

I N D E XCity Council - November 13, 1973

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Adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

# # #

November 13, 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, November 13, 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, City Treasurer Rupert, and City Clerk Coil.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Water System Manager Borgwat led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation, as follows, was given by Reverend Lee Roy Brandes, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd:

"OUR GRACIOUS GOD, IT MUST BE VERY OBVIOUS TO YOU EVEN AS IT IS APPARENT TO US THAT WE LIVE IN A TIME WHEN WE HAVE A LOT OF MISTRUST OF ONE ANOTHER. WE WOULD PRAY, O GOD, THAT YOU WOULD HELP US TO ELIMINATE THIS MISTRUST OF ONE ANOTHER, AND THAT AS WE LIVE TOGETHER AS PEOPLE WE MAY BE ABLE TO REGAIN TRUST OF ONE ANOTHER. SO WE WOULD PRAY THIS EVENING AS WE MEET TOGETHER AS A GROUP OF CITIZENS THAT WE MAY LOOK TO ONE ANOTHER WITH BELIEVING HEARTS AND SEE GOOD IN OTHER PEOPLE AND BELIEVE THAT THEY TOO REPRESENT YOUR GOODNESS AND YOUR KINDNESS."

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of October 16, 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 regularly audited demands be paid. His motion, seconded by Councilman Brewster, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

1.

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7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Wilson 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 Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:Transportation Committee:

Met on November 12th; report to Council in two weeks.

Subject: Bus System.

Ad Hoc Committee on Appointed Groups:

Will next meet on November 14th at 4:30 P.M.

Police, Fire, and Public Safety:

Will meet on November 19th at 5 P.M. with Edison Company representatives.

Will also meet on November 20th re: Policewomen.

PROCLAMATIONS:

9. "YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK"

10. "BIBLE WEEK"

So proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

COMMISSION MATTERS:

11. RESOLUTION naming Chiefs of Emergency Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-210

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR CHIEFS OF  
EMERGENCY SERVICES PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE  
NO. 2419.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-210. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

12. TORRANCE DISASTER COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That the following people, in addition to the Chiefs of Emergency Services per Item 11, be appointed to the Torrance Disaster Council:

James Becker, Southern California Gas Company  
Thomas Clemmer, Dominguez Water Company  
J.C. Conn, Pacific Telephone Company  
Dorothy Goodrich, California State Department, Human  
Resources Development

Lowell V. Goss, Southern California Edison Company  
 Harold Neill, Southern California Water Company  
 Frank Scalzi, Little Company of Mary Hospital  
 Paul Sittel, Torrance Unified School District  
 Alice Walker, American Red Cross  
 Ted Wells, General Telephone Company.

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

REAL PROPERTY:

13. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of Right-of-Entry License from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for the extension of Telo Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-211

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN RIGHT OF ENTRY LICENSE BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY FOR THE EXTENSION OF TELO AVENUE.

Councilman Surber moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-211. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

14. RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of Easement from Southern California Edison Company (Serial 47648-A) for a bicycle path across Madison property along Madrona Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-212

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THE EASEMENT FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY (SERIAL 47648-A) FOR A BICYCLE PATH ACROSS EDISON PROPERTY ALONG MADRONA AVENUE.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-212. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PARK AND RECREATION:

15. RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-213

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE

AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BY AND  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE  
TORRANCE AREA YOUTH BANDS, INC. FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 1973-74.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-213. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

16. RETENTION OF CONSULTANT TO PREPARE THE FEDERAL SURPLUS LAND APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION.

REQUEST OF PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the retention of a management consultant who specializes in public agencies, and, in particular, Federal grants. (Fee: \$25 per hour, plus expenses of 12¢ per mile, not to exceed the sum of \$1500 -- this cost can be absorbed through Department's present operating budget.)

