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City Council - May 8, 1973

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Adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

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May 8, 1973

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 1973, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Clerk Coil.
Absent: City Treasurer Rupert.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Lee Larsen led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation, as follows, was provided by Dr. Ray W. Ragsdale, First Methodist Church:

"OUR FATHER, IN WHOM WE SEE ORDER AND DESIGN IN ALL CREATION, GRANT TO THESE, THY SERVANTS IN CITY GOVERNMENT, CLARITY OF MIND AND INTEGRITY OF HEART AS THEY CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT THIS NIGHT. HELP THE CITIZENRY HERE AND ELSEWHERE TO RESPOND WITH THOUGHTFUL ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE. TEACH US THAT THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE, AND ACTIVE GOODWILL IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE IS NOT ONLY THE FATHER'S WAY, BUT IS THE PRACTICAL WAY IN HUMAN AFFAIRS. WE SEEK YOUR PRESENCE THAT ALL OUR ACTIONS MAY BE FILLED WITH BENEVOLENCE AND WISDOM, IN YOUR HOLY NAME."

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of April 24, 1973 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that all properly audited demands be paid. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Surber moved that after the Clerk has given a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilman the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:Ad Hoc Committee on Appointed Groups:Park, Recreation, and Community Development:

Reports under Oral Communications.

Public Works Committee:

Met this date re: bicycle routes, per Councilman Brewster, who noted that there are certain concerns regarding the route on the part of Bicycle Committee members -- therefore, permission of the Council for the Bicycle Committee to advertise and hold public hearings in order to attain input from interested citizens was requested. Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that such permission be granted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Corridor B Directorship, RTD:

Councilman Uerkwitz noted the apparent fact that Councilman Brewster should serve as an official City Alternate to the Los Angeles Selection Committee in the subject matter, and the further need to extend every possible effort to secure the appointment of George Brewster as the Corridor B Director. Mr. Uerkwitz indicated his agreement to step down as Alternate, and offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the Council take action officially designating Councilman George Brewster as the City Alternate to the City Selection Committee, replacing Councilman Uerkwitz. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Miller commended Councilman Uerkwitz for the above action, and deemed it a magnanimous gesture, in view of his deep interest in the matter of transportation -- there was Council concurrence in this sentiment.

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Introduction by City Manager Ferraro of new temporary employees with the City of Torrance, under the PEP program, was forthcoming at this time -- a warm welcome was extended them by Mayor Miller, on behalf of the Council.

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2.

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Mr. Lee Larsen was present to extend an invitation to the Council to attend the annual "Sportsmen's Night" on May 23rd.

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COMMENDATIONS:

9. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION to General John C. Meyer, Commander-In-Chief, Strategic Air Command, for serving as Grand Marshal of the 14th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-87

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO GENERAL JOHN C. MEYER, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, FOR SERVING AS GRAND MARSHAL OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE.

Councilman Surber moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-87. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PROCLAMATIONS:

10. March of Dimes Healthy Baby Week - May 13-19, 1973.
11. National Transportation Week - May 13-19, 1973.

So proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

12. FEDERAL FUNDS FOR LIBRARIES.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-88

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING REINSTATEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY PROGRAMS.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-88. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Wilson,
and Mayor Miller.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber, Uerkwitz.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

13. RESUBMITTAL OF RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS.

Recommended revisions (per Exhibit A) to the original Resolution No. 73-45 pertaining to Environmental Review matters were noted by the Council.

3.

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At the request of Mayor Miller, City Clerk Coil assigned a new number to the resolution defining Environmental Impact Procedures, and read title, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 73-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATION OF PROJECTS AND THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-91 and his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

Prior to roll call vote, Councilman Surber urged that the \$50.00 appeal fee (Page 7, Section 5.3) be eliminated for individual affected homeowners. City Attorney Remelmeyer noted the fact that Environmental Review Board considerations are only a part of the total process -- Planning Commission and Council review provide the necessary hearing of the matter. Mr. Surber reiterated his strong feeling that it is not right for individual homeowners to have to pay a \$50 appeal fee.

The motion carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz,
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber.

14. SUSPENSION OF RHODABARGER WELL ON SUR LA BREA PARK SITE.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That the City proceed as expeditiously as possible to convert the site into an observation well and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$4,500 for this work from the General Fund.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

Prior to taking action on the motion, there was clarification regarding the makeup of the proposed observation well by Building and Safety Director McKinnon, following which comments from the audience were invited by Mayor Miller.

