hangar and that it is unfair to charge more to non-aviation tenants. He expressed wanting to keep the airport at 100% capacity at all times. Regarding program modifications to the Police Department, Councilmember Mattucci stated incentives do work, but the City shouldn't get caught up in keeping up with what other cities do and blowing money on incentives. He suggested taking a conservative approach and putting the Police Department in a different category when it comes to restoring the budget because there has been a decrease in patrol bodies with surrounding cities also cutting back on their budget. He concluded Torrance needs to gear up with law enforcement and make that a priority as the safety of the city is a shining feature.

MOTION: Councilmember Mattucci moved to accept and file Fiscal Year 2020-21 first quarter budget review report and approve program modifications for City Manager's Office and Police Department and bring back Airport fee discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by 7-0 vote.

9C. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Recommendation of the Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee that City Council discuss and provide direction on the development and implementation of a City Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transportation program within the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Division.

Councilmember Kalani introduced the item.

Fire Chief Serna reviewed the staff recommendation, explaining the item reflected the proposal was approved at the committee level, which was not accurate. What was approved was to bring the item forward to Council for discussion and approval. He clarified Torrance Fire Department requested to add ambulance services not to discredit McCormick ambulance, but as an opportunity to enhance the City's service model. He received feedback from the community providing a clear guide in preparation of Fire Department strategic plan. He explained the proposal to Council allows budget reduction but provides opportunity to enhance emergency services for the community. He furthered the department is planning a methodical phased-in approach to ensure closing gaps in moving forward into the future and staff will provide status updates to the Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee on a regular basis.

Assistant Chief Kevin Millikan shared an alternate deployment model that would reduce on-duty staff to cover the financial gap impacting service. Using an analysis of past performance and predictive modeling, he provided an overview of staffing and proposed staff reduction to cover the financial gap. He noted the top two community expectations are quick response and well-trained, professional personnel. With the aid of slides, he shared a map that shows the survive impact on a visual level with regards to response time with reduced staffing.

Assistant Chief Alec Miller outlined the proposed Basic Life Support (BLS) transport plan in alignment with strategic plan goals. With the aid of slides, he shared examples of successful fire agencies that have moved to an in-house transportation model. He explained currently the City contracts with McCormick Ambulance for transport services with five dedicated ambulances for Torrance on a daily basis. McCormick and retains the BLS fees and passes the Advance Life Support (ALS) fees collected to Torrance Fire. He touched on the feasibility study performed to determine any infrastructure needs, options to acquire ambulances, supplies and equipment needs, and third-party billing. He stated the department is well-positioned through current infrastructure, a municipal lease to acquire eight ambulances, the supply system that will be enhanced, and the RFP for billing that is ready to award. He shared the deployment plan for ALS and BLS ambulances with surge protection provided by McCormick as well as requirements for staff and the establishment of this program.

Captain Blayne Baker explained the financial impacts of the program with the aid of slides, sharing total first-year costs and first-year revenue and net cost recovery including all operating expenses. He noted cost recovery is not immediate and clarified the anticipated gross revenue.

Chief Serna concluded the agility of the Fire Department will ensure the City has a premiere program that has the opportunity to expand the capability of the department.

Mayor Furey stated the data provided on medical runs is palatable and taking data is important to come up with manpower and equipment to provide services the community demands.

Councilmember Ashcraft mentioned she was unable to read the binder received just before the meeting. She noted the startup cost funding is to be allocated to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). If funds were allocated to that, she asked if funds were voted on by Council for this purpose and if Council needs to vote separately to allocate these funds from the EOC to a different use.

City Manager Chaparyan confirmed Council did approve the EOC capital project. He explained the City recently completed the design phase but have not gone to construction as currently staff is reliant on a virtual EOC environment this is an opportunity to revisit the EOC concept on broader level. He clarified this is asking for the ability to file against EOC capital project and the funds will be repaid when the transportation program is implemented and revenue is received.

Councilmember Griffiths shared Council received a binder with information just prior to the meeting without the time necessary to review it. As this is a major proposal to start a whole new business within the City, he stated he would prefer to defer a decision until there is a better opportunity to digest the details being provided. He added he has a number of questions that have not been addressed and he is not in a position to make a decision tonight.

City Manager Chaparyan asserted the information shared is supportive of the findings summarized by Chief Serna. He stated in the interest of expediting the implementation given the lead time to recruit and to purchase equipment, the target date is July 1 but the department does have to move on with billing component. In the interest of full disclosure and giving Council the opportunity to have additional dialogue with Fire Department staff, City Manager Chaparyan requested deferring the Item to December 15 for second consideration and additional deliberation. He added Chief Serna and his team will be available between now and then for any questions and the Item will reflect all follow-up discussion for public engagement opportunity.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to defer Item for further discussion until December 15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft 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, Councilmember Goodrich, and Mayor Furey spoke.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**

City Council recessed to Closed Session from 11:39 p.m. to 11:56 p.m. No action was taken.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:57 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 8, 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

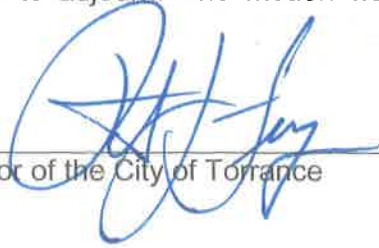
COVID-19. Members of the public are encouraged to watch the meeting via CitiCABLE Channel 3 (Spectrum) and Channel 31 (Frontier), streaming on TorranceCA.Gov, Facebook @ City of Torrance CA Government, and YouTube Channel TorranceCitiCABLE. Tuesday, November 24, 2020 is a Council dark night.

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 January 12, 2021