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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 16, 2010

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At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Friday, March 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. for an adjourned the regular meeting in the Council Chambers. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010

March 16, 2010

**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, March 16, 2010 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Furey.

Also 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 City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.

The City Council reconvened in open session at 7:05 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Assistant City Manager Giordano.

Councilmember Rhilinger gave the non-sectarian invocation.

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, March 11, 2010.

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 roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

City Manager Jackson reported that staff was recommending that Agenda Item 12A, concerning the ballot measure argument by the City Council Ad Hoc Ballot Measure Committee, be deferred until Friday, March 19, at 4:00 p.m., because Committee Chairman Furey was currently in Washington D.C. on City business.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Works Director Beste stated that the City of Torrance is continuing its water allocation plan; that the Metropolitan Water District has had a level 2 allocation in place since July of 2009; and that he was happy to report that Torrance is at 17% below the baseline amount set for the city. He reminded residents that the water conservation ordinance is still in effect and outside watering is limited to 3 days per week.

Police Chief Neu introduced Lieutenant Mark Athan to discuss emergency preparedness and earthquake safety. Lieutenant Athan gave a brief overview of the City of Torrance disaster preparedness plan and explained the Map Your Neighborhood Plan in which CERT members train residents in their own neighborhoods on how to prepare and respond to disasters. For more information visit www.police.torranceca.gov.

City Clerk Herbers announced that nominations for mayor, councilmember and city clerk closed on Friday, March 12, and a certified list of the candidates is available on the City Clerk's webpage along with candidate statements and other documents. She reported that the incumbent city treasurer has not filed for re-election so nominations for this position have been extended until Wednesday, March 17, at 5:00 p.m. and that two qualified candidates have already filed. In addition, she noted that ballot arguments for the proposed charter amendment changing the City's election date are due in the City Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19. She also announced that the first candidate forum will be held by the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association on Wednesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Center.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE "EARTH HOUR"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring March 27 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as "Earth Hour" in the City of Torrance to Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Chairman Paul McCabe.

Mr. McCabe invited the public to attend the Environmental Summit sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce on March 24, 12:00 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott and the City of Torrance's Environmental Fair at the Madrona Marsh on March 27.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TORRANCE COUNCIL 4919

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the **Knights of Columbus Torrance Council 4919** to Alex Lutz, who accepted with appreciation on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

7A. Deane Haddon, 2010 Census Complete Count Committee, urged residents to complete the 2010 Census questionnaire and forward it to the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure that all households in Torrance are counted.

7B. Stan Myles, South Coast Air Quality Management District, submitted a DVD on air quality for airing on the CitiCABLE channel and flyers for small businesses, and encouraged attendance at the Environmental Fair to be held on March 27 at the Madrona Marsh.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. AGREEMENT WITH CHEVRON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY RE MONITORING WELLS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve a license agreement with Chevron Environmental Management Company for two (2) groundwater monitoring wells.

8B. AGREEMENT WITH CONOCO PHILLIPS RE MONITORING WELL

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve a license agreement with Conoco Phillips for one (1) groundwater monitoring well.

8C. PROPOSITION A FUND EXCHANGE WITH CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

Considered separately, see page 4.

8D. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES AT HUMAN RESOURCES BUILDING AND BRANCH LIBRARIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve a contract amendment with Withee Malcolm Architects (C2009-142) for \$20,800 for additional architectural, structural, MEP and civil engineering at the Human Resources Building and the branch libraries (FEAP #711) for a contract amount not to exceed \$120,600.

8E. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE COMPREHENSIVE WATER RATE AND CAPITAL FUNDING STUDY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Water Commission and the Public Works Director that City Council approve an amendment to extend the consulting services agreement with Raftelis Financial Consultants (C2009-037) through March 31, 2011 to provide for completion of a comprehensive water rate and capital funding study.

