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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – AUGUST 12, 2014**

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At 9:17 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

August 12, 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 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Goodrich, Rizzo, Weideman and Mayor Furey.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Poirier 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) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:00 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 Councilmember Rizzo.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Weideman.

**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 on Thursday, August 7, 2014.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich 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 Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

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 WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

Agenda Item 8D was withdrawn; supplemental material was available for Agenda Items 12A and 12B.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Furey announced that the City Council Ad Hoc State Legislative Committee met earlier to discuss the City of Torrance position on the League of California Cities resolution and the committee's recommendation will be presented at next week's Council meeting.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-95 RE BETH L'ARGENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-95**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
HONORING **BETH E. L'ARGENT** UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE  
CITY AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-95. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

*To be presented at a later date.*

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Julie Dojiri, civic affairs chair for New Horizons, thanked Engineering Manager Semaan for quickly resolving a traffic signal issue near the senior condominium complex.

**7B.** Tanya Martin and Lloyd Brown, Torrance, reported that it was apparent that their on-line petition, which requested that the Affordable Care Act mandate coverage for vitamin deficiency testing, will not be successful. They thanked those who had signed the petition and encouraged everyone to be tested for vitamin deficiencies.

**7C.** Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, announced that the museum will be open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays for the month of August and will offer special displays and presentations, including a DVD prepared for Torrance's Centennial on Louis Zamperini to be shown continuously on Thursday, August 14, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**7D.** Mark Stephenson, Torrance, expressed concerns about Redevelopment Agency debt, which he believes resulted from the illegal use of taxpayer funds.

**7E.** Carol Fisher, Torrance resident and business owner, called for public input on the Measure R project, which involves improvements to the Hawthorne Boulevard/Pacific Coast Highway intersection. She acknowledged that changes are needed to improve traffic flow, but expressed concerns that nearby businesses could be seriously impacted by some of the proposals.

**7F.** Mayor Furey noted his intention to make his announcements at this portion of the meeting instead of waiting until the end so they will reach more people.

**7G.** Mayor Furey related his belief that it would be beneficial to increase economic development efforts, particularly with regard to international businesses seeking to expand within the United States. With the concurrence of Council, he directed staff to explore the development of a Business Advisory Board and report back to the Council as soon as possible.

7H. Mayor Furey noted that there is a stretch of railroad right-of-way from Crenshaw to Cabrillo, some of which is abandoned and the rest is little used. With the concurrence of Council, he directed staff to research the ownership of, potential uses for, and the City's authority regarding this railroad right-of-way.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

8A. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RE PROPOSITION C 5% SECURITY FUNDS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for the allocation of Proposition C 5% Security funds for the period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

8B. **CONTRACT MODIFICATION RE CONSTRUCTION OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS FUELING STATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a contract modification with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to extend an agreement toward the construction of a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station.

8C. **ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY GRANTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and appropriate two \$5,000 grants from the California State Library, totaling \$10,000, for two new Library programs.

8D. **LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a license agreement with Southern California Edison for a period of five years for an amount not to exceed \$323,389 for use of property north of Yukon Elementary School for the North Torrance Well Field Project, CIP I-108.

Item was withdrawn.

8E. **ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY DONATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and appropriate a \$10,000 donation from the Friends of the Torrance Library for electronic books.

8F. **MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL**

**DISTRICT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a maintenance agreement with Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to allow the City of Torrance to install and maintain trash screens on LACFCD catch basins, including an annual fee per catch basin to be paid by LACFCD to the City of Torrance.

**8G. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEADOW PARK PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE FEE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council establish the Meadow Park Parking Lot Maintenance Fee at \$66.34 per space per year to cover the cost of maintenance of the parking lots.

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

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. MEMORANDUM OF INTENT FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TME- AFSCME, TLEA, AND CROSSING GUARDS**

**Recommendation**

of the City Manager that the City Council adopt in principle the attached Memorandum of Intent (MOI) for employees represented by the Torrance Municipal Employees (TME-AFSCME), Torrance Library Employees Association (TLEA), and Crossing Guards.

