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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MAY 20, 2014

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At 1:42 a.m., May 21, 2014, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

May 20, 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, May 20, 2014 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

*Arrived at 8:15 p.m.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan, 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, and 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 and 54956.9(d)(1).

The City Council reconvened at 7:01 p.m. with all members present except Councilmember Brewer. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Chris Sheck, principal of Magruder Elementary School.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Furey.

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

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, May 15, 2014.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett 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 Furey and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Brewer).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn; supplemental material was available for Items 8C, 9A, 10A, 12J and 13A.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Racowschi announced that ExxonMobil will be conducting their monthly Community Alert Siren testing on Wednesday, June 4, at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310.212.1852.

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the second Budget Workshop/Public Hearing on the FY2014-2015 operating budget will be held later this evening.

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee met on May 12, 2014 to consider Propositions 41 and 42 on the June 3, 2014 ballot and the Committee's recommendation will be discussed under Agenda Item 12C.

Councilmember Furey announced that the 300th Army Band will conduct a free concert "Songs from the Home Front" on June 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Armstrong Theatre, with tickets available by calling the box office at 310.781.7171.

Public Works Director Beste announced that new protected/permissive traffic signals will be activated at Mariner and Del Amo Boulevard on May 21, followed by Prairie and 182nd Street, Sepulveda Boulevard and Arlington Avenue, and Sepulveda Boulevard and Cabrillo Avenue at the end of May and beginning of June.

City Clerk Herbers offered reminders about the upcoming June 3, 2014 election, noting that Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on June 3. She encouraged voters to visit www.TorranceVotes.org to become better informed about candidates. She noted that L.A. County is seeking poll workers throughout the county, with additional information available at 800.815.2660, option 7.

Mayor Scotto, with the concurrence of Council, requested that staff explore the requirements for becoming a "Host Town" for the Special Olympics World Games scheduled for Los Angeles in 2015 and report back to the Council.

City Clerk Herbers invited the public to view early returns from the June 3 election in Council Chambers on election night between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m., noting that light refreshments will be served.

Mayor Scotto asked the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Torrance Fire Captain Richard "Dick" DeArmitt who passed away in Utah on April 22, 2014 at the age of 87.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RECOGNITION OF BETSY BUTLER

Mayor Scotto recognized former California Assembly member **Betsy Butler** for invaluable assistance she provided in the development of the Toyota Sports Complex.

Agenda Items 12D, 6G and 6I were considered out of order at this time.

12D. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF EXXONMOBIL DONATION FOR 2014 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that City Council:

- 1) Accept a \$50,000 donation from ExxonMobil Corporation;
- 2) Appropriate the \$50,000 donation to the 2014 Youth Development Program;
- 3) Transfer the remaining appropriation of \$2,976.14 from the 2013 Youth Development Program (FEAP #820) to the 2014 Youth Development Program to total \$ 52,976.14; and
- 4) Authorize payment to Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) for the 2014 Youth Development Program in an amount not to exceed \$13,981.

Barbara Graham, public and government affairs advisor for ExxonMobil, provided background information about the Youth Development Program, noting that 25 youths will be participating in the program this year.

Chris Sheck, Magruder Middle School, expressed appreciation for the generous donation.

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

6G. PROCLAMATION COMMENDING SOUTH BAY ROUND UP

Councilmember Ashcraft read the proclamation honoring **South Bay Round Up** for its outstanding and dedicated service to the Torrance community.

To be presented at a later date.

6I. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of May 2014 as **National Preservation Month** in the City of Torrance to Torrance Historical Society members Jamie Ruth Watson, Janet Payne, Debbie Hays, Gene Higginbotham, and Councilmember Kurt Weideman.

