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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 8, 2020**

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At 10:27 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for a closed session, with a Council Workshop starting at 6:00 p.m., 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 8, 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, Deputy City Clerk III Harbaugh-Shirazi and other staff representatives

Agenda Item 14 was considered out of order at this time.

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 14A) Real Property – Conference With Real Property Negotiator, 14B) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, 14C) Conference Labor Negotiator, 14D) Public Employee Performance Evaluation, and 14E) Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8, California Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), California Government Code §54957.6, 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 Griffiths.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Rabbi Didi Thomas of Temple Emet.

**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, December 3, 2020 with a revised agenda posted on Friday, December 4, 2021.

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

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

Supplemental material was available for items 6C, 7 and 9A.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Furey announced that typically in December the Social Services Commission would be actively recruiting volunteers to participate in the annual homeless count in collaboration with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). For 2021, LAHSA is seeking a waiver from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to forgo a Homeless Count in 2021 due to COVID-19.

Mayor Furey announced the Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet virtually on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the 2020-2022 priority projects and grant funding opportunities.

Mayor Furey announced the City Council would participate in a workshop prior to Council Meeting on December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the revitalization plan. For more information and for a link to the workshop, please refer to the Community Development Department webpage.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DAVID WOLFRAM FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH BAY ARTS COMMUNITY**

The proclamation declaring recognizing David Wolfram for his contribution to the South Bay Arts Community was presented to David Wolfram.

**6B. RECOGNITION OF THE 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE**

The members of the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee were recognized by the Council with a City of Torrance Certificate of Achievement.

**6C. APPOINT MEMBERS TO FILL SOCIAL SERVICES, TRAFFIC, AND WATER COMMISSIONS VACANCIES AND CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**

City Clerk Poirier introduced the applicants and they were given an opportunity to briefly address the Council.

The following appointments were made:

Deborah Bickford, Cindy Scotto, reappointed to the Social Services Commission for terms ending June 30, 2024. Novelette Witt was appointed to the Social Services Commission for a term ending June 30, 2023 and William Reynolds was appointed to the Social Services Commission for a term ending June 30, 2022.

Mario Obejas and Dan Thomas were reappointed to the Traffic Commission for terms ending June 30, 2024.

Kent Kawai was reappointed to the Water Commission for a term ending June 30, 2024 and Emily Mitchell-Mattie for a term ending June 30, 2024.

The City Clerk will administer the Oath of Office at a future date.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public spoke.

10. **HEARINGS**

10A. **CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING, TABULATE BALLOTS, AND ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ENGINEER'S REPORT AND CREATING UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2020-1 (PASEO DE LA PLAYA)**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to take testimony from interested persons, as well as parcel owners in the proposed Undergrounding Utility Assessment District No. 2020-1 (Paseo de la Playa) (the "District"); and
- 2) Open and tabulate submitted ballots for the formation of the District; and
- 3) If sufficient affirmative ballots are received, adopt a RESOLUTION approving the Final Engineer's Report, forming the District, and ordering the undergrounding improvements.

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.

Engineering Manager Shin Furukawa provided an overview of the proposed Utility Assessment District. He explained that the proposed District includes 20 parcels wishing to underground existing overhead lines belonging to SCE, Charter and Frontier. He further discussed the project budget and explained that the district formation process requires no city funds. He shared an overview of the process moving forward, if approved and concluded his presentation.

Members of the public spoke.

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

Mayor Furey turned the hearing over to staff to open and tabulate the votes. The City's Assessment Engineer, Jeff Cooper, NV5 opened and tabulated the votes. He reported that no ballot was received for Assessment District #19. Of the remaining districts, only Assessment District #20 voted in opposition.

Following the announcement of the votes by Mr. Cooper, the Council went to recess at 9:14 p.m. to allow City Clerk Poirier to validate the votes.

Mayor Furey called the meeting back to order and asked the City Clerk to announce the official results.

City Clerk Poirier reported back that 94.31% of the weighted votes were in favor of the assessment and 5.69% of the weighted votes were in opposition of the assessment district.