Mayor Furey noted that tonight's action was preliminary to the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding at the August 19, 2014 Council meeting.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan provided background information about negotiations on this contract and briefly outlined the terms, which includes pay raises of 8.1% over 42 months and a one-time payment of \$500.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, expressed concerns about the City's rising pension costs and questioned if any benefit reductions were negotiated for "classic or legacy" employees as part of this contract as authorized by California Government Code Section 20516. He stated that Article XVI, Section 6 of the California Constitution precludes governments from paying employees for non-governmental activities or services, however, the current president of this employee organization is being paid by the City to work for the union 4 out of 9 days for each two-week period. He questioned why every offer/counter offer during the negotiation process has not been made available to the public as other cities have done.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan advised that this agreement is in compliance with PEPRA (Public Employees' Pension Reform Act), which requires employees hired after January 1, 2013 to contribute up to 50% of pension costs, and while this contract maintains the status quo for classic employees, the City has realized significant savings because employees hired after 2010 are required to contribute to pension costs. He explained that the City must provide release time for employees engaged in contract negotiations per the Labor Relations Code.

Mayor Furey related his understanding that CalPERS (California Public Employee Retirement System) had a 14.5% return on investment this year instead of the 7.5% that was projected and expressed the hope that this trend will continue.

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

## **12B. APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council take action to fill a vacancy on the City Council by appointment from a list of qualified applicants.

Mayor Furey noted supplemental material available at the meeting.

City Attorney Fellows outlined the procedure for the appointment process.

Qualified applicants were introduced and given an opportunity to briefly address the Council. The following applicants spoke: Dan Feliz, Jimmy Gow, Milton Herring, Rahmat Khan, Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino, Mario Obejas, Alex See, and Ray Uchima.

Kathy Lindberg, Torrance, expressed support for appointing Ray Uchima to the Council position. She related her experience that Mr. Uchima was very helpful when New Horizons condominiums were damaged by fire and residents experienced delays during the construction process.

Chris Aihara, Torrance, voiced support for Ray Uchima, citing his business background and experience as a City commissioner.

Minoru "Min" Shinmoto, Torrance, related his belief that Ray Uchima was the most qualified candidate for this position.

Terry Chodosh, Torrance, noted his agreement with previous speakers' remarks about Ray Uchima.

Jean Hirata, Torrance, urged the appointment of Ray Uchima, noting his history as an advocate for view protection as a member of the Planning Commission. She suggested that with Toyota moving its headquarters from Torrance, it was imperative to have someone with a strong business background and leadership skills to bring new businesses to Torrance.

Ted Lawson, real estate broker, expressed support for Ray Uchima, relating his belief that his leadership skills and tenacity makes him a well-qualified candidate.

Steven Griswold, Torrance business owner, echoed his support for Ray Uchima, noting that he helped raise \$70,000 for the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation.

Paul Cohen, Torrance, voiced support for Ray Uchima.

Lynne Shirvandeji, Torrance, urged that Jimmy Gow be appointed to this position and read a letter of support from former California Assembly member Betsy Butler.

Voicing support for Ray Uchima, Don Nose, president of Go For Broke National Education Center, reported that the Uchima family have been longtime supporters of the non-profit organization and Ray facilitated the move of Go For Broke's headquarters to Torrance.

Jim Faulk, Torrance, stated that he became acquainted with Ray Uchima as a former Planning Commissioner and he found him to be an independent thinker with great integrity and leadership skills. He voiced his opinion that Mr. Uchima's experience as a successful businessman in Torrance would be invaluable to the City Council.

Jill Gilligan, Torrance, stated that she has worked on several community projects with Jimmy Gow and believes he would be a great asset to the City Council. She related her experience that he is highly professional, diplomatic and motivational, and someone who is completely dedicated to Torrance.

Craig Kessler, Torrance, urged the Council to respect the wishes of the electorate and appoint the candidate who finished fifth in the recent election, Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino.

Dean Case, Torrance, voiced support for Ray Uchima, noting his role in advocating for a City-based animal control program.