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to grant the above request of the Park and Recreation Director. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

POLICE OPERATIONS:

17. RESOLUTION re: connection to Los Angeles' Front End Communication System, and lease agreement with Sanders Data Systems for the hardware necessary for said communication system for the Torrance Police Department automated Want/Warrant System.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-214

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST A  
REQUEST TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR  
CONNECTION TO LOS ANGELES' FRONT END COM-  
MUNICATION SYSTEM, AND TO EXECUTE AND  
ATTEST THAT CERTAIN LEASE AGREEMENT WITH  
SANDERS DATA SYSTEMS FOR THE HARDWARE  
NECESSARY FOR SAID COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
FOR THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATED  
WANT-WARRANT SYSTEM.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 73-214. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to approve an appropriation of \$5,000.00 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to cover this expenditure. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve of the City of Torrance entering into an amended agreement with the City of Los Angeles on their improved want/warrant program; and, further, to approve the signing of an equipment lease agreement with Sanders Data Systems for the leasing of the necessary equipment to participate, per Staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

18. TEST VALIDATION STUDIES.

RECOMMENDATION OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

That Council approve City of Torrance participation in test validation studies being conducted by the Selection Consulting Center, along with approval of necessary funding.

CITY MANAGER NOTE:

Based on the amount appropriated in the 1973-74 budget for testing services, there appears to be an adequate contingency provision to cover the cost of this study.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Civil Service Commission. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

19. BUS SYSTEM TASK FORCE.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council adopt his November 7th report re: appointees to Bus System Task Force and the responsibilities thereof.

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

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

20. ORDINANCE NO. 2437.

ORDINANCE NO. 2437

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 91.4.4, 91.4.5 AND 91.4.6 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING REGULATIONS OF YARDS; ADDING SECTION 91.4.9 CONCERNING MAXIMUM LOT COVERAGE; ADDING SECTION 91.4.10 CONCERNING USABLE OPEN SPACE; AMENDING SUBSECTION e) OF SECTION 92.13.1 CONCERNING FENCE HEIGHT LIMITS; AND DELETING IN ITS

ENTIRETY ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 5, DIVISION  
7 OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PROPERTY CODE.

Councilman Surber moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2437 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, Surber,  
Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.  
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Wilson. (Not present at first reading).

21. ORDINANCE NO. 2438.

ORDINANCE NO. 2438

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.48.1  
OF CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE  
MUNICIPAL CODE.

(Memo of Understanding setting forth certain changes  
in hours, wages and working conditions for employees  
represented by the Torrance Fire Fighters Association,  
Local 1138 IAFF.)

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2438 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber,  
Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.  
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Wilson (Not present at first reading).

HEARINGS - OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:

22. CONTINUED - CHANSLOR-WESTERN OIL AND DEVELOPMENT CO.  
REQUEST.

Held for November 27th meeting, per Council direction on  
October 30th.

# # #

The advertised hour for public hearings -- 7:30 P.M. -- had  
not yet arrived; therefore, consideration of Items #23 through 29  
was held for later in the meeting.

# # #

PARK AND RECREATION:

30. RESOLUTION re: 1974 Tournament of Roses Parade.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-215

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST

THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY  
AND THE TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION  
FOR FURNISHING LABOR NECESSARY FOR THE  
DECORATION OF A FLOAT IN THE 1974 TOURNA-  
MENT OF ROSES PARADE.

Councilman Wilson moved for the approval of Resolution No. 73-215. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ROUTINE MATTERS:

31. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

A. BUDGETED ITEMS:

1. Departmental rainy season needs:
  - A. \$535.50 to American Wholesale Hardware for 85 sets of raingear for Public Works Departments.
  - B. \$563.85 to David's Gloves for 50 sets of raingear for the Police Department, with badge holders, and for 20 pairs of rain boots.
  - C. \$737.94 to M.L. Snyder Company for 4 rain jackets, 60 hats and 72 pairs of Safety toe and Regular type boots.
2. \$363.72 to Zellerbach Paper Company for 20,000 sheets of vellum type paper, requested by Central Services for printing copies of General Plan Elements.
3. \$1248.45 to Osborne Kemper & Thomas Company for the purchase of 388 special design award tiles with City logo, as requested by the City Clerk's office.
4. \$20,676.60 to Centerline Products Company for an annual contract to supply 6,200 gallons of traffic street striping paint, as requested by the Department of Transportation.
5. Withdrawn.
6. \$1052.12 to Billings Baldwin Piano and Organ Company for one only replacement piano, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department for use by the senior citizens at Bartlett Center. (Note: The City will be reimbursed in the amount of \$152.00 by the senior citizens for this purchase.)
7. \$1175.29 to Johnny Gillette Tire Company for necessary tire recapping and maintenance services required by the City Garage.

8. \$579.46 to Needham Book Finders for 123 library books.
  9. \$300.02 to McGraw Hill Book Company for 24 library books.
  10. \$1769.08 to Baker & Taylor Company for 223 library books.
  11. \$1285.52 to Baker & Taylor Company for 230 various library books.
  12. \$551.68 to Baker and Taylor Company for the purchase of 107 adult type and juvenile books.
  13. \$577.50 to W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. for one advance Greenaway subscription plan.
  14. \$496.13 to All Types Business Machines for one only printing calculator, as requested by the Police Dept.
  15. \$989.10 to W.B. Equipment Company for 300 each 4-inch and 600 of 2½" plastic water hydrant caps, as requested by the Water Department for stock.
  16. \$1013.83 to California Nut and Bolt Company for 1,000 stainless large size bolts and nuts, as requested by the Water Department for stock.
  17. \$780.05 to Neptune Meter Company for the purchase of various Neptune Water Meter repair parts, as requested by the Water Department.
32. AWARD OF CONTRACT - 2 ONLY - ONE-MAN RUBBISH TRUCK BODIES.  
(REF. BID #B73-14) - EXPENDITURE - \$32,272.80.
- RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR/PURCHASING SUPERVISOR:  
That Council approve of the purchase of two only of these 1-man rubbish bodies from the low bidder of B73-14, the Dearth Machinery Company, in the amount of \$16,136.40 each, or \$32,272.80 total, including tax.
33. AWARD OF CONTRACT - PROPANE REFUELING STATION - \$22,791.00  
(REF. BID #B73-40).
- RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR/PURCHASING SUPERVISOR:  
That Council accept the negotiated price of \$22,791.00, including tax, for the purchase of a 30,000 gallon propane storage tank (including necessary pump, valves, piping, etc.) from the Glenco Company located in Newport Beach. Further, that Council appropriate \$22,791.00 from the General Fund to cover this expenditure.
34. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Storm Drain from 233rd Street to 235th Street e/o Pennsylvania Avenue (Job No. 81010)
- RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:  
That the work be accepted and final payment be made to the contractor, S & S Construction.

35. RELEASE OF OIL WELL BOND #21-B-70751.

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR/LICENSE SUPERVISOR:  
That Oil Well Bond #21-B-70751 be terminated.

36. CLAIM of Helen F. Chandler for property damages.37. CLAIM of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That agenda items #36 and #37 be DENIED and referred to the City Attorney. The insurance carrier concurs with this recommendation.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and #37. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ADDENDUM ITEM:38. TRAFFIC DEVICES AT THE INTERSECTION OF VIA VALMONTE AND PASEO DE LAS TORTUGAS.

The request appealing recent City Council action regarding traffic control signs at the subject intersection, the resultant addendum item on the agenda this date, and the extensive notification in this matter was noted by Mayor Miller for the benefit of the large audience in attendance on this item.

The background history of the problems at the subject intersection, Traffic Commission findings, City Council consideration, etc. was provided both by City Manager Ferraro and Director of Transportation Horkay, following which Mayor Miller invited comments from those present.

Mr. Warren Carr, employed by Homeowners Emporium at Anza and Pacific Coast Highway, reported on customer comments indicating the existence of a problem -- speed bumps or reduced speed limits were suggested by him.

