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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 3, 2013

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At 8:06 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. for a City Council preventing workplace harassment training session, with regular business 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 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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 the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9(d)(1).

The City Council reconvened at 7:02 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 Peggy Dowell, Torrance Performing Arts Consortium.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Rabbi Gary Spero.

**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, November 27, 2013.

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 Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material available for item 6A.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Racowschi announced that ExxonMobil will be conducting their monthly Community Alert Siren testing on Wednesday, December 4, at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310.212.1852.

Councilmember Brewer announced that a City Council preventing workplace harassment training session will be held Tuesday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

City Clerk Herbers invited staff and public to view the oils of Torrance Artist Guild member Velda Ishizaki on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of December.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2013-81 RE CLIFF NUMARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-81

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING COUNCILMAN **CLIFF NUMARK** FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-81. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6B. PROCLAMATION HONORING SCOTT GOBBLE

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation to Scott Gobble in recognition of his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to Southern California Edison and the Torrance community.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Steve Norris, Arts Council of Torrance, requested that the City Council establish a ten-year moratorium on increasing rental rates for use of Cultural Arts Center facilities by Torrance based non-profit organizations.

7B. David Smock, resident, reported that nearby residents are still being disturbed by construction noise at the Montessori school site on Hawthorne Boulevard despite a complaint filed last week regarding work being done outside the permitted hours of construction.

7C. Mark Stephenson, resident, expressed concerns regarding the City's use of revenue from water rate increases to pay Redevelopment Agency bad debt expense. He voiced objections to the use of taxpayer funds for the proposed ethics program (Item 12A).

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT FOR CITYWIDE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Communications & Information Technology Director and Finance Director that City Council approve the purchase of annual software maintenance and support for the City-wide financial system from New World Systems of Troy, MI, in the amount of \$59,311 for the period beginning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Item 8A. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. APPROVAL OF ETHICS PROGRAM FOR 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council appropriate \$65,000 from the reserve for program contingency and approve \$10,000 from the City Clerk's operating budget for a total amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the implementation of a proposed ethics program for the 2014 municipal election.

Management Associate Hoang provided an overview of the proposed ethics program for the 2014 municipal election. He reported that the City Clerk was recommending that \$10,000 of the proposed \$75,000 in funding be used to retain ethics consultant Rod Diridon to assist staff with the design and implementation of the program. He noted that the program includes an Ethics Training for Candidates for Elective Office class to be held on March 17, 2014 in the George Nakano Theatre.

City Clerk Herbers emphasized that the program is fair and impartial and does not seek to influence voters, but rather to educate them about resources available so they can make an informed decision based on their own political, ethical and moral ideology.

Councilmember Weideman recommended that the City consider offering the Nakano Theatre free of charge to homeowners groups for candidate forums since they are having a difficult time finding venues with sufficient capacity.

City Clerk Herbers reported that the City Clerk's outreach budget includes funding to sponsor at least one candidate forum and the Toyota Auto Museum is also available for this type of event.

Mark Stephenson, resident, expressed concerns about plans for the City to direct voters to websites that might present a biased viewpoint. He requested clarification regarding a previous contract involving Rod Diridon, which was provided by staff.

Mayor Scotto explained that the City will only post links to non-partisan, unbiased websites that do not promote a particular candidate or viewpoint. He emphasized that the goal of this program is to encourage people to become better informed voters.

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

13. HEARINGS

13A. ADOPTION OF 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing and receive input regarding the adoption of ORDINANCE 3768 adopting the California Fire Code, 2013 Edition;
- 2) Hold second and final reading of Ordinance No. 3768 adopting the California Fire Code 2013 with local amendments; and
- 3) Approve an ordinance summary for publication.

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

Fire Prevention Manager Mapes reviewed the staff recommendation.

As no one from the public came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to concur with the staff recommendation and approve an ordinance summary for publication. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3768

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO
THE 2013 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3768. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Mayor Scotto acknowledged high school students present at the meeting and suggested that the City's ethics program would be a good topic for a class project/term paper.

17B. Councilmember Brewer announced that the Torrance Theatre Company will be presenting *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* on December 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14 and tickets are available by calling 424.243.6882.

17C. Councilmember Brewer announced that the South Bay Ballet will be presenting *The Nutcracker* December 20 through December 22 at the El Camino College Center for Performing Arts.

17D. Commissioner Sutherland commended the Torrance Fire Department for providing Thanksgiving dinner for a victim of a recent fire at Knoll's Lodge mobile home park.

17E. Councilmember Weideman stated that he was honored to attend the menorah lighting in front of City Hall earlier this evening.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:06 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. for a City Council preventing workplace harassment training session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on January 14, 2014