Mayor Furey explained that since a majority of the weighted votes were in favor of the assessment, Council could consider a resolution approving the recommendation of the Public Works Director and requested a resolution number.

City Clerk Poirier read the number and title of Resolution No. 2020-131, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT AND ORDERING THE WORK AND ACQUISITION AND DIRECTING ACTIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO FOR THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NUMBER 2020-1 (PASEO DE LA PLAYA)**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Director and adopt Resolution No. 2020-131. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich 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 17, 2020.

**8B. ACCEPT AND FILE 2019-2020 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Commission annual report.

**8C. ACCEPT AND FILE 2019-2020 CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the 2019-2020 Cultural Arts Commission annual report.

**8D. APPROVE THIRD AMENDMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES FOR TORRANCE TRANSIT PARK AND RIDE REGIONAL TERMINAL, FEAP 764 AND CRENSHAW BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND 208TH STREET EXTENSION, T-157**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a third amendment to the consulting services agreement with AndersonPenna Partners of El Segundo, CA (C2016-142) to extend the term through December 31, 2021.

**8E. TRANSFER FUNDS AND APPROVE AGREEMENTS TO UPDATE ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Transfer \$200,000 from the Citywide Sewer System Improvements Project, I-191 to create a new FEAP for Machado Lake Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) and Beach Cities EWMP; and
- 2) Approve a sole-source consulting services agreement with Carollo Engineers of Los Angeles, CA for an amount not-to-exceed \$74,956 to perform engineering services for the update of Machado Lake EWMP for a two-year period beginning December 8, 2020 and ending December 7, 2022; and
- 3) Approve a Cost Sharing Memorandum of Understanding with the Beach Cities to fund \$87,812.64 to update the Beach Cities EWMP.

- 8F. ACCEPT AND FILE INVESTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020.**  
Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council accept and file the Investment Report for the month of October 2020.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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 AND ADOPT RESOLUTION OPPOSING OUTDOOR DINING DECISION**

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.
- 3) Adopt a Resolution opposing Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's decision on outdoor dining and playground closures and to support small local businesses.

City Manager Chaparyan provided an update on the COVID-19 recovery efforts. He shared that the City of Torrance continues its recovery efforts in compliance with the protocols issued by LA County. He touched on the increasing numbers in LA County, the concern for surge in hospitalization, and lack of ICU beds in County hospitals. He shared that regions where ICU capacity is below 15%, like Los Angeles County, are subject to the Governor's Stay At Home Order. He gave an overview of the impacted businesses in the City of Torrance and an overview of the City's efforts to support business in the City.

Councilmember Goodrich reiterated his opposition to the public health strategy outlined in the current Stay At Home Order.

Councilmember Chen expressed concern for the general lack of preparation for the anticipated surge and requested the Council consider a proposal from Manhattan Beach that was included in the in 9A Supplemental #1.

Councilmember Griffiths expressed concern that the regional Stay At Home order may have a disparate impact on communities that do not have ICU capacity concerns. He also supported a strategy from Manhattan Beach to designate their seating space as public seating.

City Manager Chaparyan responded that he understands the conceptual idea being presented by Council but requested time to allow the City staff to research the idea, if that's the direction Council chose.

Councilmember Mattucci inquired as to whether the City could lease private property. He also asked how a local group could be developed to ensure first responders get a Covid-19 vaccine.

Mayor Furey responded that the vaccine distribution would be handled at the Federal level.

Fire Chief Serna gave an overview of the City of Torrance preparedness for vaccine distribution and a summary of ICU surge rates at local hospitals.

Councilmember Griffiths asked if elective medical procedures have been cancelled to allow for the maximum hospital capacity and suggested they be discontinued.

Councilmember Chen asked about current Covid-19 numbers and statistical data about the rates and deaths of most susceptible populations.

Mayor Furey requested a Resolution Number and title.