Speaking in opposition to the Via Valmonte/Paseo de las Tortugas signing were the following: Mrs. Martha Ivey, 24707 Via Valmonte; Brian Gauthier, Via Valmonte; Larry Schneider, 24855 Via Valmonte; Mrs. Emma Jean Coffee, 4213 Via Alondra, Palos Verdes Estates; Edward Hancock, 4228 Via Valmonte, Palos Verdes Estates; Mrs. Charles Randall, 4595 Calle de Arboles, Torrance; and Robert Shulton, 3801 Via Palomino, Palos Verdes Estates. Each speaker touched on the inequities and inconveniences represented by the subject signing. Mr. Hancock pointed out the likelihood of increased traffic on Newton Street with the posting of these signs, and provided a petition of protest bearing 19 names of Newton Street residents.

Urging installation of the subject signs -- in the interest of peace and quiet for their residential area -- were Mr. Henry Ebley, 3933 Mesa Street and Mr. Elmer Chidell, 4144 Mesa Street. Also noted by them were acts of vandalism, including destruction

of the newly installed signs, harassment faced by residents supporting such signing, the uniqueness of Mesa Street, etc.

# # #

The hour being 8:40 P.M., Mayor Miller ordered a brief recess.

# # #

On resumption of the meeting, the following speakers voiced objections and approval of the subject signing:

Objections: Mrs. Leona Fitting, 4626 Paseo de las Tortugas; Tom Sutherland, 24706 Via Valmonte, and Paul Clodio, 4021 Via Valmonte, Palos Verdes Estates.

Approval: John Simcock, 4201 Mesa; Dana Houston, 4012 Mesa; Andy Fuller, 4020 Mesa; Bill Frazee, 3912 Mesa.

Dr. William Davies, a Paseo de las Tortugas resident, felt a Palos Verdes/Torrance "good neighbor" policy very important, and suggested the appointment of a study group to review possible future openings into Palos Verdes.

Similar problems on Anza<sup>she</sup> Avenue were noted by Mrs. Jackie Ayres, 4410 - 231st Street, and deemed Mesa Street residents naive in the purchase of homes there in not anticipating the present traffic problems.

Mrs. Mildred Glad, 4136 Newton, pointed out the present strenuous traffic problems on Newton Street -- hopefully, the subject Palos Verdes traffic will not be directed to Newton.

There being no further speakers, Council discussion followed.

Councilman Uerkwitz commented that the primary factor appears to be one of inconvenience involved in a longer route to the shopping center, and added that there has been no new evidence at this meeting to revise his original finding that Mesa Street is a residential street, and that it is a street not designed to handle traffic of this type. Sign installation and a berm arrangement was recommended by Mr. Uerkwitz, for the present, with an eye to future resolution of the overall problem.

It was the opinion of Councilman Armstrong that signs of themselves do not guarantee safety; Mesa Street residents are exposed to considerably more than mere "inconvenience" as compared with the small extra distance involved with the signing, and the primary consideration must be with these Torrance residents. This is a problem in evidence throughout the City, per Mr. Armstrong, and the Council's stand has been to inhibit the traffic flow through streets that are not designed to be through carriers; it is necessary to continue with that policy in this particular case.

Councilman Sciarrotta commented that convenience is the major concern of the one side while safety and peace of mind are desired by the others -- he must support the latter group, and will, therefore, reaffirm his previous position in this matter.

Concurrence with the foregoing comments was expressed by Councilman Surber -- it is, in his opinion, a clear case of inconvenience vs. the 24-hour problem faced by Mesa residents. Of primary concern to Mr. Surber is the safety factor on Mesa -- a badly engineered street on which houses should never have been built! -- based on his personal observation of this street. Mr. Surber expressed further concern regarding the destruction of the signs and the absence of respect for the law.

