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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 2, 2014**

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At 8:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**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, December 2, 2014 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, City Attorney Fellows 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) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §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 Weideman.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Ashcraft.

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

Administrative Assistant Semana reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Wednesday, November 26, 2014, with addendum Item 12D posted on November 27.

**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 WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material was available for Item 12B.

## **5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fire Chief Racowschi announced that ExxonMobil will be conducting their monthly community alert siren testing on Wednesday, December 3, at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310.212.1852.

Councilmember Weideman announced that the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee will be conducting a joint meeting with the Torrance Unified School District on Thursday, December 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the City Manager Assembly room to discuss projects included in ballot measures T and U.

Councilmember Griffiths, with the concurrence of Council, requested that a meeting of the Ad Hoc Web Redesign Committee be scheduled for January 2015. He noted that the Committee will be working with staff on the redesign of the City's website to maximize usability with a high degree of interactivity and effective search capability.

## **6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

### **6A. PROCLAMATION RE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY – EL PRADO BRIDGE LIGHTING**

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the Pacific Electric Railway – El Prado Bridge Lighting a memento of the collaboration of the talented people involved in the preservation of our City's history to Andy Perez, Union Pacific; Michael Krakower, Krakower and Associates; Shane Swerdlow and Robert Chattel, Chattel Architects; William Lawson, American Society of Civil Engineers; Jamie Ruth Watson, Torrance Historical Society; and Beth Overstreet, project manager.

Mr. Perez reported on Union Pacific's role in this project; Mr. Swerdlow provided background information about the history of the bridge; and Ms. Watson noted the many years it has taken to bring this project to fruition.

There was a virtual lighting ceremony with Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, and former Councilman Tom Brewer, former Chair of the Citizen Development & Enrichment Committee, joining the meeting via live television from the bridge as Mayor Furey flipped the ceremonial switch turning on the lighting.

## **7. ORAL COMMICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Commenting on the contract awarded to McCormick Ambulance for the provision of ambulance/patient billing services at the November 18, 2014 City Council meeting, Arthur Schaper, Torrance, expressed concerns that some Councilmembers felt they did not have enough time to review the proposals and urged that more time be allotted for this process in the future. He voiced his opinion that ambulance service should continue to be provided by private companies rather than adding more staff to the Fire Department.

**7B.** Clint Paulson, Torrance, reported that there have been claims that Torrance Fire Department instituted practices and/or policies that hampered Gerber Ambulance's ability to respond to calls in a timely manner and questioned whether these allegations are true.

Mayor Furey requested that contract default notices sent to Gerber Ambulance be made available to the public for review in the City Clerk's office as they may shed light on the situation.

7C. Lloyd Brown, Torrance, encouraged the Council to seek input from the public on the redesign of the City's website; and Mayor Furey confirmed that the public will be involved in the redesign process.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

8A. **CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE VAN NESS WATER WELLS TRANSMISSION MAINS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve an amendment to consulting services agreement with Quantum Quality Consulting Inc., of Torrance, CA (C2014-046) to increase the amount by \$20,780 for a new not to exceed amount of \$143,380 to perform California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Services.

8B. **APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve the proposed job description for Economic Development Manager. This is a companion item to Administrative Matters item 12C.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

12. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

12A. **LETTER OF AGREEMENT RE METRO 2011 CALL FOR PROJECTS FUNDING**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for 2011 Call for Projects funding in the amount of \$2,247,912.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that the funding will be used to purchase four CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) buses, with Metro to provide 79% (\$1,775,851) of the funding and the City to provide 21% (\$472,061).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to approve the Letter of Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

12B. **2015-2017 OPERATING BUDGET**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council provide additional direction for the two year 2015-2017 Operating Budget.

With the aid of slides, Finance Director Tsao reviewed the year-end figures from the 2013-2014 Operating Budget and highlighted the Five-Year Budget Forecast, which projects a balanced

budget for the next five years. With regard to the 2015-2017 Operating Budget, he discussed areas of concerns, including the need for additional resources for the Cultural Arts Center and the Parks and Recreation Enterprise Funds. He advised that the financial outlook for the City has improved and staff is cautiously optimistic. He noted supplemental material listing budget reductions/revisions for fiscal year 2008-09 through 2014-15 for purposes of reference.

Noting that equipment at the Cultural Arts Center needs replacement, Councilmember Ashcraft questioned whether recent increases in fees for the usage of Cultural Arts Center facilities have resulted in increased revenues.

City Manager Jackson offered to have staff provide that information, but advised that the replacement of equipment is part of the Capital Budget and the cost would typically not be covered by usage fees.