Mrs. Marion Lyman, 1922 West 237th Street, chairman, SETHA Park Committee, reiterated their desire that the park site be kept as free from oil encumbrances as is possible -- the extensive, time-consuming efforts in the accomplishment of Sur La Brea Park were reviewed by her. Mrs. Lyman noted the standing assurance that at least the west end of the park would be free of oil wells and tanks, and recommended that the proposed observation well be located elsewhere. Mrs. Lyman then reiterated her request of May 1st that the Council accept the one informal bid received to remove the Rhodabarger well and tanks.

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Representing SETHA's Oil Committee, Mrs. Arnold S. Johnson stated their findings that there is a need to monitor since the Joughin Injector 12A has been reworked and is a more effective Injector -- a matter called to Council's attention several months ago, with resultant direction to the City Attorney to contact Superior Oil to ask them to hold off, pending final resolution. Mr. Remelmeyer advised that a detailed written report in this regard will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Johnson then advised that, once again, SETHA protests the illegal waterflood of Southeast Torrance by the Superior Oil Company, Joughin Unit -- further, it is felt that conversion of the Rhodabarger well to a monitoring well for recording Joughin waterflood pressures would be another illegal expansion of a nonconforming use, unless accompanied by formal zone change or variance. It was their request that the Council again review this situation; that every effort must be made to avoid another Antonio Street fiasco.

The Council-requested meeting with SETHA residents, and DOG representatives was noted by Mrs. Johnson, who advised that the next scheduled SETHA meeting will be on June 4th, and, hopefully, a convenient date. So noted by City Manager Ferraro.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Wilson at this point in the meeting: In light of the fact that there undoubtedly will be greater opportunity for monitoring in other oil well sites, Councilman Wilson moved that the Council take Alternative #1 which removes the Rhodabarger well, at a cost of \$3500. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Council discussion was then directed to SETHA's previous pressing concern regarding the safety factor in Southeast Torrance -- the resultant Staff efforts to devise a method to make this determination -- with diverse opinions now being expressed by homeowner representatives, and an interest in DOG monitoring now indicated.

SETHA president, Mr. Orin P. Johnson, spoke at this time. Mr. Johnson indicated their concurrence that monitoring should be done; their objections are to the fact that such a well will prevent clean-up of the park area -- further, it is not felt that one well will do the kind of monitoring that is needed nor should the City of Torrance be paying this cost. City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that he would contact the oil company relative to a contribution to the City for the cost of the monitoring system.

Mr. Bob Flora, Park and Recreation Commission Chairman, was present to reemphasize the Commission's recommendation that the park development be expedited, and that the Rhodabarger well should be removed.

Next to speak was Mr. Arnold S. Johnson, 2278 West 232nd Street, chairman, SETHA Oil Committee, who requested that the main motion in this matter be withdrawn, and that the subject of monitoring be dropped from discussion until after the above referred to homeowner meeting -- monitoring at this time is a "giving in" prior to completion of the serious study now contemplated and the achievement of sound, logical conclusions.

Council discussion was invited. Councilman Armstrong indicated his strong feeling that the safety factor is predominant; the Staff proposal will provide a unique opportunity to acquire valuable, responsible information; and the plan should be underway as soon as possible.

It was stated by Councilman Brewster that he is unable to make a decision in this matter -- were he convinced that the City's monitoring system would prove completely adequate, he could support the motion; however, if it could be shown that the DOG monitoring system can be shown to be competitive with the subject proposal, and can be accomplished in a reasonable length of time, then he would favor that approach. These matters well could be resolved at the June 4th homeowner meeting, and this additional knowledge would permit a decision by Councilman Brewster.

Mayor Miller questioned the acceptance by the people of the DOG information -- the Mayor added that approval of the proposed monitoring well would not be "buying anything" insofar as a final determination regarding waterflooding in Southeast Torrance is concerned. The revised presentation this date, the opposite of the April 24th Council meeting where grave concerns and fears as to the hazards in this area were conveyed to the Council at great length, was a matter of unbelief to the Mayor, and most difficult for him to assimilate. Mayor Miller indicated that he can only support the Staff recommendation for the observation well.

