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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 23, 2014**

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At 8:04 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Tuesday, December 30, 2014 and Tuesday, January 5, 2014 will be City Council dark nights.

December 23, 2014

**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, December 23, 2014 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 the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:01 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 Barnett.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Goodrich.

**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, December 18, 2014.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich 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 Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material was available for Items 8H, 8I, 12F and 12G.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fire Chief Racowschi announced that ExxonMobil would be conducting their monthly community siren alert testing on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310-212-1852.

Councilmember Weideman reported that the City Council Citizen Development Committee held a joint meeting with the Torrance Unified School District on Thursday, December 18, and topics included future bond sales, updates on Measures T and U projects, and a status report on joint use agreements and joint projects.

Mayor Furey asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired city employee Keith Kalkanoff, who passed away December 7 at the age of 71.

Mayor Furey reported that he visited Shery High School last Friday and spoke to senior U.S. government classes about the importance of local, state and federal government and the need for civic involvement. He noted that he will be giving his presentation at other Torrance high schools beginning in January and plans to reach out to as many high school seniors as possible.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF ARTS COUNCIL OF TORRANCE DONATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve a total of \$10,500 in donations from the Arts Council of Torrance to be used towards the purchase and installation of a light board in the James R. Armstrong Theatre.

Steve Norris, president of Arts Council of Torrance, presented the donation to Mayor Furey, who accepted with appreciation.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to accept and appropriate the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**7A.** Bob Chiota, South Bay Bocce Courts Project, reported on efforts to build three state-of-the-art bocce courts with access for the physically disabled at Columbia Park and encouraged people to earmark year-end donations for this project.

**7B.** Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, thanked all who assisted with the premiere of the movie *Unbroken* on Tuesday, December 16. She shared a postcard showing the lighting of the Pacific Electric Railway-El Prado Bridge on December 2, 2014.

**7C.** Councilmember Ashcraft, with the concurrence of Council, requested that consideration be given to naming Pueblo Park after Ruben and Irene Ortiz or recognizing them in some other form for spearheading the effort to develop this park.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of November 18, November 25, and December 2, 2014.

**8B. FEE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve a second amendment to the fee agreement with Rutan & Tucker (C2012-007) to provide general advice to the City for an additional \$25,000 for a new not exceed contract amount of \$70,000.

**8C. LEASE ASSIGNMENT RE CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 25200-25202 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption pursuant Guideline 15301 (existing facilities); and
- 2) Approve lease assignment from current lessee Robert Hollis to Atef Hanna and David Hanna.

**8D. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES**

Considered separately, see page 4.

**8E. FEE AGREEMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve a fee agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore to provide legal services to the City pertaining to personnel matter #A14-013112, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$30,000.

**8F. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF CIVIC CENTER DIGITAL SIGN**

Considered separately, see page 4.

**8G. CONTRACT AMENDMENT RE ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve a contract amendment with Superior Alliance Elevator Corporation (C2011-234) for \$46,200 and extend the term to December 31, 2016 for elevator maintenance services for a new not to exceed amount of \$109,624.

**8H. CONTRACT FOR CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY COUNTER**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract to R Dependable Construction of San Bernardino, CA for \$116,500 with a 5% contingency of \$5,825 for library counter and storefront replacement at Civic Center Library (B2014-50);
- 2) Approve a 10% project management fee of \$11,650; and
- 3) Transfer \$23,258 from the Library Division contract services operating budget and appropriate \$20,000 from the General Fund materials reserve to Civic Center Library first floor remodel (FEAP #327).

**8I. LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR USE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES AS YOUTH BASEBALL FIELDS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve new lease agreements with Torrance American Baseball, Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League, and West Torrance Little League, for use of City-owned properties as youth baseball fields for a term of five years beginning January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

**8J. PURCHASE ORDER FOR NEW BUS STOP BENCHES**

Considered out of order, see page 5.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8C, 8E and 8G through 8I. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Items 8D, 8F and 8J were considered separately at this time.

**8D. FEE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE LEGAL SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Attorney that City Council approve a first amendment to the fee agreement with Rutan & Tucker (C2013-194) to provide legal services to the City regarding the Hawthorne/PCH Project for an additional \$70,000, for a new not to exceed contract amount of \$100,000.