6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-43 RE POLICE OFFICER IAN MAIER

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING **POLICE OFFICER IAN MAIER** AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE **MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD**

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-43. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6C. RESOLUTIONS RE MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

City Clerk Herbers read the number and title of the following Resolutions commending and honoring **Medal of Valor Award** recipients:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-44 – Firefighter Christopher Huerta
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-45 – Firefighter/Paramedic Russell Poelstra
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-46 – Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Williams

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolutions Nos. 2014-44, 2014-45, and 2014-46. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6D. RESOLUTIONS RE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

City Clerk Herbers read the number and title of the following Resolutions commending and honoring **Distinguished Service Award** recipients:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-47 – Police Officer Keith Crofton
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-48 – Police Officer Richard Gabel
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-49 – Police Officer Brian Harris
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-50 – Police Officer Matt Jungers
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-51 – Police Officer David Ybarra
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-52 – Police Officer Brent Clissold
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-53 – Police Officer Keith Crofton
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-54 – Police Officer Kevin High
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-55 – Police Officer David Ortega

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolutions Nos. 2014-47, 2014-48, 2014-49, 2014-50, 2014-51, 2014-51, 2014-53, 2014-54 and 2014-55. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6E. RESOLUTIONS RE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

City Clerk Herbers read the number and title of the following Resolutions commending and honoring **Distinguished Service Award** recipients:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-56 – Fire Engineer Dennis Cameron
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-57 – Firefighter/Paramedic Saeed Hosseinzadeh
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-58 – Firefighter/Paramedic Angel Meza

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolutions Nos. 2014-56, 2014-57, and 2014-58. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6F. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-64 RE SUE WALTERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-64

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING **SUE WALTERS** OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-64. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6H. PRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC PLAN STATISTICALLY VALID COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Richard Bernard, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3, presented the results of the Strategic Plan Statistically Valid Community Survey conducted by his firm, using slides to illustrate. He reported that interviews with residents and business owners indicated a high level of satisfaction and results compared favorably with the last survey conducted in 2007. With regard to areas for improvement, he noted that residents' main concern was street maintenance and that the majority of businesses were not familiar with the City's Economic Development Program and the One-Stop Permit Center, so the City may wish to increase efforts to promote them.

The Council briefly recessed from 8:14 p.m. to 8:29 p.m.

87. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. David Wallace, president of TME-AFSCME Local 1117, expressed concerns about stalled contract negotiations, noting that the union's 500+ members have not had a raise in more than 5 years.

7B. Lloyd Brown, Torrance, congratulated the City on the successful Armed Forces Day Parade held the previous weekend, but related his belief that Torrance Rose Float Association should have been allowed to include its float even though it was not military themed.

7C. Debbie Hays, Old Torrance Neighborhood Association, invited the public to attend the association's meeting on Wednesday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bartlett Senior Center, which will include a presentation "Butterflies and Blooms" by Madrona Marsh naturalist Tracy Drake.

7D. Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, announced that there will be a free walking tour of downtown Torrance on Sunday, May 25, at 1:30 p.m. beginning at the historical museum located at 1345 Post Avenue. She also invited the public to attend a ceremonial reading of the names on the Torrance Veterans Memorial Wall on Monday, May 26, at 2:00 p.m. after which there will be a showing of the documentary *Names on the Wall* at the historical museum.

7E. Ryan Mand, Torrance, suggested that consideration be given to creating an Economic Development Commission to discuss strategies for attracting and retaining businesses.

7F. Moises Aglipay, Philippines Independence Day Foundation, invited the public to attend a Philippines Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, June 7, at Veterans Park located at

22400 Moneta Avenue, Carson, which will feature food booths, cultural activities and entertainment.

7G. Christian (no last name given) urged residents to vote for Seth Stodder for California State Senator in the 26th District.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of April 15 and April 22, 2014.

8B. APPROPRIATION OF GRANT FUNDS RE BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve the appropriation of \$117,116 of CalRecycle beverage container grant funds for the promotion of beverage container recycling.

8C. LICENSE AGREEMENTS WITH WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Public Works Director that City Council approve license agreements with The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) for the development of two new saline groundwater extraction wells in Delthorne Park and in Civic Center Complex for the expansion of the Goldsworthy Desalter Project. Each agreement is for a 25 year term with an initial annual fee of \$1,200 for each site, which will be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles Area.

8D. PURCHASE ORDER FOR SPARE PARTS FOR NATURAL GAS AND DIESEL BUSES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to HD Industries of Long Beach, CA, in the amount of \$186,920.61 to purchase spare engines and parts for compressed natural gas and diesel buses.

