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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL JULY 7, 2015

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At 8:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday July 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business to commence 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, July 7, 2015 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, 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 City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 18B) Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9(d)(1) 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, July 2, 2015.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett 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 Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material was available for Item 12A.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Weideman announced that South Bay Cities Council of Governments has appointed Torrance resident Charles M. Deemer to the Metro South Bay Service Council.

Mayor Furey thanked Councilmember Goodrich for serving as Mayor Pro Tem for the past six months and welcomed Councilmember Rizzo who will be serving in this position for the next six months.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Agenda Item 8D was considered out of order at this time.

8D. APPROVAL OF DESIGN FOR 2017 ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee that City Council:

- 1) Approve the design entitled "A Purr-fectly Paw-ful Adventure" for the City's float entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2016;
- 2) Authorize an agreement between the City of Torrance and Fiesta Parade Floats of Irwindale, CA for the design, construction, entry, display and operation of the Torrance Float in the 2016 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade;
- 3) Authorize the expenditure of \$150,000 for costs related to the float including a \$25,000 contribution from the Torrance Rose Float Association; and
- 4) Authorize the use of the City's Fire Department shoulder patch design to be incorporated in the City's 2016 Rose Parade float and on promotional t-shirts.

Georgean Griswold, president of Torrance Rose Float Association, recognized charter members present at the meeting.

Tim Estes, president of Fiesta Parade Floats, shared a rendering of the proposed design for the 2016 Torrance Rose Parade float entitled, "A Purr-fectly Paw-ful Adventure," noting that the theme for 2016 Tournament of Roses Parade is "Find Your Adventure."

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, noted a scrivener's error in the contract, and Cultural Services Manager Rappoport reported that error was corrected per supplemental material.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to concur with the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

6A. RECOGNITION OF TORRANCE SOUTH BAY WMCA FOR WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Mayor Furey recognized the Torrance South Bay WMCA for their water conservation efforts, which have resulted in a savings of 12,000 gallons per day and a 30% overall reduction in water use, and challenged other Torrance businesses to do their part in conserving water.

Bob Shafer, Torrance South Bay WMCA, reported that the UV filtration system was installed to improve the quality of pool water in addition to saving water.

6B. RECOGNITION OF ROTARY CLUB OF TAIPEI TAIWAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

John Palemo, president of Del Amo Rotary Club, reported that each year the club participates in a student exchange program with a foreign country and introduced this year's students from Taipei, Taiwan, who briefly commented on their visit. Mayor Furey presented them with City of Torrance pins.

6C. RECOGNITION OF CITY OF TORRANCE AS SILVER SPONSOR OF RELAY FOR LIFE

Brian Sunshine, on behalf of the American Cancer Relay for Life, presented the Silver Sponsor Award to the City of Torrance, noting that this year's Relay for Life raised over \$200,000.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Steven Petrulli, Torrance, expressed concerns about his landlord, who has threatened to evict him because he complained about the condition of the property.

7B. Bob Chiota, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 53, announced a fundraiser at the Comedy and Magic Club on Wednesday, September 2, with additional information available at www.VVA53.org.

7C. Georgan Griswold, Torrance Rose Float Association, announced that a Restaurants for Roses fundraiser will be held at Gaetano's Restaurant on Wednesday, July 8.

7D. Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, offered a reminder that Rock Around the Block, a 50s themed block party, will be held on Thursday, July 9, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in front the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue.

7E. Mark Stephenson, Torrance, expressed concerns that compensation packages for City of Torrance employees far exceed wages in the private sector, and about the burden placed on Torrance taxpayers to cover rising pension costs for police and fire personnel. In an effort to curb excessive compensation packages and improve transparency, he urged that the Council appoint of an independent negotiator who can be removed via elections; mandate that every City Councilmember disclose any communication about negotiations with a representative of an employee association; and require that a labor contract be discussed at two City Council meetings prior to any vote and be posted on the City's website at least two weeks before the first meeting.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of June 2 and June 19, 2015.

8B. MAY 2015 INVESTMENT REPORT

Considered separately, see page 4.