In response to Councilmember Ashcraft's inquiry, City Attorney Fellows clarified that the original agreement with Rutan & Tucker for \$30,000 was for legal services related to the Hawthorne/PCH Project's design and environmental review and this additional amount was for services related to property acquisition in conjunction with the project.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to approve the fee agreement amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

**8F. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL SIGN**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Authorize the purchase and installation of a digital sign at Civic Center; and
- 2) Appropriate up to \$50,000 from the Cable TV Fund Balance.

Councilmember Weideman stated that he was looking forward to the installation of the new digital sign, which has been a long time coming, and believes it will increase the effectiveness of information delivery and the promotion of events in the City of Torrance.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Weideman moved to authorize the purchase and installation of the digital sign and appropriate funding. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

**8J. PURCHASE ORDER FOR NEW BUS STOP BENCHES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that Council authorize a purchase order with Landscape Forms, Incorporated of Kalamazoo, MI, for the sole source purchase of new bus stop benches in the amount of \$202,466.41.

Councilmember Goodrich questioned whether consideration was given to purchasing benches with canopies or some other form of shade to provide relief from the hot summer sun at bus stops.

Sr. Business Manager Megerdichian explained that this was the first of a multi-stage implementation of new street furniture throughout Torrance, which will include new bus shelters that coordinate with the design of Del Amo Fashion Center and the Torrance Regional Transit Center.

Councilmember Goodrich noted that the staff report/background material for this item was not available on-line until early this morning and requested that every effort be made to make this information available to the public in a timely fashion even though it is not a legal requirement.

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

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. APPROVAL OF CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR WILSON PARK GAZEBO**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee that City Council concur with the Committee recommendation to approve the conceptual design as presented for the renovation of the Wilson Park Gazebo.

Councilmember Weideman, chair of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, reported that the conceptual design for the Wilson Park Gazebo was vetted by the Cultural Arts Commission and subsequently approved by the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee on November 25, 2014, noting that this project has been in the works for approximately 10 years.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to approve conceptual design for Wilson Park Gazebo. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**12B. AGREEMENT RE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PACKAGE FOR WILSON PARK GAZEBO ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve staff recommendation to enter into a purchase order agreement with BOA Architects to produce a construction document package for the Wilson Park Gazebo Enhancement Project in an amount not to exceed \$23,900. Please note this is a companion item to Administrative Matters item 12A.

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport reported that BOA Architects was selected because its proposal was considerably less than the other two companies that submitted bids and the company is well qualified and has a good track record with the City of Torrance.

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

**12C. RESOLUTION RE EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES IMPLEMENTING FINAL PHASE OF HUMAN RESOURCES REORGANIZATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution amending the Executive and Management Employees Resolution No. 2014-63 implementing the final phase of the Human Resources reorganization.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that this action completes the reorganization of Human Resources, which began two years ago. She explained that it was changed from a separate department to a division in the City Manager's office thereby achieving an annual savings of \$35,000.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-133**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2014-63 SETTING FORTH CHANGES  
REGARDING THE HOURS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF  
EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-133. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

**12D. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO L.A. COUNTY WEST VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council concurs with the Mayor's appointment of Councilmember Weideman as the voting delegate to the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District Board.

Management Associate Barthe-Jones provided background information about the L.A. County West Vector Control District.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by a 6-0 vote, with Councilmember Weideman abstaining.

**12E. PERMIT CENTER REORGANIZATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve the following staffing changes as part of the Permit Center reorganization:

- 1) Delete 1.0 Senior Grading Inspector,
- 2) Delete 1.0 Building Inspector,
- 3) Add 1.0 Plans Examiner,
- 4) Add 1.0 Permit Center Supervisor, and
- 5) Convert 1.0 Plan Examiner/Permit Center Supervisor to 1.0 Plans Examiner/ Grading Inspector.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna provided an overview of the Permit Center reorganization, noting that the reorganization will allow for more supervision and technical expertise at the Permit Center counter and provide more flexibility to better serve the public.

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

## **12F. AGREEMENT RE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTING/ADVOCACY SERVICES**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc., of Washington, DC to provide federal government consulting and advocacy services (RFP B2014-48) for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$216,000 with two one-year options to extend the agreement.

