

I N D E X

City Council - July 31, 1973

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Adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

ii.

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July 31, 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, July 31, 1973, at 5:30 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. (Councilman Wilson had to leave the meeting at 8:45 P.M.)

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

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Neil Campbell led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Reverend Donald G. Buchanan, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation:

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN OUR LIVES. WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE VITALLY CONCERNED WITH EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN. WE PRAY, AS THIS BODY OF MEN HAS GATHERED HERE THIS NIGHT TO DO THE BUSINESS OF THIS COMMUNITY, THAT YOU WILL GIVE TO THEM UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT THEY FACE. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL GIVE THEM WISDOM TO FACE EACH ONE AND BRING THE RIGHT SOLUTION. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL GIVE THEM STRENGTH TO BE THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON, THE RIGHT KIND OF REPRESENTATIVE, FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT."

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of July 10, 1973 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

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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 Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:Corridor Study Steering Committee:

The election of Augie Savail, Chairman, and William Uerkwitz, Vice Chairman was noted. The need for an Alternate was also noted.

COMMENDATIONS:

9. Commendation to Koichi Tada and Akihero Shigematsu.

Messrs. Tada and Shigematsu, participants in the Lions Club exchange program, were introduced by Mr. Bob Surber -- a warm welcome and plaques in recognition of this event, was afforded by Mayor Miller, on behalf of the Council.

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND SIGNS:10. PARKING LOT SECURITY GATES.RECOMMENDATION OF BUILDING AND SAFETY DIRECTOR:

That Council concur with its previous action of July 17, 1973, and award the contract to Park-O-Matic in the amount of \$5,446.30, with full knowledge of the events that took place in the bidding process for the work.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Building and Safety Director. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

REAL PROPERTY:11. COLUMBIA PARK ACQUISITION - PARCELS 1 AND 3.RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council authorize the purchase of the following properties -- Standard Brands, 1.85+ acres, \$185,000; Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bauer, 3.82+ acres, \$325,326 -- and direct the City Manager to enter into an escrow for said purchases and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents therefor.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman

Sciarrotta, 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).

12. RELOCATION PAYMENT - LAND PURCHASE REGARDING PUC DECISION.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council authorize the payment of said relocation benefits as set forth in said claims (Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Roark), and appropriate the sum of \$4,142.80 from the Water Revenue Fund.

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

13. CORRECTED ORDINANCE NO. 2405.

ORDINANCE NO. 2405

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING PART VIII OF CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AND ADDING A NEW PART VIII TO CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE SAME SUBJECT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2405, with technical changes as noted, at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

14. ORDINANCE NO. 2408.

ORDINANCE NO. 2408

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A FINE ARTS COMMISSION AND PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION, QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, AND REMOVAL OF MEMBERS AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2408 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Brewster voiced his objections to the name change -- from "Cultural Arts" to "Fine Arts" -- but cast an affirmative vote for the ordinance.

15. ORDINANCE NO. 2409.

ORDINANCE NO. 2409

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ABOLISHING THE TORRANCE BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION AND CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION, QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, AND REMOVAL OF MEMBERS AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2409 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

16. ORDINANCE NO. 2410.

ORDINANCE NO. 2410

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SUBSTITUTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION FOR THE SIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO SIGN REVIEW IN CHAPTER 8, DIVISION 8, OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2410 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

17. ORDINANCE NO. 2411.

ORDINANCE NO. 2411

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SUBSTITUTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION FOR THE TORRANCE BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED OR WRECKED VEHICLES IN ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 4 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2411 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

Councilman Surber that he had changed his vote to "no" on Ordinance No. 2411 because of the private property aspect of the ordinance.

18. ORDINANCE NO. 2412.

ORDINANCE NO. 2412

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 33.5.1 AND 45.5.4 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE REGULATION AND LICENSING OF AMUSEMENT MACHINES AND DEVICES INVOLVING GAMES OF SKILL.