8C. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT RE BRIDGE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve and execute a cooperative agreement between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles, establishing the terms and conditions related to extending the service life of the bridges located within Los Angeles County that are jurisdictionally owned by the City of Torrance; and
- 2) Adopt a finding of a categorical exemption per staff determination, pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program, I-124.

8D. APPROVAL OF DESIGN FOR 2017 ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Considered separately, see page 2.

8E. FEE AGREEMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Attorney and Public Works Director that City Council approve a fee agreement with the law firm of Rutan & Tucker, LLP of Costa Mesa, CA, for development of additional potable water wells and retention of a hydrogeologist for a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.

8F. PURCHASE ORDER FOR COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Communications and Information Technology Director and Police Chief that City Council authorize an annual purchase order with En Pointe Technologies Sales, Inc. of Gardena, CA for Microsoft and other computer software on an as-requested basis for an amount not to exceed \$136,000 for the period of July 8, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A, 8C, 8E and 8F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

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

8B. MAY 2015 INVESTMENT REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of May 2015.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the May 2015 monthly investment report, which was provided by Finance Director Tsao.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman move to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. MAINTENANCE OF FORMER FARM LAND AT TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Airport Commission that the City Council concur with recommendation of staff to continue to maintain the former farming area at Torrance Municipal Airport - Zamperini Field and not lease site for farming.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine reported that the Ishibashi family farmed a 24-acre plot at the east end of Torrance Airport for almost 60 years, but decided not to continue the month-to-month lease after Mr. Ishibashi's death and the land has been vacant for approximately 5 years. He explained that staff explored the possibility of soliciting an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a new farming operation to take over the site to help defray the cost of weed abatement, which costs approximately \$30,000 annually, but after careful consideration, staff was recommending that the land remain vacant because such an operation would diminish the effectiveness of new security measures designed to harden the airport as a security target. He noted that the Airport Commission considered this item on May 14, 2015 and concurred with the staff recommendation by a vote of 4-1. He provided clarification regarding supplemental material from the Public Works Department regarding new storm water regulations, which require that any farming operation redesign the site's drainage system to prevent pollutants such as fertilizer and pesticides from flowing into storm drains.

Mayor Furey voiced his opinion that a farming operation was no longer feasible at this location due to airport security issues and new storm water regulations.

Councilmember Weideman expressed support for the staff recommendation, noting that the supplemental material indicates that the farming operation was identified as a major source of nutrient pollution flowing into Machado Lake.

Councilmember Griffiths noted that he was in favor of allowing a farming operation at this site because he felt the community benefited from the previous farm's roadside stand, which offered flowers and fresh produce at a reasonable price, however, he recognizes that it may longer be possible.

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

12B. REORGANIZATION OF CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE/HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve the following staffing changes:

- 1) Upgrade 1.0 Staff Assistant to 1.0 Management Associate, and
- 2) Upgrade .5 Human Resources Analyst to 1.0 Human Resources Analyst.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reviewed the proposed staffing changes to the City Manager's Office and Human Resources Division.

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

12C. ANNUAL CLAIM FOR TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT AND STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FUNDS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve the submittal of the annual claim to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) for \$5,939,241 in Transportation Development Act funds (TDA) and \$930,966 in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for the Torrance Transit System fiscal year 2015-2016.

Transit Administration Manager Mills reported that Transportation Development Act funds and State Transit Assistance funds are distributed on a formula basis and will be used for preventative maintenance and operating expenses during fiscal year 2015-2016.

Charles Deemer, Torrance, requested clarification regarding toll credits to be used for the local match requirement, which was provided by Transit Administration Manager Mills.

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

12D. APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR SOUTHERN TARPLANT PRESERVE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve and adopt a Resolution to apply for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant funds for the start-up and early management of the Torrance Southern Tarplant Preserve.

Nature Center Manager Drake reported that the \$500,000 grant would cover the start-up costs for the Torrance Southern Tarplant Preserve and approximately four years of management and monitoring.