Councilman Brewster commented on the "no winner" aspect of the subject consideration -- valid grievances have been expressed on both sides -- however, it would seem that the Mesa residents have the less palatable situation, and he cannot, therefore, reverse his previous position in this matter. It was added by Mr. Brewster that this problem is symptomatic of a greater problem that the South Bay area as a community faces; it is not an intra-jurisdictional problem, but is an inner-jurisdictional problem having to do with growing density, traffic, etc. -- it is, therefore, necessary that all communities in this area begin to work together through such organizations as the Inter-City Transportation Committee, the Corridor Study Committee, etc. wherein lies the ultimate answer to some of these problems now faced.

It was the opinion of Councilman Wilson that to approve the subject signing would only compound the problem rather than finding a solution -- the traffic has to go somewhere, and it appears that it would then be forced down Newton Street which would be equally hazardous for those residents. Dr. Wilson added that the traffic volume from the hill will continue to mount -- there is a need to consider the opening of Vista Montana and improving Newton, rather than resorting to a temporary solution at this time.

Mayor Miller deemed Mesa Street a unique one in the City of Torrance -- with unique problems -- and he must support these residents from the standpoint of their safety; the inconvenience to others must be a secondary consideration. It was the request of the Mayor that the Director of Transportation continue to study this particular problem and return to Council with a "complete and thorough program as to alternative ways of solving this problem to protect the safety of the residents of Mesa Street".

The following formal action was taken:

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the Council concur in its original position and leave the signs in place, with a report and recommendation to be returned by the Department of Transportation as to alternatives. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, Mayor Miller conveyed his considerable displeasure at the fact that the destruction and vandalism surrounding the signs installed at

the Council's direction was a source of amusement to certain members of the audience, based on their laughter during this testimony. Councilman Surber joined in strong concurrence of these comments.

The motion carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

Discussion was directed to the berm arrangement at the subject intersection -- Director of Transportation Horkay displayed a preliminary design of same; Police Chief Nash confirmed the effectiveness of a berm enforcement-wise. It was the consensus of the Council that there should be Traffic Commission review of the berm concept, and the following action resulted:

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to refer the berm concept for the subject intersection to the Traffic Commission via the Director of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

For purposes of notification of those present, Transportation Director Horkay advised that the next Traffic Commission meeting will be held on November 19th. It was the request of Mayor Miller that the area be posted as well.

# # #

A 10-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Miller at this time -- the hour being 10:10 P.M.

# # #

The Council now returned to:

PLANNING AND ZONING HEARINGS:

23. CONSTRUCTION OF CURB, GUTTER, SIDEWALK AT 2102 WEST  
233RD STREET (Chapter 27, 1911 Act, 73-2)

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the hearing on added portion of Chapter 27 (Short Form 1911 Act) City Project 73-2 at 2102 West 233rd Street.

City Engineer Weaver confirmed that the notices were mailed and posted, and further advised that no written protests had been received.

The Mayor then inquired if anyone in the audience wished to speak; there was no response.

Councilman Armstrong moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to direct the City Engineer to proceed with Chapter 27 (Short Form 1911 Act) City Project 73-2 at 2102 West 233rd Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

24. ZC 73-21, TORRANCE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Change of zone from C-2 to C-R on property located on the northwest corner of Van Ness Avenue and 182nd Street.  
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 objections.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the public hearing on ZC 73-21, and inquired if anyone wished to be heard. There was no response.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Department and Planning Commission for approval of a change of zone from C-2 to C-R. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

25. V 73-11, EMERGENCY PET CLINIC OF SOUTH BAY, INC.

Request for a variance to allow the operation of an animal hospital in the C-1 zone and within 300 ft. of residential properties on property located at 2325 Torrance Boulevard.  
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION,  
SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

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

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the subject public hearing, and inquired if anyone wished to be heard.

On behalf of the proponent, Attorney Larry Bowman pointed out the unique service proposed by this facility, a service not in conflict with Code requirements for animal hospitals and kennels per se.

There being no other speakers, Councilman Surber moved that the hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve V 73-11, subject to conditions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz,  
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong (This is not a use he would  
like to approve in a residential area.)

