

June 25, 1973

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP
SESSION OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a Budget Workshop Session on Monday, June 25, 1973, at 4:30 P.M. in Commission Meeting Room 251 at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Surber arrived at 4:45 P.M. Councilman Wilson (also serving on the Regional Coastal Commission, meeting at Torrance City Hall this date) was present from 4:55 P.M. to 6:35 P.M.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, City Attorney Remelmeyer, Finance Director Dundore, and City Clerk Coil.

3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON AMENDMENTS TO CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET.

Finance Director Dundore detailed the Budget Amendments which resulted by way of unanticipated "carry-over" funds in the current year's budget and the following items. Such amendments are: deletion of the rental tax, deletion of the gross receipts business license tax; deletion of landscaping assessment district funds for maintenance; increasing the present \$13 per employee business license tax to \$16 per employee; and adding an oil severance tax minimum requirement. There are further amendments, per Mr. Dundore, by way of deletion of the proposed Account Clerk for rental tax processing, and deferring for six months the funding for 4 Laborers who would be used for tree planting and parkway development, pending public hearings on the proposed Landscaping Assessment District.

In conclusion, Mr. Dundore pointed out that the 1973-74 Budget is now a balanced budget, minus any new taxes.

4. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

A. CONSUMER AFFAIRS:

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF:

1. That further expansion of City involvement in the area of consumer protection be held in abeyance pending receipt and analysis of the County study on consumer affairs;
2. That during the fiscal year 1973-74, the City libraries' materials on consumer protection should be augmented as part of that department's purchasing of books, films, etc.
3. That, in an effort to improve consumer education in the City of Torrance, Staff should meet with the Torrance Unified School District, A.A.U.W. and other concerned groups to see if the current level of available community programs in the area of Consumer Affairs can be upgraded.

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Mrs. Tina Boyd was present to express her strong opinion regarding the urgent need for a Consumer Protection Bureau in Torrance, and to urge Council approval of the immediate establishment of such a Bureau.

It was the consensus of the Council that there is a need for review, as recommended by Staff, acknowledging the merits of such a consumer service.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of Staff. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

B. RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE INCREASE.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council not consider changes to the retirement allowance separate from the other elements of total compensations. Consideration of any modification to retirement allowance could then be dependent on the nature of proposals submitted by the several employee groups. At this time no employee groups has included such a request in their list of items for 1973-74 meet and confer discussions.

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

C. TRANSIT SYSTEM.

It was the request of City Manager Ferraro that Staff be granted nine months in order to work with the Chamber of Commerce and make a thorough study re: the Torrance Transit System.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above request of the City Manager, and his motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

5. PRESENTATION BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGARDING REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

On behalf of the Chamber's Budget Review Committee, Mr. Edward Boecher provided the Council with a substantial brochure (of record) encompassing their Budget Recommendations -- there was further verbal clarification by Mr. Boecher and Mr. John Rice.

6. BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Janet Pryor, president, League of Women Voters, expressed their findings relative to the importance of the Capital Improvement Program, their support of a Landscaping Assessment District, the use of Revenue Sharing Funds for acquisition and development -- a no. 1 priority, according to Mrs. Pryor, is the elimination of the Utility Tax Exemption. It is the League's further recommendation that the El Retiro Park/Library project go forward. Further, that there be reconsideration of "Torrance Day" at the L.A. County Fair, and the "operation of audio-visual equipment at Council meetings" ^{now shown} in the Park and Recreation Budget -- their funds should be spent directly on recreational needs;

that there is a serious need for the incorporation of an additional Children's Librarian position in this year's budget.

Present to reaffirm the El Retiro and Children's Librarian position request was Mr. John Mosley, chairman, Library Commission. Mr. Bob White, president, Riviera Homeowners Association, joined in urging positive action relative to the El Retiro Project, pointing out the joint financial efforts underway, including Riviera Homeowners Association, Rotary Club, and Sertoma groups. Discussion ensued regarding needed funds, time commitments, etc., it being the ultimate consensus of all concerned that an all-out effort would be made to resolve, within six months, the manner in which to proceed. Also present on this matter: Mr. Lee Larsen and Dr. Spencer Willens.

7. PRESENTATION BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGARDING CONTRACT SERVICES.

Representing the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bud Babcock presented a written report, of record, regarding Chamber operations and activities in support of their request for funds.

City Manager Ferraro noted the need for time to review and analyze the subject report, just received, in order to return to the Council with findings and recommendations. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Ames Hendricksen, representing Del Amo Merchants Association and Del Amo Fashion Square, indicated their opposition to the proposed increase in employee head tax.

Mayor Miller announced that the Budget Workshop Sessions have now been completed -- the 1973-74 Budget, as amended, is now balanced, and will reflect no property tax increase nor major tax increases. It was also noted by the Mayor that the second and final public hearing on the City Manager's 1973-74 Budget will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 1973.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 7:00 P.M. to Tuesday, June 26, 1973, at 7:00 P.M. on a motion by Councilman Sciarrotta -- seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and unanimously approved by those present.

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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

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