Councilman Uerkwitz' motion to concur with the City Manager's recommendation carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz,
and Mayor Miller.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Brewster. (For above stated reasons)

It was the comment of Councilman Sciarrotta that this recommendation will provide needed and desired safety information; the observation well ^{will} be attractive and well camouflaged; park development will not be delayed -- hence his affirmative vote.

The matter of safety was the main concern of Councilman Surber, and what is proposed will avoid unnecessary delays, and quite likely will prove to be an asset to the park.

Councilman Wilson indicated that his "no" vote was for the reason that he would like to see the entire west end cleared for open space -- there will be sufficient opportunities for monitoring on the east end -- further, this action might be premature without the full Park Master Plan before the Council.

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The hour being 8:35 P.M., Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as the City Council, and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote. A 10-minute recess followed at 8:38 P.M.

AIRPORT MATTERS:

15. REPORT REGARDING AIRPORT DAYS.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER/ASSISTANT AIRPORT MANAGER:

1. That Airport Days be deferred until September 1974 or later.
2. That the City Manager be directed to constitute a team to review Airport Days and other Airport promotional activities, and return to Council with program/policy options for review and adoption.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the above recommendations of Staff. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

PARK AND RECREATION:

16. TORRANCE KIWANIS CLUB DONATION.

RECOMMENDATION OF PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR:

That Council accept the contribution of \$236.00 from the Kiwanis Club of Torrance on behalf of the City, and that the \$236.00 be deposited in Account #2146 (Donations for Recreation Programs). This contribution is to be used to pay for awards for the following programs: Boys' Basketball, Co-Ed Track and Field, and Girls' Volleyball. The money has already been received and deposited with the City Treasurer.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Park and Recreation Director, and to accept, with thanks, the generous Kiwanis Club donation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

POLICE OPERATIONS:

17. APPLICATION FOR SUBSIDY FUNDS VIA AB 368 TO IMPLEMENT A JUVENILE DIVERSION TEAM.

RECOMMENDATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE:

That Council approve the "Application for Subsidy Funds" since the program is sorely needed and, if the grant was awarded, could be implemented at no cost to the City of Torrance. Unlike other grant programs, this grant requires no "matching funds", but will, in fact, support the entire cost of the program.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was the consensus of the Council that this item be referred to both the Youth Commission and the Torrance Unified School District, for their information.

18. Withdrawn.

APPEALS - OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:

19. APPEAL BY H.B. HALICKI PRODUCTIONS, LTD. of Administrative Decision denying "Right to Film".

City Manager Ferraro reaffirmed the denial recommended by him and Police Chief Nash in that the proposed filming would not be in the best interests of the City of Torrance.

Mr. H.B. Halicki, 17831 Hobart Boulevard, Gardena, was present to appeal the above finding. He outlined his past successes in film production, the granting of a like request by the cities of Long Beach, Gardena, Redondo Beach, and California Highway Patrol.

It was the consensus of the Council that there should be additional research in this matter, and the following action resulted:

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved that Item #19 be continued for one week, in order that there may be a report from the cities where filming has been done, particularly the City of Long Beach, and whether or not there were problems. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and approval was unanimous.

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ROUTINE MATTERS:

19A. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

1. \$1013.67 to Brooks Products, Inc. for four water meter boxes, eight meter box extensions, and 100 meter box covers as requested by the Water Department for stock.
2. \$604.80 to Southern Bolt and Supply Company for 500 various size nuts and bolts requested by the Water Department for water service stock.
3. \$1420.65 to Western Water Works Supply for 100 each 3/4-inch branch valves requested by the Water Department for stock.
4. \$1824.23 to Bro Dart, Inc. for 144 adult and 35 juvenile books.
5. \$6278.27 to Jones Chemical Company of Torrance for the award of an annual contract to supply liquid chlorine, pittchlor and muriatic acid "as needed" by the Water Department and the Park and Recreation Department.
6. \$721.35 to Western Water Works Supply for 50 each 1½-inch water angle valves requested by the Water Department for stock.
7. \$550.81 to Western Water Works Supply for 18 each 6-inch water pipe service saddles and 100 each 6-inch gaskets requested by the Water Department for stock.
8. \$305.24 to Warsco Equipment Company for 36 each 8-inch Kwik Kut pneumatic saw blades requested by the City Garage as replacements.
9. \$656.31 to Robert Bentley, Inc. for 111 adult books.
10. \$865.68 to Campbell and Hall for 165 adult books.
11. \$529.20 to Ingram Paper Company for 40 cartons of white offset paper requested by the Central Services for testing purposes.
12. \$374.47 to Industrial Electronics for 96 high power long life lamps requested by Traffic and Lighting Department for replacements.