26. ZC 73-19, PALOS VERDES INVESTORS, LTD.  
 27. V 73-9, PALOS VERDES INVESTORS, LTD.

APPEALS - PLANNING AND ZONING:

28. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DENIAL OF CUP 73-38 AND TT 31810 - PALOS VERDES INVESTORS, LTD.

The request of the proponent that the above items #26, 27, and #28 be continued to November 27th was noted by the Council.

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to concur with the proponent's request for continuance to November 27th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Miller ascertained that there was no one present on this matter.

29. INFORMAL HEARING ON APPEAL (NOT ADVERTISED)  
APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION DENYING REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF PP 70-3 (ROCKET SHIP), located in Del Amo Fashion Square, Carson-Madrona Company.

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

Attorney Larry Bowman, on behalf of the Carson-Madrona Company, outlined the background history of the Rocket Ship structure, and noted the absence of complaints concerning this building since its original inception -- the subject appeal is a request for the reasonable right to use the Rocket Ship for a commercial purpose, specifically, as a child care center for the shopping center exclusively. Mr. Bowman further noted that the child care center would be subject to the regulations of all appropriate agencies for "short term" child care arrangements.

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

Councilman Armstrong noted his previous affirmative action regarding the subject structure, his subsequent regret, and his present feeling that the condition for removal should be fulfilled.

Concurrence with Staff findings that the Rocket Ship does not meet the established quality of the shopping center was voiced by Councilman Uerkwitz -- further, there is an obligation to uphold the Planning Commission's position that the building be removed if unsuccessful.

Mayor Miller deemed the site and the proposed use completely inappropriate -- further, every opportunity has been afforded the proponent to make a success of the structure, with several unrewarding

ventures undertaken -- it is now time that the building be removed.

An opposite view was expressed by Councilman Sciarrotta -- child care at a shopping center would provide a valuable service for mothers who would otherwise be confined at home; this appears to be the best use yet proposed, in Mr. Sciarrotta's opinion.

The need for amortization of an investment was acknowledged by Councilman Brewster -- however, in the subject case, "how many trials do we go through?"

Discussion followed regarding general requirements for child care centers, "short term" care enforcement problems, etc., it being noted that structural requirements of the Rocket Ship for conversion to the subject use would be minimal because of the fact that it is a separate building; it was further noted that the building's fire clearance is satisfactory for State minimum requirements.

Councilman Brewster then stated that, in light of the above discussion, he could tolerate at least one more attempt at this location in what is likely a valid need and a practical service adjacent to a shopping center, and a use which will be subject to exacting regulations.

The following action resulted:

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Department and Planning Commission for DENIAL of Appeal on PP 70-3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Sciarrotta: That the Council grant the subject request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, but failed to carry, with roll call vote as follows:

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

The main motion for DENIAL carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

# # #

The hour being 10:55 P.M., Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as the City Council, and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and approval was unanimous. The Council returned to its agenda at 10:58 P.M.

# # #

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

39. Director of Transportation Horkay regretfully reported that Transportation Administrator Critchfield had been injured in an accident while participating in a competitive motorcycle event.

40. The forthcoming "dark night" for the Council -- December 4th -- because of an out-of-town conference was noted by City Clerk Coil.

41. The activities of the "Friends of Madrona Marsh" group was noted by Councilman Brewster, as was the apparent Chanslor-Western activity at this site.

Discussion ensued regarding said activities and the overall projections for the marsh. It was the specific concern of Councilmen Surber and Uerkwitz that there be a "sounding from Torrance residents" prior to any full scale undertakings in this matter, either via the ballot or any other means available. An "Opinionaire" by way of the Recreation Reporter or Torrance Topics was suggested by Councilman Armstrong. Mayor Miller joined in urging that there be a reading from Torrance residents. The Mayor also noted the varied projects now underway, the funding thereof, etc., and requested advice from the City Manager as to "where we are going in terms of the money we have to spend".

