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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 19, 2013

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At 10:21 p.m., the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting 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 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember Numark.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by TUSD Board Vice President Terry Ragins.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Sutherland.

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, November 14, 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 Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Item 18A was withdrawn and Executive Session was cancelled.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee had met earlier to discuss the 1st Quarter Budget review.

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

Mayor Scotto reported that the City Council Ad Hoc Legislative Committee met with representatives of the City's advocacy consulting firm, Joe Gonsalves & Son, on November 12 and was provided with an update on current affairs at the state level and this meeting confirmed the importance of having a lobbyist in Sacramento in order to secure funding for key projects.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lawndale Mayor Harold Hoffman who passed away November 16 at the age of 81.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of Elaine Sunshine, mother of City Manager Assistant Brian Sunshine, who passed away November 6 at the age of 83.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2013-79 RE BECKY TORTORICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-79

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING **BECKY TORTORICE** OF THE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-79. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

To be presented at a later date.

6B. PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. OWEN H. GRIFFITH

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation to **Dr. Owen H. Griffith** honoring him for his outstanding contributions to the Torrance Unified School District and the Torrance community.

TUSD Board Vice President Terry Ragins commended Dr. Griffith for his role in shaping Torrance schools and his continued service to the community.

6C. PRESENTATION BY DISCOVER TORRANCE

Economic Development Manager Fulton introduced Discover Torrance Board Executive Director Ralph Witsell who gave a brief presentation on the Shop, Hops, and Slumber Holiday Marketing Campaign.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Roberta Van Den Akker, resident, expressed concerns regarding a nursing home on 231st Street, which has been painted garish colors to the dismay of neighbors.

7B. Lee Kasiadian, resident, also expressed concerns regarding a nursing home on 231st Street, noting that construction has disrupted the neighborhood.

7C. Karen Lent and Dina Wiley, Friends of Hollywood Riviera, proposed that a Hollywood Riviera gateway sign be installed at Palos Verdes Boulevard and Catalina Avenue/Monte D'Oro.

7D. Carol, Gilles, Torrance Rose Float Association, announced that residents may sign up to help decorate Torrance's 2014 Rose Float at TRFA's meeting on Thursday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber and that raffle tickets are available for a chance to ride on the float on the TRFA website.

7E. Janet Payne, Old Torrance Neighborhood Association, announced that the 5th annual Taste of Old Torrance will be held on Wednesday, November 20, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the Bartlett Center located at 1318 Cravens Avenue, which will benefit the "Food for Kids" program.

7F. Patricia Picker, resident, voiced objections to the operation of a nursing home on 231st Street in a residential neighborhood due to the impact on property values.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of October 8, October 15, and October 22, 2013.

8B. PURCHASE ORDER FOR 2014 HONDA CR-V LX VEHICLES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Chief of Police that City Council award a purchase order to DCH Gardena Honda of Gardena, CA for the purchase of six (6) 2014 Honda CR-V LX vehicles (B2013-43) in the amount of \$150,753.72 (including sales tax).

8C. FEE AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council:

- 1) Approve a fee agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore to provide legal services in the case of Alaina Clark v. City of Torrance, et al., for a total contract amount not to exceed \$285,000, and,
- 2) Appropriate \$235,000 from the Self-Insurance Reserve Fund.

8D. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE TORRANCE BATTING CAGES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve the first amendment to the amended and restated concession agreement (C2008-227) with Tyler Sports, Inc., to exercise the first option extending the term of the agreement for two years through November 30, 2015 for the lease and full operation of the Torrance Batting Cages.

8E. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEADOW PARK PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE FEE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council establish the Meadow Park Parking Lot maintenance fee at \$62.93 per space per year to cover the cost of maintenance of the parking lots.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. 2013-2018 CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt the 2013-2018 Five-Year Capital Budget Plan.

With the aid of slides, Finance Director Tsao highlighted Capital Projects completed within the last three fiscal years and provided an overview of the proposed 2013-2018 Five-Year Capital Budget Plan.

Councilmember Barnett asked about the possibility of funding the landscaping portion of the Del Amo Boulevard Project since the project itself has been deferred.

City Manager Jackson advised that funding would have to be eliminated from another recommended project to fund the landscaping.

Councilmember Furey expressed concerns that the 182nd Street Rehabilitation Project has been delayed until 2017-2018.

Public Works Director Beste reported that no funding has been identified for this project since currently Measure R funds cannot be used for rehabilitation projects.

Councilmember Furey requested that staff provide information about the disparity in Measure R funds generated by Torrance versus the amount it receives.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste discussed the proposed funding (\$600,000) to optimize street sweeping in order to comply with NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) requirements.

Mayor Scotto questioned whether there was a need to provide funding to permanently cement bricks in the Centennial Plaza, and City Manager Jackson advised that staff was exploring other less costly options to repair the plaza.

The City Council briefly recessed from 8:48 p.m. to 9:03 p.m.

Mayor Scotto invited public comment.