Management Associate Barthe-Jones provided background information about the City's hiring of consultants for funding acquisition and government advocacy services. She reported that an RFP was circulated in September 2014 to determine the best firm to meet the City's federal government advocacy needs and seven firms submitted proposals, all of which were determined to be qualified. She advised that the evaluation team comprised of representatives from various City departments interviewed each of the consulting firms and Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. scored the highest at 91%. She explained that the team was impressed with their overall experience with federal funding and their access to congress members, as well as their experience in areas of special interest to the City, including public works, water and economic development. She noted that supplemental material contains additional information about the scoring of the proposals.

Referring to the supplemental material, Councilmember Goodrich noted that Van Scoyoc had higher scores in public safety, public works and transit as compared to the City's existing consulting firm, and these are all areas the Council has identified as priorities. He indicated that he was comfortable with the three-year term of the agreement since it can be terminated by the City "for convenience," but requested clarification regarding what the City would have to pay should it decide to do so.

City Attorney Fellows advised that the City would not have to pay the base hourly rate for work that has not been performed, but the firm would be entitled to receive their anticipated profit for the remainder of the contract.

Councilmember Barnett asked how the cost compares to the City's existing consultant, and Ms. Barthe-Jones reported that both Van Scoyoc and the existing consultant proposed the same rate of \$6,000 per month/\$72,000 per year. She noted that the consultant's performance will be evaluated on an annual basis to ensure they are meeting the City's needs.

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

## **12G. AGREEMENT FOR STATE GOVERNMENT CONSULTING/ADVOCACY SERVICES**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with Joe A. Gonsalves & Son of Sacramento, CA to provide state government consulting and advocacy services (RFP 2014-48) for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$153,000 with two one-year options to extend the agreement.

Management Associate Barthe-Jones reported that an RFP was circulated in September 2014 to determine the best firm to meet the City's state government advocacy needs and the only firm to submit a proposal was the City's current consultant Joe A. Gonsalves & Son. She noted that some other firms declined to submit a proposal because they felt they could not compete with this firm, which has an excellent reputation. She explained that the proposal was evaluated by a team comprised of representatives from various City departments and the team was recommending that the City continue with Joe A. Gonsalves & Son because it has been very successful in representing the City's interests. She noted the firm's monthly rate has increased from \$4,000 to 4,250.

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

## **17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Goodrich reported that he enjoyed the movie *Unbroken* and encouraged those who haven't done so to go see it. He wished everyone happy holidays.

**17B.** Councilmember Griffiths extended holiday greetings. He noted that the Torrance Rose Parade Float will honor hometown hero and grand marshal of the parade, Louis Zamperini, who is the subject of the movie *Unbroken*, which goes into general release on December 25.

**17C.** Councilmember Rizzo echoed comments on the movie *Unbroken*. He extended holiday greetings and urged people to act responsibly on New Year's Eve.

**17D.** Councilmember Rizzo announced that Torrance Transit will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 and as part of the celebration, it will kick-off its participation in Metro's Regional Transit Access Program (TAP) on January 28, 2015. He reported that customers will receive a commemorative TAP card while supplies last, which includes fare for one free bus ride, and there will be a random drawing for a one-month bus pass that people can enter by "liking" Torrance Transit on Facebook by noon on January 21.

**17E.** Councilmember Barnett wished everyone a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthful and prosperous new year.

**17F.** Mayor Furey noted that while this holiday season has included exciting events like the premier of *Unbroken*, it has also been marred by tragedy, citing recent traffic accidents in Redondo Beach and Torrance that resulted in the loss of lives. He wished all a happy and healthy new year.

- 17G. Councilmember Ashcraft extended holiday greetings.
- 17H. Councilmember Weideman commented on his enjoyment of the premier of the movie *Unbroken* and wished everyone happy holidays.
- 17I. Mayor Furey shared an Irish Christmas blessing.
- 17J. Assistant City Manager Giordano extended holiday greetings on behalf of City staff.
- 17K. Leilani Kimmel-Dagastino offered a Hawaiian holiday greeting.
18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.
19. **ADJOURNMENT**  
At 8:04 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Tuesday, December 30, 2014 and Tuesday, January 6, 2015 are Council dark nights.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey

Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier

City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on January 27, 2015