City Clerk Poirier read the number and title of Resolution No. 2020-132, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DECISION ON OUTDOOR DINING AND PLAYGROUND CLOSURES AND TO SUPPORT SMALL LOCAL BUSINESSES**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to accept and file the report and adopt Resolution No. 2020-132 with the amendment of the word “outdoor” in the final paragraph. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chen with the modification of requesting staff research designating restaurant seating as public space and passed by 7-0 vote.

**9B. APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO FUND BEACH CITIES COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PLAN**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a first amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cities of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Torrance, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (C2016-027) regarding administration and cost sharing for the Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program.

Engineering Manager Shin Furukawa introduced the Item. He explained that the item was an amendment to an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Beach Cities for cost sharing related to the Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program.

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

**9C. RESOLUTION APPROVING REAPPOINTMENT OF TORRANCE’S REPRESENTATIVE TO METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Recommendation of the Mayor that City Council adopt a Resolution approving the reappointment of Russell Lefevre as the City of Torrance’s representative to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s Board of Directors for a four-year term through December 31, 2024.

Mayor Furey gave an overview of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). He also provided a summary of the accomplishments of the existing representative, Russell Lefevre, and requested a Resolution number and title.

City Clerk Poirier read the number and title of Resolution No. 2020-133, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA REAPPOINTING RUSSELL LEFEVRE TO THE POST AS THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Griffiths moved to approve the appointment of Russell Lefevre as the City’s representative to Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California Board of Directors and adopt Resolution No. 2020-133. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by 7-0 vote.

9E was taken out of order.

**9E. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) SECTION 8 FUNDS AND SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT RESERVE FUNDS**

Recommendation of Community Development Director that City Council accept and appropriate Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds as follows:

- 1) CARES Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) in the amount of \$144,411; and
- 2) CARES Administrative Fees in the amount of \$296,964; and
- 3) Housing Assistance Payment reserve funds in the amount of \$400,000.

Community Development Staff explained this item was targeted at the City's Section 8 program to assist cities in meeting potential Housing Assistance Payment shortfalls tenants may experience as a result of Covid-19. Additional funds are also be granted to the City for administrative costs.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mattucci moved to accept and appropriate the funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcroft and passed by 7-0 vote.

**9D. APPOINTMENT OF FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council appoint Sheila Poisson to the position of Director of Finance.

City Manager Chaparyan reviewed the accomplishments and achievements of Sheila Poisson and recommended that she be appointed Finance Director.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kalani moved to appoint Sheila Poisson to the position of Director of Finance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mattucci and passed by 7-0 vote.

**11. AGENCY AGENDAS** – None scheduled

**12. SECOND READING ORDINANCES**

**13. CITY COUNCIL ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Kalani, Councilmember Mattucci, Councilmember Ashcraft, Councilmember Chen, and Councilmember Goodrich spoke.

Councilmember Griffiths acknowledged the loss of Dr. Owen Griffiths and sent his condolences to their family. He requested to acknowledge Dr. Griffiths at the next meeting by adjourning in his honor. He expressed that he missed the electronic voting system and informed the Council that there is software that would allow the Council to vote electronically in a zoom environment. He requested concurrence from the Council to direct staff to look into this effort.

The Council concurred with the request of Councilmember Griffiths.

Mayor Furey provided information about the latest COVID-19 surge, including the provisions of the Los Angeles County Stay At Home Order. He encouraged residents to practice social distancing and adhere to the Stay At Home Order. He directed those desiring more information to the City's website, YouTube Channel and public access channel.



**14. CLOSED SESSION**


City Council recessed to Closed Session from 10:24 p.m. to 10:50 p.m.

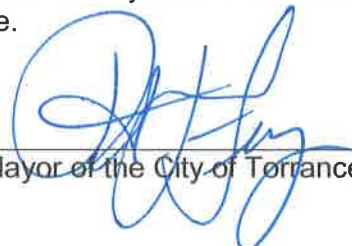
**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:27 p.m., the City Council adjourned to December, October 15, at 5:30 p.m. for closed session, Council Workshop at 6:00 p.m. for the Downtown Revitalization Strategy, 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.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcroft 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