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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 19, 2010

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At 4:28 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

March 19, 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 4:02 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Management Associate Barthe-Jones.

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 Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey 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 Numark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Management Associate Barthe-Jones made a brief announcement regarding the 2010 Census, noting the Census Bureau does not release or share any information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years. She noted that additional information about the census is available online at www.2010census.gov.

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.

Councilmember Furey, chair of the City Council Ad Hoc Ballot Measure Committee, reported that he and Councilmember Rhilinger and Councilmember Barnett met on a number of occasions to prepare an argument in favor of Measure A, which would change the City's general municipal election from the same date as the statewide primary to a stand-alone election on the last Tuesday in April of even-numbered years thereby making it possible for the Torrance Unified School District to consolidate its election with the City's election and potentially saving \$250,000 or more every election cycle.

Councilmember Sutherland voiced his opinion that the argument was very clear and concise and thanked committee members for their efforts.

Mayor Scotto wanted to make clear that the Council's only goal in bringing forward the ballot measure to change the City's election date was to save money. He noted that the argument has been made that stand-alone elections result in low voter turnout, however statistics that have been quoted referencing a 9% turnout were from an uncontested election.

The Council briefly recessed from 4:13 p.m. to 4:16 p.m.

For the benefit of the public, Councilmember Rhilinger read the argument.

Councilmember Furey noted that Redondo Beach has experienced an increase in voter turnout since city and school district elections were consolidated because while there is some overlap, each of these elections attracts a different segment of voters.

Councilmember Brewer related his belief that having a stand-alone election on a set date was preferable because the State has a history of changing the date of the primary.

Councilmember Sutherland emphasized that this Council has nothing to gain by changing the election date as it would shorten their terms by six weeks.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to approve the ballot argument in favor of Measure A as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. At Councilmember Sutherland's request, City Clerk Herbers reviewed the procedure for accessing election information on the City's website.

17B. Councilmember Brewer announced an event celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Seaside Ranchos to be held at Seaside Elementary School on Saturday, March 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

17C. Councilmember Furey noted that he missed the previous City Council meeting because he was attending the National League of Cities conference in Washington and will be reporting on the conference at the next Council meeting.

17D. Mayor Scotto announced that there will be a dedication ceremony for the new sign for Zamperini Field on Tuesday, March 23, at 3:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:28 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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