Councilman Surber moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2412 at its second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz,
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Brewster (not present when Council
first considered this matter).

19. ORDINANCE NO. 2413.

ORDINANCE NO. 2413

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY WHICH IS LOCATED EAST OF CRENSHAW BOULEVARD APPROXIMATELY 600 FEET NORTH OF 190TH STREET, AND DESCRIBED IN ZONE CHANGE 73-4.

(Torrance Unified School District)

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2413 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta,
Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Surber (not present at original hearing).

It was the request of Councilman Surber that his vote at the first reading likewise be recorded as "Abstain" (rather than "yes") for the above stated reason.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

20. ORDINANCE re: ZC 73-6, Torrance Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 2414

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF VAN NESS AVENUE AND 182ND STREET, AND DESCRIBED IN ZONE CHANGE 73-6.

(Torrance Planning Commission)

Councilman Wilson moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2414 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

In that the hour of 6:00 P.M. had not yet arrived at this point in the meeting, the hour for the advertised hearings, the Council considered, out of order:

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

25. ORDINANCE governing Employment Compensation for the City Manager, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and other Exempt Employees.

ORDINANCE NO. 2415

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING PART XI OF CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY TREASURER, AND OTHER EXEMPT EMPLOYEES AND ADDING A NEW PART XI DEALING WITH THE SAME SUBJECT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2415 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Brewster (not present at Executive Session where this matter was considered).

Councilman Surber indicated his reluctance to vote "no" against the entire package -- and voiced his objections to the "lumping together" procedure; the City Manager should be a separate consideration. Mr. Surber indicated his specific objection as being too much sick leave for the City Manager.

It was the comment of Councilman Uerkwitz, at the time of his "yes" vote, that he objects to the compression of the top salaries, but does not feel that he can vote against the entire ordinance.

FISCAL MATTERS:

26. RENEWAL OF EXCESS WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LIABILITY INSURANCE.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That Council approve the continuation of the Workmen's Compensation program with Employers Reinsurance Company and that there be an increase from the present \$35,000 to \$50,000. This results in a premium savings of \$5,675 as a minimum cost savings and the rate per hundred dollars of payroll is reduced by approximately 22.75%.

Further, it is recommended the Employers Reinsurance Company quotation be accepted at a rate of .1295 per hundred dollars of payroll, subject to a \$19,425. minimum and deposit premium, for \$2,000,000 excess of \$50,000 self-retention.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Clerk. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ROUTINE MATTERS:

27. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

1. \$308.30 to Howard Supply for pipe and netting materials, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department for repairs to the Sea Aire Golf Course.
2. \$381.07 to Westwood Ceramics for one only "Shimpo" potters wheel, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department as a replacement.
3. \$878.66 to Bob Detmers=Game Time, Inc. for four proprietary designed heavy duty picnic tables, four outdoor stoves, and two tetherball sets, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department for installation at Pueblo Park.
4. \$400.46 to Pacific Sales of Torrance for one only "Magic Chef" double oven, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department as a replacement.
5. \$602.82 to Lewellen Press of Torrance for 8,025 "Notice of Improvement Cards", as requested by the City Clerk for the Landscaping Assessment District.