8E. CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT RE WORKERS COMPENSATION SELF-INSURANCE FUND

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director and the Finance Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the contract services agreement with P & C Insurance, Inc. of New York, NY (C2006-045) to provide Workers' Compensation software services from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$137,328;
- 2) Appropriate \$137,328 from the workers compensation self-insurance fund for the increased software services costs;
- 3) Appropriate \$105,000 from the Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund for data conversion and export from the workers compensation system and return the data to the City; and

- 4) Approve the name change on the existing contract services agreement C2006-045 from P & C Claims, Inc. to P & C Insurance Systems, Inc. or PCIS.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICES

9A. PROPOSAL RE TRIATHLON AT TORRANCE BEACH IN SEPTEMBER 2014

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve the proposal by Pacific Sports LLC to host a Triathlon on Sunday, September 21, 2014 near Torrance Beach with the following conditions:

- 1) Allow a one-year pilot basis for the Triathlon to allow staff to evaluate the impact to the neighborhood and return to the City Council with the results; and
- 2) Ensure all city fees are paid in advance of the event.

Community Services Director Jones briefly outlined Pacific Sports' proposal to host a triathlon on Sunday, September 21, 2014 in Torrance, with the run and swim portion of the event to be held at Torrance Beach and the bike portion to take place in the residential area of Hollywood Riviera. He reported that the Special Events Team reviewed the proposal and several conditions have been added to ensure safety and minimize the impact of the event, which are detailed in the supplemental material. He noted that 7 letters have been received from residents, 6 opposed and 1 in favor of the event. He recommended that the Council approve the event on a one-year trial basis.

Councilmember Furey noted that all of the objections are related to the bike route and questioned whether alternate routes were considered.

Lloyd Taylor, representing Pacific Sports, reported that various routes were considered and based on input from the Police, Fire and Public Works departments the current route was selected. He stated that the company was willing to explore an alternate route, but based on his experience, the route as proposed would have minimal impact.

In response to Councilmember Ashcraft's inquiry, Community Services Director Jones confirmed that Pacific Sports would bear all costs associated with the event, including police and fire personnel, noting that a preliminary cost estimate was provided in the supplemental material, which will be refined once the Event Action Plan has been developed.

Noting that his neighborhood is impacted by the Armed Forces Day Parade each year, Councilmember Sutherland reported that while he found it inconvenient the first year, he and his wife have come to greatly enjoy it and they have experienced no problems.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Margaret Heflinger, Ruby Street, reported that her parents live on the bike route and urged that all residents on the route be notified of the event via U.S. mail because many are elderly and unfamiliar with social media. She expressed concerns about potential hazards posed by speeding bicyclists practicing on the route. She suggested an alternate route on Pacific Coast Highway from Palos Verdes Boulevard to Anza Avenue.

Mayor Scotto advised that several forms of communication are proposed for residents along the bike route, including the posting of signs and door-to-door contact.

Judy Fisher, Paseo de los Reyes, expressed concerns about the safety of the bike route, noting that her home is at the bottom of a steep hill. She stated that the race's promoter told her that precautions would be taken, however, she would like to see the precautions put in writing along with an indemnity agreement to protect her should an accident occur on her property. She questioned whether the proposed route was determined to be the best route by the police department.

Police Chief Matsuda advised that the police department reviewed the various routes proposed by the promoter, however, they were looking at them more in terms of the disruption of traffic flow and not the steepness of the streets.

Robert Fisher, Paseo de los Reyes, called for a written plan to be devised detailing how security and safety issues will be handled. He expressed concerns about the impact of participants practicing on the route prior to the race, which could be both a nuisance and a safety hazard. He questioned how long it would take to set up and break down the route and when the set up would occur. He also asked where residents would be able to park their vehicles so that they can have ready access to them.

Robert Keating, Newton Street, voiced support for the proposed triathlon, noting that the City has a history of doing a great job of planning and managing such events. He recalled that there was a successful triathlon that included Torrance 30 years ago and race organizers and sports enthusiasts banded together to ensure that residents were well informed.