8F. AGREEMENT RE WESTERN AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council award a consulting services agreement in the amount of \$128,218 to RBF Consulting for design of the Western Avenue Water Main Replacement and Pavement Rehabilitation, CIP No. I-107, and the Rolling Hills Road Water Main Replacement.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A, 8B and 8D through 8F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

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

8C. PROPOSITION A FUND EXCHANGE WITH CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council approve an agreement with the City of La Habra Heights for an exchange for \$42,000 in City of Torrance General Funds for \$60,000 respectively of Proposition A Local Return Funds from the City of La Habra Heights and appropriate \$42,000 from the General Fund Proposition A Exchange Reserve.

Newt Young, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the exchange of funds; Finance Director Tsao explained that cities that are unable to use their Proposition A funds sell them to other cities at a discounted rate.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10A. CHANGES TO SOLAR PERMITTING FEES/PROCESS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director and the Environmental Quality Commission that City Council consider changes to the solar permitting fees and processes currently in place.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reviewed the proposal to waive permit fees for the installation of solar panels on single-family residences for the balance of the year and to streamline the permitting process in order to encourage the use of solar energy. She reported that fees are approximately \$500 and estimated that the City would lose approximately \$11,000 in permit fees.

Councilmember Numark recommended publicizing the fact that permit fees will be waived if this proposal is approved, along with information about L.A. County's AB 811 program that provides a mechanism for financing solar panels.

Brad Bartz, owner of company that installs solar panels, expressed support for the proposal, citing the benefits of solar panels to homeowners.

Charles Deemer, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the types of solar energy systems that will be covered by the fee waiver.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

10B. CONSULTING CONTRACT RE DEL AMO BUSINESS DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a contract with The Fransen Company for retail economic development strategy consulting and implementation for the Del Amo Business District, and approve an appropriation of \$48,000 from the Economic Development Reserve.

Assistant City Manager Giordano advised that staff was recommending entering into a contract with The Fransen Company, a retail strategy consultant, to develop a long-range plan to improve the economics and appearance of the Del Amo Business District.

Councilmember Brewer asked about Del Amo Fashion Center's involvement in this process.

John Fransen, The Fransen Company, related his belief that the primary owner/operator would eventually cooperate with efforts to revitalize the mall due to market demands and pressure from retailers.

In response to questions from the Council, Mr. Fransen reported that demographic studies support the idea that the mall has great potential for improvement; provided examples of other malls the company has helped turn around; and discussed the strategy for encouraging Del Amo Fashion Center's refurbishment.

Charles Deemer, Torrance, suggested that a meeting room/convention facility would compliment the two hotels in the Del Amo Business District.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

10C. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE TORRANCE TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that Council approve an amendment with Civitas Advisors (C2009-121) to extend the contract term to January 31, 2010 and add \$1,403 in order to close out contract for services to establish the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District.

Management Associate Fulton reported that the extension of the contract is necessary to complete the establishment of the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. BALLOT MEASURE ARGUMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Ad Hoc Ballot Measure Committee that City Council approve a ballot argument in favor of the measure to change the date of the City's general municipal election to the last Tuesday in April of even-numbered years.

Item was continued to Friday, March 19, City Council adjourned regular meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

13. HEARINGS

13A. ORDINANCE AMENDING NORTHEAST TORRANCE PERMIT PARKING DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council concur with staff recommendation to adopt an Ordinance amending Section 61.6.32 Subsection (d) of the Torrance Municipal Code to include Cherry Avenue, Delia Avenue (cul-de-sac portion north of Cherry Avenue and approximately 220-foot portion south of 168th Street), Ogram Avenue, Elgar Avenue (north of 168th Street) and 168th Street (between Cherry Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard) as part of the Northeast Torrance Permit Parking District. Expenditure: \$8,000.

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

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan reported that residents have requested that the Torrance Permit Parking District be expanded because El Camino College students are taking up parking in the area; that staff conducted an analysis which confirmed that this was occurring; and that the Traffic Commission reviewed the matter and concurs with the staff recommendation.

Mayor Scotto expressed concerns that expanding the permit parking area would only shift the problem to the east side of Crenshaw at 167th and 168th Street.