6. \$326.48 to Engine Parts Corporation for one only rebuilt Ford truck engine, as requested by the City Garage as a replacement.
7. \$730.70 to S&J Chevrolet for one only Allison transmission, as requested by the City Garage as a replacement.
8. \$611.25 to R.N.R. Industrial Tool Sales for one only pneumatic impact wrench, as requested by the City Garage as a replacement.
9. \$1036.82 to GMC Truck & Coach for one only engine block and other various repair parts, as requested by the City Garage for bus repairs.
10. \$418.70 to Halprin Supply Company for one only "Partner" rescue saw, as requested by the Fire Department as a replacement.
11. \$476.97 to F. Morton Pitt Company for six Winchester "Riot Shotguns", as requested by the Police Department for use on patrol.
12. \$1096.62 to 3M Company, Traffic Control Products Division, for various size, type and color of reflective "Scotchlite" letter and numbers, as requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department, for use on City vehicles.
13. \$470.00 to Standard & Poors for one only renewal subscription.
14. \$316.41 to G.K. Hall & Company for 32 adult books.
15. \$312.31 to Bro-Dart, Inc. for 60 adult and juvenile books.
16. \$383.67 to Doubleday & Company c/o Al Packer for 42 adult and 33 juvenile books.
17. \$306.12 to Stechert-Hafner, Inc. for 54 adult books.
18. \$843.17 to Doubleday & Company, Inc. for renewal subscription to the "Greenaway Plan".
19. \$1853.00 to Baker & Taylor Company for 220 adult and 58 juvenile books.
20. \$583.00 to Rate-A-Flow Corporation for two - 3" hydrant meters, as requested by the Water Department for stock.
21. \$316.62 to Hilti Fastening Systems Company for various size fastening supplies, as requested by the Building Maintenance Department for stock.
22. \$1679.04 to SESCO for 24 neon pedestrian signals, as requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department for mandatory conformance to Federal Uniform Traffic Control program.

23. \$314.13 to Gaylord Bros., Inc. for 600 pamphlet binders and other various supplies, as requested by the City Librarian for the Technical Book Processing Division.

28. CLAIM of Joseph Allen Schnoor for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claim be DENIED and referred to the City Attorney. The insurance carrier concurs with the above action.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #27 and #28. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ADDENDA ITEMS:

29. SECOND READING - REVISED ORDINANCE NO. 2407 DUE TO TECHNICAL CHANGES MADE AFTER THE ORIGINAL SECOND READING.

ORDINANCE NO. 2407

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING PART X OF CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION AND CERTAIN EMPLOYEES REPRESENTING THEMSELVES ADDING A NEW PART X TO CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE SAME SUBJECT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2407, with technical changes as noted, at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

30. RESOLUTION re: INTRUDER ALARM GRANT.

City Manager Ferraro clarified the need for a revised resolution in the matter of CCCJ Funding of the Intruder Alarm Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-157

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CERTAIN GRANT TO THE CITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-157. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber.

9.

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

31. Assistant to the City Manager Jackson noted the need of the Torrance City Attorney's Association to continue on a month-to-month basis, with the expiration of their present Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman Brewster so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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The hour being 5:55 P.M., Mayor Miller ordered a 5-minute recess.

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HEARINGS - OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:21. TORRANCE LANDSCAPING AND TREE PLANTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 1.

The hour of 6:00 P.M. having arrived, Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the subject public hearing, fixed by Resolution of Intention, Resolution No. 73-132, when and where any and all persons having any protest or objection to said proposed work, or to the extent of said assessment district, may appear before the City Council of said City of Torrance and show cause why said proposed work should not be carried out in accordance with said resolution.

At the request of Mayor Miller, City Clerk Coil presented the following affidavits to the Council:

- (a) Affidavit of publication of resolution of intention;
- (b) Affidavit of mailing notice of hearing; and
- (c) Affidavit of posting of "Notice of Improvement".

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the above Affidavits be received and filed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was next announced by Mayor Miller that a presentation by Staff would follow, for the benefit of the Council and the audience to explain the nature and cost of the improvements, the extent of the assessment district, the method of assessment and any contemplated changes in the plan as filed in the Engineer's Report and the resolution of intention. Detailed presentations were made by: Assistant City Manager Scharfman; Director of Park and Recreation Van Bellehem; Street/Sanitation Superintendent Kirkruff; Finance Director Dundore; and Assessment Engineer Laurence J. Thompson.

Mayor Miller inquired as to the number of written protests received and was advised by City Clerk Coil that there are 1111 written protests of record; further, 80 telephone calls of protest were received in his office. Mayor Miller then inquired if there were any other written protests to be filed at this time; it was indicated that protest petition signing would continue in the lobby, for tally later in the meeting.