Jason Gabelsberg, Via Los Altos, reported that he has been a triathlon racer for 15 years and believes the proposed triathlon would only benefit Torrance. He related his experience that residents along the route enjoy viewing the event and the brief time streets are closed is not major inconvenience. He sought to dispel safety concerns, noting that there are marshals on the course to warn bicyclists of any potential hazards.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, stated that he could not imagine how 1500 bicyclists going at high speed in both directions on narrow streets in the Hollywood Riviera could be safe.

Ryan Mand, Torrance, expressed concerns that the triathlon could disrupt traffic heading up to Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills.

The Council briefly recessed from 9:31 p.m. to 9:07 p.m.

Igor Nastaskin, Calle de Arboles, stated that he generally supports the proposal, but has safety concerns about the bike route.

Mayor Scotto proposed that golf carts be interspersed along the bike route to transport residents to their vehicles if necessary, and Mr. Taylor indicated that Pacific Sports had no objection to this.

Responding to questions from the Council, Mr. Taylor explained that triathletes generally have training routes in the area where they live and they are unlikely to use the proposed bike route as a training route because it is a small loop. He confirmed that Pacific Sports has

insurance to cover losses from property damages and personal injuries. He reported that set-up begins 72-48 hours before the race to minimize the time needed on race day and offered his assurance that whatever precautions are necessary will be taken to ensure everyone's safety. He indicated that Pacific Sports will provide a VIP area with refreshments for affected residents on the morning of the race if there is enough interest.

Community Services Director Jones discussed the benefits of the event, including promoting physical fitness and highlighting the City of Torrance, as well as financial benefits from food and lodging.

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

10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10A. RESOLUTION RE MIS13-00055: 209 VIA EL TORO – JIM DELURGIO

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council adopt a Resolution to reflect their decision at the May 13, 2014 meeting to grant the appeal and deny a Minor Modification to a Minor Hillside Exemption to allow an increase of 5-inches to the previously approved height of the rear addition on property located within the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 209 Via el Toro.

Community Development Director Gibson reported that the resolution reflects the City Council's action at the May 13, 2014 Council meeting. He recommended that Finding H of the resolution be deleted.

Jim Delurgio, 209 Via el Toro, voiced objections to the inclusion of Finding H in Resolution No. 2014-65 concerning the conversion of a laundry room into an office at 515 Camino de Encanto. He contended that the inclusion of this finding was an attempt to insert into the public record justification for a permit that was issued with no consideration of the impact to neighboring properties as required by the Hillside Ordinance. He expressed concerns that the ordinance is poorly written and unevenly enforced so there is no clear understanding of what can or cannot be built and this uncertainty affects the property value of everyone who lives in the Hillside area. He also expressed concerns that Councilmember Sutherland failed to disclose at the May 13 hearing that Vicki Radel, the owner of 515 Camino de Encanto and the appellant in this case, attended a fundraiser for his mayoral campaign on May 5, 2014.

Steve Goldberg, Redondo Beach, disputed Findings F and G in Resolution 2014-65, contending that the proposed 5-inch height increase would not affect whitewater views at 515 Camino de Encanto as stated in these findings. He maintained that the Council considered the impact of the previously approved project and not just the impact of the 5-inch height increase therefore their decision on the appeal should be reconsidered.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to concur with the staff recommendation, including the deletion of Finding H. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-65

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING THE APPEAL AND DENYING A MINOR MODIFICATION TO A MINOR HILLSIDE EXEMPTION TO ALLOW AN INCREASE OF 5-INCHES TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED HEIGHT OF THE REAR ADDITION ON PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 209 VIA EL TORO
MIS13-00055: JIM DELURGIO

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-65. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. AMENDMENT OF MOU RE COUNTYWIDE BUS SIGNAL PRIORITY SYSTEM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (C2012-043) with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the implementation of the Countywide Bus Signal Priority System.

Transit Administration Manager Mills advised that the Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding extends the timeline for completion of the Countywide Bus Signal Priority System to June 30, 2016, which is necessary due to the complexity of the project.