Jim Tarvin, resident, expressed support for providing funding for the 186th Street Improvement Project, which will enhance the parking situation at Columbia Park and improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

Krishna Nand, resident, requested that the City improve the right-of-way that runs from 224th to 229th Street along Madrona Avenue with low maintenance landscaping and a walking path, noting that this area has long been neglected as evidenced by photographs submitted for the record.

City Manager Jackson advised that there is no funding available for such a project at this time, and a brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of turning the area into a park should funding become available in the future.

Sarada Nilakantan, resident, echoed concerns about the unsightly right-of-way along Madrona Avenue and requested that the Council take action to correct this problem.

Eleazar "Lee" Ybarra, resident, requested that the Council consider funding median improvements for Del Amo Boulevard.

Norm Seigel, Bluff Street, expressed concerns that the Bluff Street Drainage Modification Project has been listed for "Discussion Only." He reported that water seepage is an ongoing problem and algae is building up again on the street despite recent efforts to clean it up, submitting photographs to illustrate.

Mayor Scotto reported that he visited the site and related his belief that drainage issues would be greatly improved if standing water on a neighbor's property was eliminated.

Carlos Barrios, Bluff Street, echoed concerns about water seepage on Bluff Street.

Bob Bush, Bluff Street, requested that the Council allocate the \$200,000 staff has estimated to install a drainpipe on Bluff Street and eliminate funding for a lower priority item.

Mayor Scotto emphasized that the drainpipe will not eliminate the problem, which is due to drainage issues on private property.

Joe Luttrell, Bluff Street, reported that the drainage issue is a major problem on Bluff Street since people must walk in the street due to the lack of sidewalks and the liquid gets tracked onto driveways and dirties cars. He expressed his willingness to work with his neighbor to eliminate the standing water, but requested the Council's help if this does not correct the problem.

Elaine Barrios, Bluff Street, echoed concerns about drainage issues on Bluff Street.

City Manager Jackson requested input from the Council.

Councilmember Barnett, echoed by Councilmember Weideman, requested that staff explore the cost of landscaping the median on Del Amo Boulevard along with a funding source for the project.

Councilmember Furey recommended that City staff contact the neighbor on Bluff Street who has the standing water on her property to emphasize the importance of cleaning this up.

Mayor Scotto requested that staff come up with a firm price for installing a drainpipe on Bluff Street. He also requested that staff provide possible scenarios and an estimate for improving the right-of-way along Madrona Avenue.

City Manager Jackson suggested that the Council approve the non-General Fund portion of the Capital Budget and staff will return with the requested information at a later date.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to approve the non-General Fund portion of the Capital Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark)

12B. ADOPTION OF LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution with Finding of Fact in support of certain City of Torrance local amendments to the California Fire Code, 2013 Edition;
- 2) Hold first reading of an Ordinance adopting the California Fire Code 2013 with local amendments; and
- 3) Approve an ordinance summary for publication.

Assistant Fire Chief Serna reviewed the process for adopting local amendments to the 2013 California Fire Code, which includes a public hearing scheduled for December 3, 2013.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-80

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF UNIQUE GEOLOGIC, TOPOGRAPHIC, AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE JUSTIFYING AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE 2013 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE, INCLUDING CERTAIN APPENDICES

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-80. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

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 (absent Councilmember Numark).

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

17A. Councilmember Sutherland announced that the Salvation Army will be holding a concert and sing-along on Sunday, December 8, at the Armstrong Theatre, with additional information available at 310.370.4515.

17B. Councilmember Sutherland reported that he recently attended a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the sixth anniversary of a local business.

17C. Councilmember Sutherland commented on assistance being provided by the U.S. military to storm ravaged areas of the Philippines.

17D. Councilmember Barnett offered a reminder that the 34th annual Turkey Trot three-mile fun run will be held on Thursday, November 28, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Sam's Club parking lot, with additional information available on the City's website.

17E. Councilmember Brewer announced that the South Bay Conservancy will be presenting the musical *Annie* on Friday, November 23, and Saturday, November 24, at the Armstrong Theatre, with tickets available by calling the box office at 310.781.7171.

17F. Councilmember Brewer announced that the Community Services Department is offering winter camps for children and teens at Greenwood Park, with additional information available on the City's website.

17G. Councilmember Furey announced that the Community Services Department will be presenting "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 14, in the Toyota Meeting Hall and registration for residents begins today through December 6 and non-residents may register beginning December 3.

17H. Councilmember Furey noted that Friday, November 22, will be the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

17I. Mayor Scotto reported on the groundbreaking ceremony held the previous day for the Maple Avenue athletic fields, relating his belief that they will greatly contribute to the quality of life in Torrance.

17J. Councilmember Sutherland announced that there will be a "Tip a Cop" fundraiser at B.J.'s Restaurant on Wednesday, November 20, from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Item 18A was withdrawn.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:21 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

***Adjourned in Memory of
Harold Hoffman and Elaine Sunshine***

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 December 17, 2013