20. AWARD OF CONTRACT - Two only Utility Truck Bodies and One Dump Body with Hoist - (Bid #73-17).

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR/PURCHASING SUPERVISOR:
That Council accept the low bids submitted by Royal Truck Body, Inc. for items 1 and 2, and Garwood - L.A. Truck Equipment Company for item 3 (per memo of May 3, 1973) - and approve of the award to each as follows:

1. \$1337.70, including tax, to Royal Truck Body, Inc.
2. \$1977.78, including tax, to Garwood - L.A. Truck Equipment Company.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #19A and 20. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ADDENDA ITEMS:

21. WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM FOR 1973 - Job No. 73131.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the hearing on Resolution of Intention No. 73-77 declaring parcels described in said Resolution to be a public nuisance, and providing for the abatement thereof, excepting the following parcels:

Mrs. Henrietta Abegg, 22931 Hawthorne Blvd.
7368, Page 2, Parcel 1.

S. Kim, 20346 Hawthorne Boulevard
7378, Page 17, Parcel 25.
7378, Page 17, Parcel 26.

J. Rahman, 4722 Laurette Street - 4 parcels:
7378, Page 17, Parcel 2 7378, Page 18, Parcel 7
7378, Page 18, Parcel 8 7378, Page 18, Parcel 9.

At the request of Mayor Miller, City Clerk Coil presented the Affidavit of Mailing. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to receive and file said Affidavit. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

There being no one present who wished to be heard, Councilman Uerkwitz moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

City Clerk Coil then assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 73-89

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND INSTRUCT-
ING THE CONTRACTOR TO ABATE THE NUISANCE
LOCATED ON OR IN FRONT OF PROPERTIES IN
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS DESCRIBED IN
RESOLUTION NO. 73-77.

— Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-89. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Armstrong reported on a complaint received by him regarding weeds and standing water in the vicinity of Higgins Brick Yard which, hopefully, would be covered by the above resolution. City Engineer Weaver advised that such was not the case; however, follow-up of other sections, which will include the Higgins Brick Yard area, is underway, and an appropriate resolution will follow.

22. CONDEMNATION - 232ND STREET - WERTALLA PROPERTY - TRACT NO. 25875 - CHACKSFIELD MERIT HOMES CORPORATION.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION BY THE CITY OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT IN AND TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN SAID CITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, TO WIT: PUBLIC STREET PURPOSES, AND FOR ANY OTHER PUBLIC USES AND PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.
(232nd Street - Wertalla)

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-90. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

23. RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING GERALD L. RUSSELL.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-85

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONGRATULATING MR. GERALD L. RUSSELL ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-85. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

24. RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JESUS M. GARCIA.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-86

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONGRATULATING MR. JESUS M. GARCIA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER OF

POLLUTION CONTROL STUDIES AND EXPRESSING
APPRECIATION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-86. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

25. City Manager Ferraro noted the request of Airport Commission Chairman Blaisdell that the Council defer the resignation of Commissione Bell until the completed Phase I Study (Airport Master Plan) can be evaluated and recommendations can be made.

Mayor Miller MOVED to concur with the request; the motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

26. It was the recommendation of City Manager Ferraro that Tuesday, May 29th -- a 5th Tuesday, following a holiday -- be declared a "dark night" by the Council. Councilman Armstrong so MOVED; the motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

27. Councilman Armstrong reported on Ad Hoc Committee on Appointed Groups findings, including the critical need of the Oil Board, the consideration of cultural and environmental matters, etc. -- a written recommendation will be made on May 15th.

28. Councilman Brewster reported on the May 2nd meeting with the Division of Highways and the Torrance representation present to provide impetus to the Corridor Study -- it was felt that the Division of Highways is seriously interested in seeing the Corridor Study begin, and made a commitment for one third of the cost of the Study. Further, according to Mr. Brewster, the Division of Highways concur in the appointment of a "Corridor Study Steering and Policy Committee" whose voting members would be one elected political representative from each of the 14 cities involved -- with perhaps an advisory class membership whose knowledge would be available to the Steering Committee at all times. It was further indicated that there would be a technical committee as well, working underneath the Steering Committee, composed of appropriate Staff members throughout the area. Finally, the day-to-day operation would be done by a consultant from an outside independent firm.