Mayor Miller then inquired of the Assessment Engineer if the above represented a majority protest -- Mr. Thompson responded that, at present, ^{written} protests filed with the City Clerk, and not withdrawn, represent 1.65% of the area of the property to be assessed for the proposed improvement, and that this is not a majority protest.

Mayor Miller invited those who have filed a written protest, or their representative, to speak at this time in support of such protest.

The first speaker was Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman, 4806 Carmelynn, who spoke in behalf of Mr. Charles Ohlert, 1958 Reynosa Drive, to note that he had turned in a petition with approximately 1100 signatures protesting the landscape assessment district -- further, that Mr. Ohlert is a senior citizen, and one of many Torrance residents living on Social Security, faced with present too high taxes, and who cannot afford the proposed assessment.

Continuing, Mrs. Cushman, as a representative of "We, the People", recited the recent advertisement in the paper -- "WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATEMENT OF FACT, THE FOLLOWING: IF OUR CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO IMPOSE A HALF MILLION DOLLAR ASSESSMENT FOR THE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WILL ACTIVELY CIRCULATE PETITIONS FOR THE RECALL OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL VOTING IN FAVOR OF SUCH AN ASSESSMENT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE ASSESSMENT IS PASSED." The enthusiastic response to support, financially and otherwise, such an advertisement was noted by Mrs. Cushman.

Mrs. Cushman pointed out successful efforts in matters of landscaping in other cities by way of community organizations -- it was her recommendation that the same be undertaken by Torrance groups -- specifically, the League of Women Voters; the St. Patrick's Day Parade group; the Sons of Italy; etc.

Conflicting versions as to the mode of notification, and the responsibility therefor, were also noted by Mrs. Cushman, along with what she deemed "highway robbery" tactics with certain City fees imposed. In conclusion, it was the statement of Mrs. Cushman that "if this does go through, it will be my opinion that certain members of this City Hall are in cahoots with the Sierra Club, and maybe they should sue their brain for non-support!"

Mr. Paul Schwartzhoff, 2215 West 236th Place, pointed out the indefinite time aspect of the subject resolution, and indicated his strong opposition to the landscaping assessment district -- he does not feel it is in his interest, and is of the further opinion that it would be an undue burden on many property owners and renters. His review of the proposed project indicates that some 90% of Torrance citizens will be paying for projects which are not in their block, thereby accommodating the remaining 10% with such need.

Next noted by Mr. Schwartzhoff was the absence of developer-required landscaping in many areas of the City, landscaping oversights in street projects, etc., as was his opinion that Federal Revenue Sharing funds might better be used for needs other than the purchase of park land (particularly in view of the defeated bond issue in this regard).

Of specific concern to Mr. Schwartzhoff was the tremendous expense of Hawthorne Boulevard landscaping -- "is it possible Edison Company will be constructing heavy overhead transmission lines down the center of Hawthorne Boulevard; is it possible Edison Company will have

a base for each tower, like a Viking ship? -- is it possible the officials of Torrance want to use the taxpayers' money to landscape the media to assist in hiding these Viking ships, and, in turn, assisting the Edison Company?"

Next reviewed by Mr. Schwartzhoff was his overall disagreement with the findings of Assessment Engineer Thompson, noting the cost to date in the subject project of some \$40,000.

In conclusion, Mr. Schwartzhoff reaffirmed his opposition to an assessment district, and indicated that he was one of the Torrance citizens who would favor recall of Councilmen, if necessary, and would work diligently to that end.

Mr. William Harmon, 20662 Grand Summit Road, noted the following needed clarification: maintenance costs; tree replacement; additional, if any, annual cost to taxpayer; annual cost for new planting; the merits of each property owner paying for his own trees; improved property values and resultant increased taxes; the effect to corner lots.