It was the ultimate direction that City Manager Ferraro review the Madrona marsh area as to funding, options, mode of questionnaires, possible "trade off" considerations, etc., with a report back to the Council.

42. The need for Mayor Pro Tem appointment was pointed out by Councilman Sciarrotta who MOVED that Councilman Wilson serve as Mayor Pro Tem from November 15, 1973 to May 15, 1974. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

43. It was the request of Councilman Sciarrotta that Planning Director Shartle arrange that a study be made of the land on Hawthorne Boulevard between 226th Street and 227th Street (some 230 ft. frontage and extending 105 ft. to the east) as to the best land use for the City.

44. The following report re: Tax Reform was made by Councilman Sciarrotta:

"Interest in last Tuesday's statewide election makes it evident that revenue control and tax reduction in Government is of great concern to the people of the State of California. We all know that Proposition 1 was defeated and that's past history. According to the Registrar of Voters, residents of the City of Torrance voted in favor of the Initiative. The breakdown was 17,102 - Yes; 12,839 - No. We must all consider this a mandate upon ourselves, as elected officials, to support programs of tax reform.

"As you recall, the Legislative Liaison Committee unanimously agreed to oppose Proposition 1, as did the City Council by a vote of 4 to 2. This was a difficult action because we all agreed with the concepts and basic intent of the proposal. Our opposition was based primarily on the fact that we did not consider a Constitutional Amendment the proper vehicle for establishing tax reform. Our major fear was that if the program did not work, it would have been virtually impossible to change the system.

"We now have the opportunity to validate our true concern for tax reform by initiating the following action:

"I suggest that we communicate with the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly and League of California Cities with regard to our support through the Legislative process of true Statewide tax reform. We should encourage both the Legislative proponents and opponents of Proposition 1 to get together and institute legislation by statute which should offer an effective workable system of tax reduction and revenue control for the benefit of California taxpayers."

Councilman Sciarrotta thereupon MOVED that this City Council direct Staff to initiate the above suggested actions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

45. Mayor Miller offered the following relative to the Energy Crisis:

"As most of us have been aware of for some time, and as the President warned in his address to the nation last week, we are faced with a very serious national energy shortage. And it can only worsen unless steps are taken to conserve several natural resources.

"In his Energy Crisis message, the President called upon Governors and Mayors to implement conservation measures in their own jurisdictions. We are capable of responding. However, first we need to consider what are our alternatives.

"Specifically, I am sure that there are ways whereby we can cut down on our electrical consumption and on our gasoline usage. It is incumbent upon us to react now. At this point, all that is being asked is voluntary compliance -- however, I can foresee a more precise rationing of fuels as a distinct possibility within the next several months.

"Therefore, I would like to ask that the City Manager prepare a report outlining how we can effect a conservation of energy in the City. We should look not only at City activities, but also at how our citizenry can be involved.

"In the case of City activities, I think we ought to look at our use of City vehicles, the frequency of trips, etc. We might review our bus system, particularly bus charters, and we might also look at the adequacy of our fuel storage tanks. In the area of electrical consumption, I would like to know what would be the impact, for instance, of temporarily discontinuing the night lighting on City Hall and other possibilities of reducing electrical uses in City Hall.

"As I see it, we need to do two things, and they are: first, to prepare for the eventuality of fuel rationing and the unavailability of electricity, and, second, we need to look at how we can tighten our belt so as to reduce our need for gasoline and electricity.

"I would hope that in the process of doing this, we could avoid taking a step back in the level of pollution standards currently adopted. I think a lowering of standards should be considered only as a last alternative. We must first cut back and increase operating efficiencies.

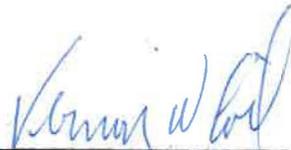
"Since the problem is now before us, we need Staff input in the next two weeks. At that time, Council can take the necessary actions."

It was so ordered.

# # #

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

# # #



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

APPROVED:



Ken Miller  
Mayor of the City of Torrance