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

12B. PURCHASE ORDER FOR WATER SERVICE REPAIR PARTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services and Public Works Directors that City Council award a purchase order to Ferguson Waterworks of Poway, CA in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to furnish water service repair parts on an as requested basis for a period of five (5) years effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019 (B2014-19).

Fleet Services Manager Botiller reported that the purchase order encompasses commonly used stock items needed to maintain the City's water systems excluding water meters and irrigation supplies.

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

12C. JUNE 3, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee to approve and concur with the Committee's position on the state measures on the June 2014 Primary Election to be held on June 3, 2014.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that the Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee met on May 12, 2014 to consider the two State measures on the June 3, 2014 ballot and after review and discussion, the committee voted to take no position on Proposition 41, *Veteran Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014*, because it does not meet the City's criteria for taking a position and to oppose Proposition 42, *Public Meetings, Open Records, State Reimbursement to Local Agencies*, because it would allow the State to impose mandates on local governments without bearing the responsibility for the costs.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the ramifications should Proposition 42 be approved by voters, which was provided by Assistant City Attorney Sullivan.

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

12D. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF EXXONMOBIL DONATION FOR 2014 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Considered out of order, see page 3.

12E. DIRECTION RE TIE VOTES IN JUNE 3, 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that the City Council give formal direction to the City Clerk in the event of tie votes in the June 3, 2014 Municipal Election.

City Clerk Herbers reported that the California Elections Code provides that tie votes may be decided either by lot or special election; noted that a special election would cost approximately \$136,000; and requested direction from the Council on this issue.

Councilmember Sutherland voiced support for deciding a tie vote by lot due to the high cost of a special election.

A brief discussion ensued, and City Clerk Herbers provided clarification regarding the acceptable methods of lot.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan advised that staff prefers the coin toss method.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved that any tie vote in the June 3, 2014 Municipal Election shall be decided by coin toss. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

12F. ISSUANCE OF FY2014-15 TAX REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution approving the sale and issuance of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN's) not to exceed \$31,000,000.

Finance Director Tsao advised that Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes assist with fluctuations in the City's cash flow and allow for the pre-payment of annual pension costs at a discount of approximately 3.7% or \$900,000.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification of the pre-payment process, which was provided by Mayor Scotto.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-66

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 AND THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF 2014-15 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000,000 THEREFOR

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-66. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

12G. RESOLUTION RE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt the Resolution setting forth the wages, hours, working conditions and new health insurance coverage for Elected Officials effective May 18, 2014 and repealing Resolution No. 2008-99. Expenditure: Fiscal Year 2013/14: 2%.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that the Resolution provides for a 2% salary increase for the City Treasurer position.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-67

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS BEGINNING MAY 18, 2014 AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2008-99

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-67. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

12H. RESOLUTIONS APPROVING APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2014 -2015 OPERATING BUDGET AND 2014-2015 CAPITAL BUDGET

Considered out of order, see page 19.

12I. RESOLUTIONS RE TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution initiating proceedings to levy assessments within the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 for Fiscal year 2014-2015;

- 2) Adopt a Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Engineer's Report for the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1; and,
- 3) Adopt a Resolution of Intention to levy assessments within the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 for Fiscal year 2014-2015 setting the date of June 10, 2014 for the public hearing.

City Engineer Bilezerian stated that tonight's action approves the Engineer's Report and sets the date of June 10, 2014 for the hearing on Lighting District No. 99-1. Referring to the staff report, he pointed out that assessment rates have remained unchanged since 1999 and they do not include a cost-of-living increase. He advised residents that non-functioning street lights can be reported at 1-800-611-1911 or www.SCE.com.

