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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 15, 2011

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At 7:48 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

March 15, 2011

**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 15, 2011 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Furey, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmembers Brewer and Numark.

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

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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) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator and 18B) Real Property – License/Permit Determination, pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.8 and 54956.7.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Torrance Sister City Association President Teri Kuwahara.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

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 10, 2011.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland 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 Rhilinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Brewer and Numark).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Barnett announced that a special meeting of the Strategic Plan Committee would be held on Friday, March 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library meeting room.

Mayor Scotto commented on the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan and its impact on Torrance Sister City Kashiwa, Japan. He noted that links to charitable organizations have been posted on the Torrance Sister City Association website www.torrancesistercity.org for those wishing to make donations.

Mayor Scotto read a statement from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health assuring the public that it was unlikely that there would be radiation exposure in the United States due to damaged nuclear reactors in Japan, but as a precaution the department along with State and Federal agencies will continue to monitor radiation levels in Southern California.

Police Lieutenant Mark Athan reported on the City's response to the earthquake/tsunami in Japan and encouraged the public to become involved in emergency preparedness programs offered by the Police Department. He noted that residents may sign up for real time alerts on the department's website www.Police.Torrance.CA.gov.

Fire Chief Racowschi noted that Torrance Fire Department provided backup for the City of Redondo Beach over the weekend when King Harbor was inundated with dead fish.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired Torrance Unified School District superintendent Dr. Lloyd Jones who passed away March 6.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired City employee Bill Olvera, Jr. who passed away March 10.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Gavin Wasserman, Torrance, invited the public to visit the Go For Broke National Education Center's website www.goforbroke.org which includes an archive of 1100 interviews of World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry. He reported on educational programs offered by the center to local students.

7B. Jim Lee, Torrance, thanked City staff for assisting him in getting his new business Gymboree Play and Music through the permitting process.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT RE DEL AMO BLVD. EXTENSION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council award a consulting services agreement to Koury Geotechnical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$99,000 and for a term through December 31, 2013 to perform materials testing and geotechnical services for the Del Amo Boulevard Extension, T-30; Federal Project No. ESPLRSTP 5249-(021).

8B. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS/PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT RE DOWNTOWN SEWER REHABILITATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$9,237.45 from the Sewer Impact Fee Program Fund to the Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation, I-69;
- 2) Approve a budget transfer of \$280,000 from I-70 to the Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation, I-69;
- 3) Approve the plans and specifications for the Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation, Phase 2, I-69 (B2011-03);
- 4) Award a public works agreement to the lowest bidder, Nikola Corporation in the amount of \$208,081 for a one year term; and
- 5) Authorize a 10% contingency in the amount of \$20,808.10.

8C. PURCHASE ORDER RE CHEMICALS FOR GOLDSWORTHY DESALTER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council award the following purchase orders to furnish chemicals for the Goldsworthy Desalter Facility and Well No. 9 for a two year period (B2011-10):

- 1) Award a purchase order to King Lee Technology of San Diego, CA in a not to exceed amount of \$134,000;
- 2) Award a purchase order to Carus Corporation of Peru, IL in a not to exceed amount of \$90,000;
- 3) Award a purchase order to JCI Jones Chemicals of Torrance, CA in a not to exceed amount of \$144,000; and
- 4) Award a purchase order to Basic Chemical Solutions LLC of Santa Fe Springs, CA in a not to exceed amount of \$150,000.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved for approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8C. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhlinger and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Brewer and Numark).

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. APPROVAL OF DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS/PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR 2011-13 OPERATING BUDGET AND 2011-12 CAPITAL BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director and the City Manager that City Council approve June 7 and June 14 as dates to conduct two budget workshops/public hearings on the City's two-year 2011-2013 Operating Budget and the 2011-2012 Capital Budget, and if needed adopt the budget on June 21.

Finance Director Tsao advised that the budget workshops/public hearings were being delayed until June in order to more accurately predict revenues and that a \$2.5 – \$3 million deficit is projected, but this shortfall can be mitigated because expenditures are currently 2.7% under budget. He noted that the shortfall has occurred primarily because revenues from utility users' tax and investment income have fallen short of budget estimates.

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

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The City Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 7:37 p.m. to 7:38 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Sutherland wished his wife a happy birthday.

17B. Councilmember Sutherland announced that El Paso Cantina will be hosting a fundraiser on March 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., with 25% of sales to be donated to the Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes.

17C. Councilmember Sutherland reported that Redondo Beach held its first vote-by-mail election last Tuesday, which resulted in a considerable reduction in cost and an increase in participation, noting that the Council's attempt to bring vote-by-mail elections to Torrance last year was derailed by claims to the contrary.

17D. Councilmember Sutherland shared an Irish blessing in honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

17E. Councilmember Barnett announced that beginning on March 31, 2011, a certified farmers' market will be held in Downtown Torrance every Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the corner of El Prado and Sartori Avenue.

17F. Councilmember Furey reported on the Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee's trip to Washington, DC, the previous week. He noted that the Committee, which is comprised of Mayor Scotto, Councilmember Brewer and himself, was accompanied by Police Chief Neu, Fire Chief Racowschi, Public Works Director Beste and Assistant City Manager Giordano and they met with representatives of Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein to discuss funding opportunities for local projects and they also met with staff from the Department of Interior, Department of Justice and FEMA.

17G. Councilmember Furey announced that there is free tax counseling for seniors sponsored by AARP until April 15, Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the lower level of the West Annex at City Hall, with additional information available at 310.618.2724.

17H. Councilmember Furey wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and offered an authentic Irish blessing.

17I. Mayor Scotto stated that the purpose of the trip to Washington, DC, was to discuss several exciting projects the City hopes to move forward with over the next few years and the information received was encouraging. He commended City staff who went along on the trip, noting that Assistant City Manager Giordano did an excellent job of arranging meetings and preparing brochures to give to legislators, which were very well received.

Assistant City Manager Giordano acknowledged Jay Scharfman and Eleanor Barthe-Jones for their work in preparing the brochures.

17J. Mayor Scotto wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and encouraged people to contribute to relief efforts in Japan.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:48 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

*Adjourned in Memory of
Dr. Lloyd Jones and Bill Olvera, Jr.*

Attest:

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on April 26, 2011