It was the request of Councilman Brewster that the Council indicate concurrence with the above concept and approach, with a direction that he and Councilman Uerkwitz return to their groups -- the South Bay Councilmen's Association and the Intercity Highway Committee -- for like concurrence. Councilman Surber so MOVED; the motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

29. Councilman Sciarrotta advised that he is now preparing to send a letter to all homeowner association officials suggesting that matters of concern to them (such as the airport, traffic, oil, etc.) be presented

to the appropriate Council Committee to permit a full airing of their problems and more overall understanding when presented to three Councilmen, rather than an individual. It was the consensus of the Council that such a letter go forward in their behalf, signed by Mayor Miller. Councilman Uerkwitz so MOVED; the motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and there were no objections.

30. Councilman Surber noted the Daily Breeze headline of May 7th: "WIDOW JAILED FOR LACK OF FINAL TOUCH" and the article which stated that the widow was jailed for failing to paint her house, per the City of Cleveland's housing code. Mr. Surber deemed this "food for thought" and warned against becoming over-zealous with ordinances to control people.

31. Police officers L. Caudill and R. Silagy were commended by Councilman Surber for their outstanding efforts in the recent apprehension of robbery suspects under extremely dangerous circumstances.

32. The concern of Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis -- a concern shared by Councilman Surber -- regarding "victimless crimes" was noted by Mr. Surber, as was Chief Davis' comments "that certain types of crimes are technically without victims, and should not be prosecuted, has gained support in some circles. His department's position is the strict enforcement of the laws relating to those crimes as of paramount importance to assure a safe community. Elements of organized crime, vast amounts of money flowing through underworld channels, and the ever present threat of violence put the lie to the term 'victimless crimes'. For the so-called 'victimless crimes' -- the ones which exact the highest toll, in terms of human misery, has been those associated with narcotics. In the two years between 1968 and 1970, some 27,000 people are reported to have died from drug-related causes. Other studies show that one half of all street crime is directly related to narcotic addiction or abuse. Narcotic addicts are frequently the victims of robbery, assault, rape, and murder -- tragic factors all too often ignored by the proponents of a softer attitude toward 'victimless crimes'. As long as there is someone to suffer; someone to die; someone who is denied due process of law, there is no such thing as a 'victimless crime'. Nor will ignoring these heinous offenses make them go away. So long as there are laws dealing with such 'victimless crimes', the Los Angeles Police Department stands ready to uphold these laws to the letter."

It was the opinion of Councilman Surber, concurred in by Police Chief Nash, that the above likewise should be the policy for the City of Torrance.

33. Councilman Uerkwitz expressed his strong personal feelings in the recent tragedy involving Recreation Department employee Bob Jones at Lago Seco Park -- his sincere regrets and desire that the guilty parties receive the maximum penalty for this deed were related by Mr. Uerkwitz.

34. The report from the Park, Recreation, and Community Development Committee at its May 4th meeting was provided by Councilman Wilson, the matter of discussion being Columbia Park and expressed concern as to its status and a need for definite action.

Dr. Wilson then offered the following:

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved that the City Council again restate its position and urge that immediate action be taken by the Board of Supervisors on the City's behalf in making Columbia Park a reality. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta,
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber, Uerkwitz.
(For previously stated
reasons.)

35. It was the request of Councilman Wilson that Staff investigate the merits of the Meadow Park school site for use as an extension of the City's recreational program.

36. Pastor W.D. Smith, 2147 West 237th Street, reported on problems regarding the water fee for the church at this location. City Manager Ferraro reported his understanding in this matter, and advised that it would appear on the May 15th Council agenda.

At 10:05 P.M., Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess for an Executive Session to consider hours, wages, and working conditions for Fire, Police, and AFSCME. City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that this would be proper subject matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

The Council returned at 11:05 P.M. for formal adjournment.

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APPROVED:

Ken Miller

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Vernon W. Coil
Vernon W. Coil, Clerk of the
City of Torrance, California

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

14.

City Council
May 8, 1973