Councilmember Weideman suggested the possibility of using funds the City will receive from the Chandler Development Company to upgrade equipment at the Armstrong Theatre. He recommended that consideration be given to increasing funding for the Community Development Department for additional staff or specialized training to address the added demands as the Council explores potential historic preservation programs and the creation of an ordinance regulating vegetation in the Hillside Overlay District. He noted that there will be a reduction in property tax revenue should Torrance decide to participate in the Mills Act, which may need to be offset. He indicated that he favored eliminating the \$2.50 per ticket surcharge for the Armstrong Theatre and requested that this be a part of budget discussions.

In response to Councilmember Weideman's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao confirmed that the City saves money by paying down pension obligations, achieving \$60,000-65,000 in savings per \$1million paid.

Councilmember Weideman requested that options for paying down pension obligations be included in budget discussions. He expressed an interest in looking into staffing at the library, relating his understanding that there are currently a lot of temporary positions.

Councilmember Rizzo noted that the City Attorney's office may need more funding to deal with the impact of Proposition 47 because it will likely lead to an increase in prosecutions and necessitate the hiring of an additional prosecutor and/or contracting with outside legal counsel.

City Attorney Fellows advised that his staff is meeting with the supervising judge tomorrow to discuss the effects of Proposition 47 and his office is monitoring the situation, but has no hard data at this time.

Mayor Furey reported that the Los Angeles City Attorney has taken steps to hire additional staff since approximately 2000 additional filings per month are anticipated due to Proposition 47.

Councilmember Goodrich stated that he campaigned on a "back to basics" platform with an emphasis on core government services and was pleased that the Finance Director was taking a cautiously optimistic approach. He reported that the condition of roads is a major concern of residents and requested that staff explore ways to direct a portion of operating budget funds to capital projects in order to address roadway deficiencies. He stated that he also would like more funding allocated for emergency preparedness, specifically with regard to a budget for disaster services volunteers in the Torrance Amateur Radio Association (TARA). He noted that he has been a member of TARA for several years and has observed that in addition to dedicating an

immense amount of time to the City's disaster preparedness, these volunteers must also cover the cost of replacing communications equipment when it breaks or is vandalized.

Councilmember Griffiths noted his concurrence with Councilmember Weideman's remarks concerning increased funding for Community Development Department staff to assist with the development of historic preservation programs, as well as their possible implementation. He voiced his opinion that economic development was a key issue for Torrance, especially with the loss of Toyota, and recommended that consideration be given to enhancing the Economic Development Department and/or the Mayor's Economic Advisory Board. He related his experience that many residents greatly miss the ongoing support of the Rose Parade Float and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks program and requested that staff explore options for restoring funding for these items.

Councilmember Barnett noted his concurrence with Councilmember Weideman's suggestion that Chandler funds be used to upgrade equipment at the Armstrong Theatre. With regard to paying down pension debt, he expressed concerns that CalPERS might change the formula and the City could spend millions of dollars without gaining any advantage. He also expressed concerns that raising fees for Cultural Arts/Parks and Recreation programs may be counterproductive and requested that staff provide a chart detailing the impact of recent fee increases on participation levels.

Mayor Furey noted that the City has been faced with a continuing cycle of budget cuts since he was first elected to the Council in 2008 and it appears that it may be time to restore some of the cuts to staffing and programs. He suggested that priority be given to the last cuts that were made since those tended to be the most difficult. He reported that the City has a practice of paying down pension obligations when money is available and doubted that the Council will make any changes to this policy. He stated that there is a long wish list for the \$10 million to be received from Chandler Development, as the City has been anticipating these funds for several years. He stressed the need to budget for Cultural Arts Center improvements instead of the current "Band-Aid" approach.

Mayor Furey invited public comment.

Arthur Schaper, Torrance, stated that he was pleased that more resources are being allocated to improving streets, but expressed concerns that there are several stretches of roadway that are in poor condition, including Lomita Boulevard between Anza and Hawthorne Boulevard and Anza between Sepulveda and Pacific Coast Highway. He recommended that the City provide ongoing funding for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks program rather than bringing it back on a one-time basis.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian advised that the City was in the process of seeking funding to repair the stretches of roadway mentioned by Mr. Schaper.

Emerson Evelyn, Torrance, requested information about the cost of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks program.

Mayor Furey reported that the fireworks cost \$30,000-50,000 and other ancillary expenses, including police and fire personnel and Community Services staff, add another \$100,000 -140,000.

Vincent Chen, Torrance, urged that a traffic signal be installed at the intersection of Carson Street and Del Amo Circle West.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, questioned how much money the City spends a year on AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization).