Ryan Mand, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the purpose of the assessments, which was provided by staff.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE XIID OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-68. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE ENGINEER IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS WITHIN CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE XIII D OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-69. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-70

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART 2 OF DIVISION 15 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE XIID OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION, APPOINTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-70. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

12J. OPTIMIZED WEEKLY STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve key elements of the Optimized Weekly Street Sweeping Program.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian provided an overview of the Optimized Weekly Street Sweeping Program being implemented to comply with new environmental regulations from the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board that allow zero trash to be discharged into the storm drain system, noting that the City can be fined up to \$10,000 per day per location for violations. He reported that in response to discussion at the April 22 City Council meeting, staff has expanded public outreach efforts, including mailing a brochure detailing the program to residents; that staff investigated alternate colors and sizes for signs and found that all signs for street sweeping have a white background with red text and a minimum size of 12" x 18" as proposed; and that staff was recommending that there be no exemptions for recreation vehicles because it would reduce the effectiveness of the program.

Mayor Scotto expressed concerns that residents who have no off-street parking and parking is allowed on only one side of the street may have to park their vehicles a considerable distance away on street sweeping days.

City Manager Jackson requested that staff be allowed the flexibility to work with residents in these areas on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Furey reported that other cities where parking is restricted to one side of the street resolve the problem by allowing parking on the prohibited side of the street on street sweeping days.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Stan Chernoff, Greenwood Avenue, expressed concerns that commercial areas are exempted from parking restrictions for street sweeping, which would seem to leave the City vulnerable to expensive fines for non-compliance with the new regulations.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian reported that commercial areas will be addressed in the second phase of the program and they are currently swept at night when there are few parked vehicles.

John Stewart, Lenore Street, voiced concerns that the program was simply an attempt to generate revenue by increasing parking tickets, citing a recent newspaper article indicating that 3 out of 4 parking tickets in Los Angeles are issued for street sweeping violations.

Larry LaRue, 172nd Street, urged the City not to prohibit parking on Redondo Beach Boulevard the same day as 172nd Street so residents will have some place to park. He questioned how those who must use street parking can avoid being ticketed on street sweeping day while on a two-week vacation.

Mayor Scotto noted that there is an existing regulation prohibiting vehicles from parking longer than 72 hours on City streets.

Andrew Pekema, Date Avenue, contended that the parking restrictions would be an unnecessary inconvenience for residents on his street since it's already well maintained and called for streets to be regulated according to need.

Pamela Combar, Gaycrest Avenue, noted her agreement with the letter from Mark and Bridget Forney (supplemental material), which contends that proposed street sweeping regulations are based on flawed science that overstates the benefits of street sweeping and the pollution that comes from residential neighborhoods. She related her belief that the goals of the Optimized Street Sweeping Program can be accomplished without additional regulations and signage in most areas of the city.

Sophie Dreifuss, Lenore Street, expressed concerns that proposed street sweeping days on her street conflict with trash pick-up.

Mayor Scotto advised the street sweeping schedule will be adjusted to avoid such conflicts.

G. Eng, Lenore Street, suggested that a permit system be implemented whereby residents who are issued a permit would not be ticketed for parking on the street on street sweeping days as long as the gutter adjacent to their property is kept clean.

Dan Thomas, Linda Drive, voiced his opinion that preventing any trash from entering the storm drain system was an impossible goal. He suggested that curbing along storm drains be painted red so street sweepers would always have access to these areas rather than implementing city-wide parking restrictions.

Edgar Beverly, Edgemere Street, stressed the need to coordinate trash pick-up with street sweeping so there is no conflict.

Clint Paulson, Vicky Avenue, requested that staff cite the specific statute that led to this program.

Sarah Guyan, Gramercy Avenue, requested that street sweeping be changed to Friday on her street so it follows trash collection. She voiced support for painting curbing red adjacent to storm drains.

Omar Navarro, Madison Street, voiced objections to parking restrictions.

John Carmichael, Via Anita, expressed concerns that signage for parking restrictions would detract from his neighborhood. He urged the City to fight these regulations.

Michael Griffiths, Cricklewood Avenue, noted that the number of parking tickets issued could drastically increase with the new restrictions and urged that parking enforcement staff not be increased, but rather focus on problem areas.

Cynthia Hightower, Anza Avenue, cautioned against a "one-size-fits-all" program and urged the City to work with residents on this issue.

Mary Miller, 176th Street, requested that the street sweeping schedule be adjusted on Redondo Beach Boulevard/Ainsworth Avenue near St. Catherine Laboure School so that it does not interfere with the drop-off of school children.