Mayor Furey commended staff for finding a potential source of funding for the Southern Tarplant Preserve, which was an unanticipated expense associated with the new Torrance Regional Transit Center.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM

MOTION: Councilmember Rizzo moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-57. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by unanimous vote.

12E. MODIFICATIONS TO 2013-2018 CAPITAL BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council approve and appropriate modifications to the City's 2013-2018 Capital Budget.

Finance Director Tsao reported that the City received \$9.8 million on July 1, 2015 in conjunction with the boundary modification between the City of Torrance and the City of Rolling Hills Estates and approximately \$2.6 million was previously allocated for repairs/improvements to the Cultural Arts Center (\$2.179 million), to pre-fund the 2016 and the 2017 Torrance Rose Parade floats (\$250,000), and provide temporary funding for additional crossing guards for four years (\$169,800). Based on the City Council's direction, staff was recommending that the remaining \$7.2 million be allocated as follows:

- \$3.0 million to reduce pension liabilities at Public Employees Retirement System
- \$1.4 million to supplement the City's Self-Insurance Fund
- \$825,000 for Police Mobile Command Center
- \$50,000 for Police Officer Body Camera Pilot Project
- \$500,000 for shade canopy at Torino Plaza
- \$500,000 for 186th Street Improvements at Columbia Park
- \$200,000 for Bluff Street Improvements
- \$225,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades
- \$21,680 additional funding for installation of bollards at Wilson Park
- \$480,000 for future Fire Station 1 (headquarters) property/facility enhancements.

City Manager Jackson confirmed that should any of the projects come in under budget, the matter will be brought back to the Council so the funds can be reallocated.

Mayor Furey voiced support for the staff recommendation, relating his belief that this was a prudent use of one-time funds.

In response to Councilmember Rizzo's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao reported that approximately \$60,000 has accumulated in the replacement fund for the existing Police Mobile Command Center and part of this will be used to pre-fund the replacement fund for the new vehicle for the next 1-2 years, after which the remainder will be rolled into the budget.

Councilmember Weideman recalled that the Council received a status report approximately a month ago indicating that the technology for body cameras for police officers was not at a point where staff would recommend them.

Police Chief Matsuda advised that the body camera pilot program would take place after testing of in-car video cameras has been completed in late 2016 or early 2017 at which time the next generation of body cameras should be available.

Councilmember Weideman requested clarification of the additional funding requested for the installation of bollards at Wilson Park.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian reported that the initial request for funding in the amount of \$178,000 was based on a rough estimate and the new amount was based on actual bids received from contractors.

Councilmember Weideman commended staff for allocating the majority of the funds to reduce pension liabilities and supplement the Self-Insurance Fund as the Council had directed, which is in keeping with the City's practice of spending funds wisely.

In response to Councilmember Ashcraft's inquiry, Police Chief Matsuda reported that the new Police Mobile Command Center will be housed in an existing structure next to the police department and confirmed that the vehicle will be designed to be flexible in order to accommodate future technology upgrades.

Councilmember Ashcraft asked about funding for future equipment upgrades.

Finance Director Tsao reported that the police department has relied on asset forfeiture funds for the replacement of equipment in the past, however staff was working to expand the police department's operational budget so a more stable source of funding will be available in the future.

Councilmember Griffiths stressed the need to set aside replacement funding for the Mobile Command Center so it can be kept up-to-date and replaced as needed since it is a critical piece of equipment.

City Manager Jackson advised that this issue will be discussed at the mid-year budget review.

Councilmember Griffiths noted that the funds allocated for ADA upgrades will cover the design phase only and expressed concerns that ADA regulations could change before the upgrades are implemented.

Conceding that ADA regulations are evolving, Facility Operations Manager Landis doubted that these upgrades, which involve improving accessibility for restrooms and enlarging entrances, would be affected by any changes.

Councilmember Barnett commended staff for allocating the one-time funds in a prudent manner in accordance with the Council's direction.

At Councilmember Ashcraft's request, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided clarification regarding the shade canopy to be erected in Torino Plaza. He explained that the canopy will consist of a permanent structure with replaceable panels and it will shelter the plaza from the sun and the wind making the area more functional for special events thereby increasing its rental potential.