Mrs. Ethel Kovach, a Torrance property owner, expressed her disappointment that public hearings in this matter had not been held before the Torrance Beautiful and Park and Recreation Commissions -- it would have facilitated this matter, and the public input would have been before the Council prior to this point. Mrs. Kovach further noted the scarcity of posted signs; expressed appreciation for the preservation of the trees fronting Torrance High School; and recalled the progressively depleting greenery in the City of Torrance. It was the concluding opinion of Mrs. Kovach that the desired landscaping could be accomplished without an assessment district -- i.e. wise budgeting, reevaluation of priorities, and reinstatement of past procedures in landscaping needed areas in the City.

Next to speak was Mr. Donald Bilderback, 1924 Middlebrook Road, who stated that a comparison between street lighting and tree planting is not a valid one, in that street lighting is primarily in the interest of safety. Mr. Bilderback further noted that the assessment paid by commercial developers likely would be passed on to consumers, the residents.

Mr. Dick Abshear, 19905 Anza Avenue, presented yet another petition, bearing some 600 names, in protest of the assessment district, specifically noting the role of each petition-signer in obtaining support for Council recall, if necessary. Mr. Abshear added his personal feeling that he has all the taxes he needs, with all due respect to trees -- he does, however, "harbor strong feelings of animosity regarding public servants who begin to act more as overseers than servants."

Representing Hughes Company, 3100 West Lomita Boulevard, Mr. William Mueller stated that his company had no objection to paying its fair share, but there are many needed improvements (Lomita Boulevard, for one), and, in this case, it appears that the priorities are wrong.

Mr. Arnold Katz, 23317 Iris Avenue, expressed his concerns in the area of cost, the absence of definitive information from the Assessment Engineer, and the need for serious review of the service to be rendered.

Representing the North Torrance area, Mr. Bill Largent, 18832 Felbar Avenue, stated that his canvas of residents indicated that 10% favored the proposed assessment district, and 90% of the residents were opposed to same. Council rejection of the Landscaping Assessment District was urged by Mr. Largent.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Miller invited those in favor of the Assessment District to speak.

The first such speaker was Mr. Don Pyles, 23320 Elm Avenue, who could see no objection to the small increase represented by this project in view of the overall improvement to the City and resultant increased property values. Mr. Pyles further commented that consideration should be given fixed income situations.

Mr. Henry Nowicki, on behalf of Marble Estates Homeowners Association, stated that the legislation re: landscaping assessment districts is a step in the right direction -- Torrance should be a beautiful city. However, Mr. Nowicki indicated some reservations as to the contents of the bill, and noted the need for coordination between the homeowners and the Assessment Engineer, as well as the need for additional clarification in many areas of the proposed project.

Representing the Torrance Beautiful Commission, Chairman Pat Lewandowski, 3848 West 226th Street, noted the understandable concern of the Commission in its new role as the Environmental Quality Commission and the desire to make Torrance an aesthetically pleasing place to live. At the July 5th meeting of the Commission, according to Mr. Lewandowski, it took unanimous action to request Council approval of the subject Landscaping Assessment District, in the interest of ecology.

Mr. Richard Hall, 4622 Paseo de las Tortugas, speaking as a residential property owner with 81 frontage feet, not near any of the proposed projects, voiced his support of the landscaping districts. Mr. Hall indicated particular support of the citywide district, and noted the particular pleasure of exchanging trees and shrubbery for debris and dirt on Hawthorne Boulevard.

Added by Mr. Hall was his opinion that the City has an obligation to protect properties near main thoroughfares, in that traffic is generated by all of the City. Further, improvement of the air quality by providing more oxygen via landscaping will accelerate accomplishment of the EPA Air Quality Standards.