John Paul Tabakian, 225th Street, expressed concerns that visitors to the senior citizen board-and-care facility across the street from him may be impacted due to parking restrictions. He urged residents to contact legislators and fight these regulations.

Warren Goodman, Via La Soledad, suggested that regulations focus on the source of the problem, relating his observation that much of the debris in gutters comes from gardeners.

Tim Caulkins, Mindora Drive, voiced objections to the “one-size-fits-all” approach. He expressed concerns that parking restriction signs will be an eyesore and detract from the ambiance of the Riviera area and voiced his opinion that the goals of the Optimized Street Sweeping Program can be accomplished through voluntary compliance in his neighborhood.

Tricia Blanco, Gaycrest Avenue, echoed objections to parking restriction signage and suggested that there are more effective solutions such as street sweeping more often.

Melissa Wright, Moresby Drive, expressed concerns that the brochure mailed out to residents was not clear about parking restrictions. She urged the Council to consider alternatives to the posting of signage and to give residents a chance at voluntary compliance.

Lloyd Brown, Regina Avenue, voiced his opinion that voluntary compliance would not be effective. He related his observation that contrary to residents’ remarks at the April 22 City Council meeting, the streets in the “Sleepy Hollow” area are not free of debris. He suggested placing notices on vehicles that interfere with street sweeping explaining the program.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification of the City’s efforts to inform residents about this program, which was provided by City Manager Jackson.

Marian DeMeire, Calle de Arboles, voiced objections to the implementation of parking restrictions in the Riviera area due to inconvenience to residents and the addition of signage, which would detract from the aesthetics of the area.

Councilmember Furey emphasized that the City was not implementing this program by choice but rather to comply with federal mandates associated with the Clean Water Act of 1972, which carry severe financial penalties for non-compliance. He commended staff for obtaining grants to defray the cost of the program.

Responding to questions from the Council, Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian confirmed that staff will continue work with residents on the location of signage and is committed to installing as few signs as possible.

Ryan Mand, Plaza del Amo, urged residents to contact legislators in opposition of these mandates.

Susanne Antablin, Brian Avenue, asked that she have input when signage is considered for her street.

Kurt James, Reese Road, suggested that grant funds might be better used for the purchase of additional street sweepers.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian advised that the grant funds are specifically tied to the Optimized Street Sweeping Program as proposed.

Rod Antablin, Brian Avenue, echoed calls for voluntary compliance rather than implementing parking restrictions.

Councilmember Brewer stated that he understood residents' concerns, but believes the City has no choice but to go forward with the program.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to approve the Optimized Weekly Street Sweeping Program, with staff to work with residents on the number and location of signs. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

13. HEARINGS

13A. 2nd PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET WORKSHOP ON FY2014-2015 OPERATING BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council open the second public hearing and budget workshop regarding proposed revisions to the 2nd year, fiscal year 2014-2015, of City of Torrance two-year 2013-2015 operating budget.

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

City Manager Jackson reported that staff has provided the information requested by the City Council at the May 13 hearing: 1) Revisions to the discounted rental fee program for the Cultural Arts Center; 2) Options for reducing box office hours of operation; 3) Options for replacing the dance floor at the Armstrong Theatre; and 4) Alternative box office fee structures.

Responding to questions from the Council, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided clarification regarding proposed box office hours of operation and reviewed findings of a survey of ticket fees at other theatres.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Byron Stefferud, Torrance Performing Arts Consortium, requested that the fee charged for overtime staffing of the box office be eliminated if the City decides to retain the \$2.50 per ticket fee.

Steve Norris, Arts Council of Torrance, recommended that Armstrong Theatre equipment, including the lighting and sound system, be itemized, evaluated and prioritized for replacement. He related his belief that the theatre was greatly underfunded and should be funded at \$3 million per year. He expressed concerns that ticket fees are causing a hardship for non-profit arts groups.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the Water Fund and its liability related to the refinancing of Certificates of Participation (COPS), which was provided by Finance Director Tsao.