John Clifford, Torrance, related his experience that Jimmy Gow is committed to making Torrance a better place to live and work and urged the Council to appoint him to this position.

Joe Galliani, Torrance, expressed support for Jimmy Gow, noting that he has worked with him as part of various organizations, including the South Bay 350 Climate Action Group and the South Bay Bicycle Coalition.

Janet Kaplan, Torrance, voiced support for Ray Uchima, citing his advocacy for view protection in the Riviera area.

Omar Navarro, Torrance, expressed support for Sue Herbers, relating his belief that she did an excellent job as City Clerk.

Lyn Miles, Torrance, echoed Mr. Kessler's call for the appointment of Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, voiced support for the appointment of Sue Herbers.

Valvincent Reyes, Torrance, stated that he wholeheartedly endorses Milton Herring for this position, citing his long resume of community service and volunteerism. He related his experience that Mr. Herring has strong leadership and problem-solving skills.

Rick Marshall, Torrance, urged the Council to appoint Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino due to her fifth place finish in the recent election.

Mayor Furey invited nominations from the Council.

Councilmember Barnett nominated Michael Griffiths; Councilmember Weideman nominated Milton Herring; Councilmember Goodrich nominated Alex See; and Mayor Furey nominated Ray Uchima.

A vote was taken, which resulted in three votes for Michael Griffiths and one vote each for Milton Herring, Alex See and Ray Uchima.

Nominations were again taken from the Council and Councilmember Ashcraft nominated Michael Griffiths and Councilmember Goodrich nominated Ray Uchima.

A vote was taken with Michael Griffiths receiving five votes and Commissioner Uchima receiving one vote.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Weideman moved to appoint Michael Griffiths to the vacant City Council seat. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Poirier administered the oath of office to Michael Griffiths.

The Council recessed at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m., with Councilmember Griffiths joining the rest of the Council on the dais.

**16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES**

**16A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3777**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3777**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTIONS 35.11.1 through 35.11.18, 35.12.1 through 35.12.12, 45.3.1, 45.3.2, 45.3.3, 45.3.4, 45.3.5, 45.6.10, 62.1.6 and 91.2.24 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND AMENDING TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 94.2.1 and 94.2.7 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE IN PART

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3777. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Weideman congratulated Mike Griffiths on his appointment to the Council.

**17B.** Councilmember Weideman noted that Mr. Griffiths' appointment has created another vacancy on the Planning Commission and recommended that the Council take action to fill the two vacancies on this commission as soon as possible.

**17C.** Councilmember Ashcraft welcomed Mike Griffiths to the Council.

**17D.** Councilmember Ashcraft encouraged the public to attend Torrance Theatre Company's production of *Oklahoma*, noting that she saw the show last weekend and it was outstanding.

**17E.** Councilmember Barnett also welcomed Mike Griffiths to the Council.

**17F.** Councilmember Barnett echoed comments about *Oklahoma*, noting that the production received a very positive review in the newspaper.



**17G.** Councilmember Barnett announced that the annual “Aquacade” synchronized swimming program will be held on Friday, August 23, at 8:15 p.m. at the Benstead Plunge.

**17H.** Councilmember Goodrich offered congratulations to Mike Griffiths and welcomed him to the Council.

**17I.** Councilmember Rizzo welcomed Mike Griffiths to the Council.

**17J.** Councilmember Rizzo reported that he enjoyed attending Torrance Historical Society’s Summer Stroll, which combines a history of Downtown Torrance with visits to local eateries.

**17K.** Councilmember Griffiths stated that he looked forward to being a productive member of the City Council and thanked the Council for appointing him.

**17L.** Mayor Furey welcomed Mr. Griffiths to the Council.

**17M.** Mayor Furey commented positively on Torrance Theatre Company’s production of *Oklahoma* and encouraged everyone to go see it.

**17N.** City Attorney Fellows noted that the Beatles first visit to the United States took place 50 years ago today.

**17O.** Dan Thomas, Torrance, offered congratulations to Mike Griffiths, along with the rest of the Council.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:17 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey

Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier

City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on August 26, 2014