Mr. Brian Gauthier, 24706 Via Valmonte, commended the Council for its foresight in introducing the subject project, and acknowledged, regretfully, the sentiment expressed at this meeting. Mr. Gauthier also noted his long observance of this hard-working, dedicated Council, and pointed out the fact that this Council does not have to be hit over

the head with a recall threat nor is it necessary to shout this group down, and behave in such manner -- a fact well known to those in regular attendance at City Council meetings.

The last speaker was Mr. B.F. Lamb, 18727 Haas Avenue, who commented that the hour of 6:00 P.M. (the hour of the subject hearing) is a most inconvenient one for many people, and their absence and lack of input should be taken into consideration by the Council.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Council discussion ensued, as follows:

"Mixed emotions" were acknowledged by Councilman Uerkwitz -- who also indicated that he was not intimidated by the recall threats -- with the further indication that the public hearing process had really paid off in this instance. Mr. Uerkwitz stated that trees throughout the City would be most desirable; however, it is now obvious that such an expenditure is not favored by a large number of Torrance residents -- it is, therefore, necessary to await a more palatable concept for such a project from a financial standpoint; Mr. Uerkwitz' vote will be to oppose the assessment district.

Councilman Armstrong likewise acknowledged the merits of the public hearing process and the fact that the feeling of the people has been made clear -- it had been his hope that the proposed project would prove acceptable, and that there would have been recognition of the tree as the best weapon against air pollution. It was noted by Mr. Armstrong that one tree, in 24- hours, can produce enough oxygen to keep a man alive; one tree has the cooling effect of five air conditioners; one acre of growing trees will scrub clean the air polluted by 8 cars -- there is a need for consideration of this factor. It is clear, however, Councilman Armstrong concluded, that in this community, at this time, such a commitment is inappropriate, and, regrettably, his vote will be no on the assessment district.

It was the comment of Councilman Surber that the "Council got the message" at this meeting; he added that he had supported such a program in 1972 when the Public Works Committee recommended an appropriation for necessary drafting of legislation, on the assumption that those to be assessed would be those specifically benefitting from the improvement. In the meantime, Mr. Surber continued, the people's concern for taxes, etc. has become increasingly apparent, and it is now his feeling that a matter of this magnitude should not be decided just by the vote of the Council, but, rather, by the vote of the people.

Further noted by Councilman Surber was the absence of clarity surrounding the proposed project, the posting left much to be desired, the public hearing arrangements were unsatisfactory, etc. -- were the trees the saviour of a lifetime -- but undesired by the people -- it should not be done, period.

Councilman Brewster indicated his opinion that the objections voiced are not against a beautiful environment, but, rather, to the proposed financial requirements and method of assessment -- hopefully, a "back to the drawing board" recommendation would meet with favor.

A prepared statement was offered by Councilman Sciarrotta, as follows: "The remarks which I am about to make are not intended for those of you who are here to constructively voice your opinions and suggestions on the issue of an assessment district. I know many of you; you have given me sound advice in the past, and I know that you mean well -- most of you here tonight -- and I'm for you 100%. I know that your protests are sincere; I know that you are not opposed to beautification, that in most cases it's a matter of economics, especially for those of you who must live on a fixed income. I, too, must live on a fixed income, since I retired last year. A little over a year ago the Public Works Committee of our City Council, at the instigation of some concerned citizens, asked that the Committee explore the possibilities of an assessment district for beautification. This hearing is being held as a result of that study. When a hearing is held, it is to give our people an opportunity to voice their sentiments for or against a pending project. At no time during my eleven years on the City Council, has this body stuffed anything down the citizens throats -- there are people who would like to have you think otherwise. Their reasoning runs something like this: 'All bears growl, Joe growls, therefore, he's a bear.'

"My recollections tell me that, on the subject of assessments, we have always held hearings, so that the people would have an opportunity to voice their sentiments. Other than this, in all of our City improvements, we have limited ourselves within the City budget. A vote to hold a hearing, by no stretch of the imagination, is a vote for assessments.

