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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 4, 2014

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At 8:26 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

February 4, 2014

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Sutherland, Weideman and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 18C) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6, §54956.9(d)(1) and §54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:02 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by former mayor Dee Hardison.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Barnett.

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

Deputy City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Wednesday, Thursday, January 30, 2014.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to 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 Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material was available for Items 8D and 16A.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Works Director Beste reported that staff will be discussing the possibility of enacting an ordinance to encourage voluntary water conservation with the Water Commission in view of the statewide drought and will report back to the Council. He noted that the City has done a lot to prepare for drought conditions so the situation is not critical at this time.

Fire Chief Racowski announced that ExxonMobil will be conducting their monthly Community Alert Siren testing on Wednesday, February 5, at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310.212.1852.

Mayor Scotto announced that the City Council Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet on Tuesday February 25, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Manager Assembly room to discuss Proposition 13.

City Clerk Herbers announced that a Candidate Orientation will be held on February 10, 2014 in the George Nakano Theatre at 6:00 p.m. and reservations are requested to ensure sufficient materials and seats. She reported that the nomination period for the June 3 Municipal Election opens on Monday, February 10, and closes on Friday, March 7, for Mayor, Councilmember and City Treasurer and on Wednesday, February 12, for City Clerk since she is not seeking reelection. She noted that the City Clerk's office is acting as clearing house for the scheduling of candidate forums and interested parties should contact her office at 310.618.2870 for information about available dates.

City Clerk Herbers announced that Jerry Hicks, newly elected president of the Torrance Artist Guild, will be displaying his photographs in the City Clerk's office for the month of February and all are invited to view the art.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-18 RE POLICE CHIEF JOHN NEU

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING POLICE CHIEF **JOHN JEFFREY NEU** UPON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-18. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Police Chief Neu, who accepted with appreciation.

City Manager Jackson commended Police Chief Neu for being a visionary with strong leadership skills, noting that his concept of focus-based team policing has led to Torrance being one of the safest cities in the nation.

Mayor Scotto also commended Police Chief Neu and thanked him for his dedicated service.

The City Council briefly recessed from 7:45 p.m. to 8:03 p.m.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Steve Norris, Arts Council of Torrance, announced that the South Bay Conservancy will be presenting *George Washington's Boy* in honor of Black History month on February 15 in the Nakano Theatre at 8:00 p.m. with an encore performance at Drew King High School. He also announced that the Family Arts Council will be awarding scholarships to Torrance high school seniors on March 23 in the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

7B. Ronald Garcia, region manager/public affairs for Southern California Edison, reported that he will be taking over for Scott Gobble, who recently retired, until a replacement can be found and distributed a pamphlet to the Council with emergency contact information.

7C. Margaret Lindsey, resident, provided background information about Destination Art, a Torrance-based non-profit organization, which is raising funds for an art studio/gallery to house local artists. She announced that the group's first fundraiser will be an art sale and silent auction "Chasing the Dream" on Saturday, March 8, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Malaga Cove Library Gallery, with additional information at www.Destination-Art.net.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2013

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for December 2013.

8B. APPROVAL OF LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS AT BRANCH LIBRARIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve the Library Commission convening five regularly scheduled meetings in 2014 at the branch libraries rather than at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

8C. FAIR MARKET RENTAL ADJUSTMENT FOR SOUTH END RACQUET CLUB LEASE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a Fair Market Rental Adjustment for Lease on City-owned property located at 2800 Skypark Drive in Torrance known and operated as South End Racquet Club (C-1990).

8D. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF DONATIONS TO OFFSET COST OF DONOR WALL AT 555 MAPLE AVENUE SPORTS FIELDS

Considered separately, see page below.

8E. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES FOR PUEBLO PARK

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve amendment no. 2 to the consulting services agreement with Land Concern Ltd. of Santa Ana, CA (C2012-230) for landscape design services at Pueblo Park by adding \$15,200 to the agreement for a not to exceed amount of \$30,131.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8C and 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8D was considered separately at this time.

8D. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF DONATIONS FOR 555 MAPLE AVENUE SPORTS FIELDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and appropriate \$36,000 in donations to 555 Maple Avenue Recreational Sports Fields (FEAP #817) for the purchase and installation of the donor wall and to offset project costs from the Parks and Recreation Open Space fund.

Sr. Business Manager Minton reported that additional donations have been received and the new total is \$37,450 as listed in the supplemental material.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

16A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3769

ORDINANCE NO. 3769

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE MAKING LIABILITY CLAIMS REVIEW BOARD DECISIONS FINAL AND MODIFYING LIABILITY CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3769 and approve an ordinance summary for publication. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by a 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Sutherland dissenting.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Brewer reported on his attendance at the Independent Cities Association winter seminar held the previous weekend in Santa Barbara, noting that topics included police and fire issues, along with pensions and healthcare reform.

17B. Councilmember Furey invited the public to attend the North Torrance Homeowners Association general meeting on Thursday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Toyota Museum located at 19600 Van Ness Boulevard at which Mayor Scotto and City Clerk Herbers will offer their perspectives on the past, present and future of Torrance.

17C. Councilmember Furey, with the concurrence of Council, requested that staff bring forward an item to subsidize the fees for the use of the stage at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life on April 25 and 26.

17D. Councilmember Sutherland reported that he attended ribbon cutting ceremonies for three new gyms in Torrance this past week.

17E. Councilmember Sutherland extended Chinese New Year greetings.

17F. Councilmember Weideman stated that he was honored to attend the Torrance Youth Council Youth Forum held earlier in the day at the Attic Teen Center, noting that this event has been held for 30 years and engenders great enthusiasm among participants.

17G. Councilmember Ashcraft, with the concurrence of Council, requested that a regional strategy be developed in conjunction with other South Bay cities and businesses to ensure that the South Coast Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) remains open.

17H. Mayor Scotto reported on his attendance at a career day at Madrona Middle School earlier in the day.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on February 25, 2014