Planning Manager Semaan stated that this area currently is not impacted by student parking, however, it could be included in the permit parking district if it becomes a problem in the future. He reported that there is ample parking on the college campus

and the reason students are parking on neighborhood streets is to avoid parking fees, which are \$35 per semester or \$2 per day.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment

Robin Solomon, Delia Avenue, reported that she initiated the request because students who are parking in area are interfering with trash pick-up and street sweeping and they are creating problems due to noise and littering.

Donald Spencer, Glenburn Avenue, stated that student parking is already interfering with street sweeping on his street and recommended that the permit parking district be expanded to the west to include Falda and Glenburn.

In response to Councilmember Sutherland's inquiry, Mr. Spencer reported that there are no signs on his block prohibiting parking on street sweeping days.

Public Works Director Beste noted that there is a process whereby residents can request that their street be posted with signs prohibiting parking on street sweeping days.

Alan Hayden, Cherry Avenue, voiced support for the staff recommendation. He explained that he has had to call the Torrance Police Department to have vehicles blocking his driveway towed away; that students constantly move his trash cans from the street on trash collection days so they can park; and that students litter the neighborhood with trash from fast food restaurants.

David Eberle, Cherry Avenue, also expressed support for the staff recommendation.

Harold Franzlick, Delia Avenue, stated that he sympathizes with students who are trying to avoid parking fees, but does not want them parking on his cul-de-sac.

Richard Sand, Delia Avenue, echoed concerns about students parking in the neighborhood, reporting that he has observed them parking as far away as Carr Elementary School. He noted that the new parking structure on the El Camino campus has a sign that lists the number of open parking spaces and there are typically 300-400 parking spaces available on any given day.

Councilmember Brewer asked if the Council had the ability to expand the boundaries of the permit parking district beyond what staff has recommended.

City Attorney Fellows advised that residents on the affected streets would have to be notified before any action could be taken.

Councilmember Sutherland asked if the signs installed for the permit parking could also address the street sweeping issue, and Public Works Director Beste confirmed that both items could be incorporated on one sign.

Returning to the podium, Mr. Eberle indicated that he was not in favor of imposing parking restrictions for street sweeping and believes that permit parking will

resolve the problem. He suggested that permit parking only be enforced Monday through Friday because there is no problem with student parking on weekends.

Mayor Scotto advised that per the Ordinance, the permit parking will be in effect Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. excluding holidays.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey).

ORDINANCE NO. 3726

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 61.6.32 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3726. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Furey)

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

17A. Councilmember Numark noted that he recently served as a host for the Chinese Association of Science & Technology, a group of officials from China who are interested in promoting science and technology and bringing trade to Torrance.

17B. Councilmember Rhilinger announced that the Torrance Police Department will be holding a Tip a Cop fundraiser benefiting the South Bay Special Olympics on Thursday, March 25, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Elephant Bar restaurant located at 21227 Hawthorne Boulevard.

17C. Councilmember Sutherland quoted an Irish saying and extended safe and happy St. Patrick Day wishes.

17D. Councilmember Sutherland encouraged attendance at the Tip a Cop fundraiser and noted that the Torrance Fire Fighters held a successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser last Saturday night.

17E. Councilmember Barnett thanked Public Works Director Beste and Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden for assisting a resident with a recent public works related issue.

17F. Councilmember Barnett congratulated Mayor Scotto on seeking re-election as mayor unopposed.

17G. Councilmember Brewer commended the Torrance Fire Fighters for the successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

17H. Councilmember Brewer announced the 23rd Annual Spring Boutique at Wilson Park on Sunday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

17I. Mayor Scotto echoed comments regarding the great job the Torrance Fire Fighters did on the spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

17J. Mayor Scotto thanked Councilmember Barnett for assisting the resident with the public works issue.

17K. Mayor Scotto urged residents to be cautious during St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Friday, March 19, at 4:00 p.m. for an adjourned regular meeting in the Council Chambers. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 1, 2010