"What I have said so far was said because I deeply resent scare tactics and intimidations used frequently by a minority group in our City. I read to you a prepared petition which someone handed to me, especially the words which say 'the undersigned will actively circulate petitions for the recall of every member of the Council voting in favor of such an assessment, regardless of whether or not the measure is passed.' You can readily see that this is a 'heads, I win; tails, you lose' sort of proposition. I want the proponent of this philosophy to know, and his followers too, that I do not scare too easily. My vote will not be swayed by this group any more than the 'know-nothings', the Columbians, and the KuKlux Klan swayed people for a better America. Our City Council has used good common sense on all controversial issues; with the help of sound civic leaders, we have reached a position of leadership in the South Bay area. It is my belief that this minority group of people, if the assessment fails to carry, will want to say 'We stopped the rascals'. It's strange how the so-called rascals continue in office while the attempts of those who resort to scare tactics and intimidations seldom make the grade. Somewhere along the line we must have satisfied the majority of the people, and that is why we are still here.

"My vote tonight is not based on the intimidation of those who have lived, and still live, in a twilight zone -- my vote, for the record, is based on these facts: (1) Management knows that I have not been in favor

of this proposed assessment district; (2) the Finance Committee, of which I am Chairman, knows that I have not even sympathized with this assessment district, long before these scare tactics were used; (3) although I know that 'a thing of beauty is a joy forever', and would like to see Torrance become the flower of the West, I realize that the burden at the present tax level is beyond the point of saturation; (4) discrepancies that are not justifiable have clouded my mind to a great degree; and (5) as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, I visualize some help in the near future which will enable us to accomplish the same thing that this assessment district would accomplish. I'm hoping for the best. My vote is against the assessment district."

Councilman Wilson stated his feeling that by turning down the assessment district at this time, it is only delaying the inevitable; eventually it will be necessary to face up to the problem -- there are areas in the City of Torrance in serious need of improvement; there is an economic effect on the City, and perhaps health as well. It is hoped that other methods of accomplishment may be evolved -- regretfully, the proposed assessment district was not acceptable, as evidenced at this meeting. Dr. Wilson then advised that he too will have to vote "no", not because he does not believe in the principle that something must be done, but ^{because} this is not the appropriate procedure at this time.

It was the comment of Mayor Miller that it was necessary to reach this point to ascertain the desires of Torrance residents relative to a landscaping assessment district -- and the feeling has been made clear. It was the further comment of the Mayor that the only thing that tempts his affirmative vote is the recall threat -- such was deemed completely unnecessary by him, in light of his 11 years of responsibility to Torrance residents.

It was further pointed out by Mayor Miller that the only feedback -- until this meeting -- was from the people who favored a landscaping assessment district. It has now been ascertained, via public hearing, what the people want, Mayor Miller concluded, and so be it -- threats are without any merit whatsoever.

Councilman Brewster added that the obvious rejection of this plan is acknowledged -- however, hopefully, it is not rejection of the environmental thrust that this Council and community has taken in the last four years, nor rejection of the community goals adopted through a Citizens Advisory Committee, and advice of the Torrance Beautiful Commission -- because beautification is more than just beautification; it is a buffer against physical and economic deterioration in a community. Mr. Brewster then pledged that he will continue to search for some way to do this job that is acceptable to the community -- further, it is hoped that those opposed to the subject plan would not oppose continued work in achievement of the aforementioned goals.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the Council NOT form the subject Landscaping Assessment District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Concurrence with, and support of, Councilman Brewster's sentiments was voiced by Councilman Armstrong, at the time of his "yes" vote. Councilman Sciarrotta likewise indicated concurrence, and reaffirmed his opinion that assistance to this end would soon be forthcoming.

Councilman Surber, at the time of his "yes" vote, commented that this meeting has resulted in valuable input, that the Council and the people are "all on the same track" in a "pay-as-you-go" feeling -- it is now necessary to get on with the things which must be done, and revise priorities accordingly.