City Manager Jackson advised that staff will continue to work on developing the budget and will provide Council with requested information.

**12C. RESOLUTION RE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER SALARY RANGE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a RESOLUTION amending Executive and Management Employees Resolution No. 2014-63 implementing the recommended salary range for the Economic Development Manager position in the amount of \$20,012.

Human Resources Manager Lawrence reported that the Resolution implements the salary range for the Economic Development Manager position for which the job description was approved under Consent Calendar Item 8B.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-128**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2014-63 SETTING FORTH CHANGES  
REGARDING THE HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR  
EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-128. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

**12D. AGREEMENT RE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 3762-3776 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AND 24066 NEECE AVENUE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Attorney and the Public Works Director that City Council approve an agreement for Purchase and Sale and Escrow Instructions with J.C. Brown Family Investment Partnership in the amount of \$4,500,000 for property located at 3762-3776 Pacific Coast Highway and 24066 Neece Avenue (APNs 7534-002-001, 002, and 003).

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan reported that staff was recommending approval of the an agreement to purchase of the property at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Neece Avenue as part of the Pacific Coast Highway/Hawthorne Boulevard intersection improvement project.

In response to Councilmember Goodrich's inquiry, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan confirmed that adequate notice was provided to the public regarding this item, which was added to the agenda on Thursday, November 27.

At Councilmember Griffiths' request, Transportation Manager Semaan explained for the benefit of the public, that the property will be purchased with Measure R funds, a sales tax designated for roadway/transportation improvements only.

Arthur Schaper, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the scope of the project, which was provided by Mayor Furey.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, requested clarification of the location of the subject property, which was provided by Mayor Furey.

Councilmember Weideman stated that he has consistently opposed this project based on the fact the terms for these improvements were dictated by Caltrans without any opportunity to mitigate or amend the design requirements and he objects to this unilateral "take-it-or-leave-it" process.

Councilmember Goodrich indicated that he shares Councilmember Weideman's concern about the lack of local control, but noted that this project was initiated some time ago before several of the current Councilmembers were seated and hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent on it. He stressed the importance of viewing this project as part of a larger plan to improve traffic flow along the PCH corridor rather than one isolated project. He requested that staff do everything possible to assist the tenants on this property.

Councilmember Rizzo reported that the City has agreed to pay the asking purchase price for this property, which the property owner believes is fair compensation, and voiced his opinion that it was time to move forward with this project.

Councilmember Ashcraft noted that members of the Council have received many emails and phone calls from businesses that are currently tenants on this property, which they could not respond to because negotiations were strictly between the City and the property owner. She related her understanding that assistance will be provided for these tenants.

City Attorney Sullivan advised that the City is legally obligated to provide relocation assistance for the tenants.

Mayor Furey stated that while he understands Councilmember Weideman's concerns, there are two streets in Torrance the City does not own - Hawthorne Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard - therefore Caltrans controls improvements along these thoroughfares and related his belief that if these improvements are not done now, they will never be done. He discussed the possibility that these streets could become owned and maintained by Torrance at some point in the future.

David Cosgrove, Rutan & Tucker, legal consultant, reported on the timeline for the sale of the property and noted that assistance will be provided to displaced businesses by Overland, Pacific & Cutler, a firm that specializes in tenant relocation.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan requested that the Council approve the agreement "as to form", explaining that there are some blanks in the agreement, which need to be filled in by the property owner's representative, and staff anticipates that there will be some minor changes to the language.



**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to approve the agreement as to form subject to non-material changes to the satisfaction of the City Attorney for the purchase of property located at 3762-3776 Pacific Coast Highway and 24066 Neece Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by a 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Weideman voting no.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Goodrich commented positively on the Turkey Trot and commended staff for their efforts.

**17B.** Councilmember Griffiths announced that there will be a fundraiser at Yogurtland, located at 21213 Hawthorne Boulevard, on Thursday, December 4, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., with proceeds to benefit The Attic teen center with presentation of flyer.

**17C.** Councilmember Rizzo thanked the Fire Chief for providing tips for frying his Thanksgiving turkey, which was accomplished without incident.

**17D.** Councilmember Rizzo thanked all who were involved in El Prado Bridge lighting project which has spanned many years, relating his observation that it looks spectacular.

**17E.** Councilmember Weideman echoed comments on the El Prado Bridge lighting and the Turkey Trot.

**17F.** Mayor Furey commended Michael Smith and his staff for engineering the bridge lighting ceremony. He commented on his enjoyment of the Turkey Trot and Laura Savitz's rousing performance of the national anthem at the event.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 9, 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/ Patrick J. Furey

Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier

City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on December 23, 2014