In response to Mr. Stephenson's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao confirmed that the City will be establishing an appropriations limit and selecting annual adjustment factors as required by the Gann Initiative, noting that the City is well below the appropriations limit.

Mr. Stephenson noted that the Water Department has received \$2.7 million for the replacement of water meters in 2013, which were supposed to eliminate the need for two meter readers, and questioned whether there has been a corresponding reduction in staff.

Public Works Director Beste advised that the two employees have been assigned to do water audits and repairs.

Ryan Mand, Torrance, recommended that the pay for Councilmembers and the Mayor be increased because the \$100 per month they receive is insufficient.

Mayor Scotto recommended that a City Council committee work with Torrance performing arts groups to develop a priority list for Armstrong Theatre improvements should funding become available at a future date.

In response to Councilmember Weideman's inquiry, Assistant City Manager Giordano confirmed that should box office hours be reduced from 54 hours per week to 36 hours as proposed, the \$37,000 savings would offset the cost of eliminating the \$2.50 per ticket fee, which amounts to between \$35,000 – 40,000 per year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding various options for reducing box office hours, and City Manager Jackson recommended that the Council approve the reduction in box office hours in concept and refer the matter to City Council committee.

Responding to Councilmember Weideman's inquiry, City Manager Jackson confirmed that staff was recommending that Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation's request for additional funding be approved, with the caveat that there will be no additional funding once the reserve fund has been exhausted.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to approve the proposed revisions to the second year, FY2014-2015, of City of Torrance two-year 2013-2015 operating budget, with the following modifications:

- 1) Armstrong Theatre box office hours to be reduced to offset the elimination of the \$2.50 per ticket fee.
- 2) City Council committee to discuss box office hours and develop a priority list for Armstrong Theatre improvements.
- 3) Discounted Rental Fee Program for Cultural Arts Center facilities approved on a one-year trial basis per supplemental material.
- 4) Torrance Cultural Art Foundation request for additional funding approved – to be funded from \$250,000 reserve fund.
- 5) Purchase of Marley dance floor for Armstrong Theatre approved - to be funded from the \$250,000 reserve fund.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 12H was considered out of order at this time.

12H. RESOLUTIONS APPROVING APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2014 -2015 OPERATING BUDGET AND 2014-2015 CAPITAL BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council adopt Resolutions approving the annual appropriations for the 2nd year (fiscal year 2014-2015) of the two year 2013-2015 Operating Budget and the 2nd year (fiscal year 2014-2015) of the five year 2013-2018 Capital Budget Plan.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-71

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE SECOND YEAR (2014-15) OF THE CITY'S 2013-2018 CAPITAL BUDGET

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-71. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE SECOND YEAR OF THE 2 YEAR 2013-15 OPERATING BUDGET PLAN; ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2014-15 FISCAL YEAR

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-72. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

13B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of Community Development Director that City Council conduct a public hearing, consider public input and adopt a Resolution authorizing the revised allocation and appropriation of 2014- 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as follows: Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility \$683,500.

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

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that CDBG funding has been increased approximately \$200,000 and staff would like to allocate these funds for sidewalk repairs.

As no one from the public came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-73

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
APPROVING THE CITY'S REVISED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-73. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous vote.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Brewer noted that he missed the Armed Forces Day Parade last weekend because he was attending his daughter's graduation from George Washington University, however, he enjoyed seeing photos of the event on Facebook.

17B. Councilmember Sutherland encouraged everyone to vote on June 3rd, noting the sacrifices made by our military to secure our freedom.

17C. Councilmember Ashcraft thanked and commended the Police Department, City staff and the Ad Hoc Armed Forces Day Committee for their efforts on the Armed Forces Day Parade.

17D. Mayor Scotto encouraged everyone to commemorate Memorial Day, noting that there will be ceremonies at the Green Hills Cemetery in San Pedro at 10:00 a.m. and at the Torrance Veterans Memorial Wall at 2:00 p.m.

17E. A City employee (no name given) wanted to make clear that he as well as other employees disagree with the disparaging remarks made about the Mayor and Council by his union representative under Orals #1.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:42 a.m., May 21, 2014, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting 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 June 24, 2014