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The hour being 8:45 P.M., Mayor Miller ordered at 5-minute recess.

(It was necessary for Councilman Wilson to leave the meeting at this time.)

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APPEALS - OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:

24. SEWER LATERAL for Mrs. Vinetta Lough, 18504 Ermanita Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:

That \$300 be reimbursed to Ms. Lough for extra sewer connection costs.

Mrs. Lough was present; Staff findings were reviewed, and the following action resulted:

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Engineer, subject to City Attorney approval as to legality. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was the request of Mayor Miller that should there be an adverse opinion by the City Attorney, that the item be returned to the agenda, to permit a full presentation of the matter.

HEARINGS - PLANNING AND ZONING:

22. APPEAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BOARD action approving Environmental Impact Report (EA 73-79) PRAIRIE-MADRONA STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the subject public hearing.

Staff presentation was made by Environmental Review Board Chairman Scharfman regarding the Board's findings in this matter.

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Mayor Miller then invited those desiring to speak to do so at this time.

Mrs. Marjorie Garrett, 4003 West 177th Street, inquired as to the fate of Prairie Avenue between Artesia Boulevard and 190th Street -- projections were provided by C.E. Associate Bourbonnais, it being noted that no clear cut decisions have yet been made in this regard.

City Clerk Coil noted that a petition bearing 99 signatures protesting the Madrona Service Road had been received -- such petition was held for the hearing on Phase I.

The next speaker was Mr. Ed Parker 21504 Madrona, who requested notification regarding consideration of Phase I in this matter -- he was advised that this would appear on the August 7th Council agenda.

Mr. John La Resche, 3436 West 228th Street, representing the Torrance Heights Civic Association, commended the subject Environmental Impact Report, and deemed it a most superior report. Recommended reading were Pages 55 through 66 re: effect on single family residences.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that EA 73-79, Environmental Impact Report, Prairie-Madrona Street Improvement Project be accepted as complying with the intent of the Environmental Quality Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Wilson).

23. ZC 73-9, PEPPER TREE VILLAGE. Change of zone from R-3 (PP) to R-3 (PD) on property located southerly of Torrance Boulevard at the westerly City boundary line.
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

An Affidavit of Publication was presented by City Clerk Coil, and it was ordered filed, there being no objection.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the subject public hearing, and inquired if anyone wished to be heard. There was no response.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the hearing be closed. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission re: ZC 73-9 for a change of zone from R-3 (PP) to R-3 (PD). The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

Councilman Brewster noted previous objections regarding the subject property; however, in this case, R-3 (PD) is preferable to R-3 (PP), hence his affirmative vote.

Councilman Surber also recalled his previous negative vote in this matter -- his vote is now an affirmative one because of the change to R-3 (PD). This was also true for Councilman Uerkwitz.

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The hour being 9:40 P.M., Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as the City Council, and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

The Council returned to its agenda at 9:41 P.M.

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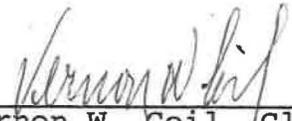
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

32. Councilman Sciarrotta offered the following report from the Sister City Committee: they have taken the \$2000 raised at the Bunka-Sai, and allotted \$1000 for travel, (and, in order to save face, are advancing \$500 for the Mayor's expenses in his trip to Kashiwa); \$100 for stationery and envelopes; \$100 for gifts; communications, telephones, telegrams, \$100; visiting dignitaries, \$300; cultural exchange committee, \$200; Japan/America Federation, \$50; Business-Professional Exchange Committee, \$50; and Committee Chairman's allowance, \$100 -- a total of \$2000.00.

33. Public acknowledgement of Mayor Miller's professional handling of a very difficult meeting was made by Councilman Uerkwitz -- an excellent job! Appreciation for these kind remarks was expressed by Mayor Miller, along with his gratitude for the Council's quiet patience throughout the lengthy hearing.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

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

APPROVED:



 Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
 Minute Secretary

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