Councilmember Ashcraft expressed an interest in reviewing the design of the canopy.

City Manager Jackson advised that the shade canopy has not yet been designed and it will be brought back for the Council's approval prior to the bidding process. He confirmed that if the Council elects not to go forward with the canopy at that time, the money will be reallocated.

Milton Herring, Torrance, stated that he was pleased money was being allocated to pay down unfunded pension liabilities, however, he would have liked to have seen more funds allocated for this purpose to avoid burdening future generations. He questioned the wisdom of appropriating funding for the body camera pilot program which is two or three years away.

City Manager Jackson advised that there was a high probability that the City will be exploring the use of some type of body camera for police officers in the future and staff felt it was prudent to set aside funding for a pilot program at this time.

Mayor Furey noted that the City could benefit by having these monies available should there be a grant program for body cameras which requires matching funds.

Mr. Herring asked about improvements planned for Fire Station 1, and City Manager Jackson reported that there was a potential opportunity to enhance the property but he could not disclose the details because they involve matters discussed in executive session.

Mr. Herring expressed support for improving Fire Station 1 and commended staff and the Council for their efforts.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, commended the City for allocating funding to reduce pension liabilities, but expressed concerns that approximately \$1 billion in pension debt will remain and questioned what measures were being considered to solve the problem of this massive debt. He also expressed concerns about the large increase in workers' compensation claims and suggested that consideration be given to imposing safety goals as part of merit pay authorization procedures to provide an incentive for reducing workplace accidents.

Councilmember Goodrich commended staff and his colleagues on the Council for taking a very conservative approach in allocating these one-time funds.

In response to Councilmember Goodrich's inquiry, Police Chief Matsuda confirmed that the new Mobile Command Center will include provisions for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and TARA (Torrance Amateur Radio Association) volunteers, noting that TARA will be consulted regarding the equipment to be included.

Councilmember Goodrich expressed reservations about allocating \$500,000 for the shade canopy for Torino Plaza, explaining that while a number of groups use the plaza and he does see a need for it, he would rather that these funds be used for improving roadways since the City has millions of dollars in road projects outstanding and he felt this should continue to be an area of focus.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, citing recent water main breaks, asked if money has been set aside to improve water infrastructure.

City Manager Jackson advised that improvements/repairs to water infrastructure are funded by water users and changes to rate structures will be considered in the next year or so to provide long-range funding for capital improvements.

Councilmember Weideman recalled that the last budget was particularly aggressive with regard to Public Works projects involving street repairs/improvements.

Deputy Public Works Director Bilezerian reported that last year the Council allocated additional one-time funds of \$1 million plus \$450,000 annually for five fiscal years to expand the Residential Slurry Seal Program and within the last few weeks, the largest slurry seal project the City has ever undertaken was approved, which involves both residential and arterial roadways along with some areas at the Torrance Airport.

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

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Weideman offered a reminder about Rock Around the Block on Thursday, July 17, with Councilmember Ashcraft adding that it will take place in front of the Torrance Historical Museum from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

17B. Councilmember Barnett noted that Torrance resident Shannon Boxx is a member of the U.S Women’s National Team that recently won the World Cup and requested that staff arrange to recognize her at a future City Council meeting.

17C. Councilmember Goodrich announced that there will be a Veterans Career Summit at L.A. Trade Tech College in the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall on Tuesday, July 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with additional information available at www.10Kstrongsummit.com.

17D. Councilmember Rizzo requested an excused absence for the July 14, 2015 City Council meeting because he will be attending a family reunion in North Carolina.

17E. Bob Chiota, Torrance, encouraged military veterans to attend the Veterans Career Summit.

17F. Georgean Griswold, Torrance Rose Float Association, reported that Jim Hynd the floral designer for Fiesta Parade Floats received the industry’s highest award for float design last weekend in Colorado. She related her experience that there is a need for a shade canopy at Torino Plaza

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business to commence at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ R. Poirier

Rebecca Poirier
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on August 4, 2015