

I N D E XCity Council - March 12, 1974

<u>SUBJECT:</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>OPENING CEREMONIES:</u>	
1. Call to Order	1
2. Roll Call	1
3. Flag Salute	1
4. Invocation	1
<u>STANDARD MOTIONS:</u>	
5. Approval of Minutes	1
6. Approval of Demands	1
7. Motion to Waive Further Reading	2
8. Council Committee Meetings	2
<u>PROCLAMATIONS:</u>	
9. Torrance Junior Woman's Club Shamrocks Against Dystrophy Week	2
<u>PRESENTATIONS:</u>	
9A. Plaque to Jim Allen, South High School, All- American Soccer Team	2
<u>LAND MANAGEMENT:</u>	
10. Airport Rental Policy/Lease Rent Adjustments	2,3
<u>TRANSPORTATION:</u>	
11. Railroad Crossing Gates - Torrance Blvd./Madrid	3
<u>SECOND READING ORDINANCES:</u>	
12. Ordinance No. 2474	4
13. Ordinance No. 2475	4
<u>ROUTINE MATTERS:</u>	
14. Expenditures over \$300	5,6
15. Claim of Frederick Strelitz	6
16. Claim of Esther Muhl	6
17. Claim of Ryan Robinson	6
<u>HEARINGS OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:</u>	
18. S.P. Cast Corp. - operation of 21 taxicabs	6
<u>ADDENDUM ITEM:</u>	
19. Resolution re: South Bay Information and Narcotics Unit	7
<u>ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:</u>	
20. City Manager Ferraro -- Happy Birthday to Councilman Sciarrotta	7,8
21. Councilman Armstrong, praise for Torrance Transit System	8
22. Councilmen Armstrong/Surber re: gasoline station price/hour postings	8
23. Councilman Sciarrotta, "State of the City"	8,9
24. Councilman Surber re: death penalty	9
25. Mayor Miller, introduction of Ms. Martha Reyes	9
26. Columbia Park Litigation	10
27. Mr. Henry Nowicki re: Oil Board review of Prudential development	10

Adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

# # #

Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
March 12, 1974

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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, March 12, 1974, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Absent: Councilman Wilson.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mrs. Helen Henry led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Reverend Gary Ivey, First Christian Church, as follows:

"OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY AS THE LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE GATHERED HERE TO USE THEIR WISDOM AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING IN GUIDING OUR COMMUNITY. WE PRAY FOR THY BLESSING TO BE UPON THEM, AND UPON THEIR CONCERNS FOR THIS COMMUNITY THAT THEY MIGHT BE FILLED WITH THE WISDOM AND THE LOVE AND THE COMPASSION THAT YOU SHOWED THROUGH THY SON, JESUS THE CHRIST."

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the approval of the minutes of February 26, 1974, as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that all regularly audited demands be paid. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

1.

City Council  
March 12, 1974

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 (Councilman Wilson absent).

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Public Works Committee: (233rd Street area)  
Met this date re: Chapter 27, 1911 Act, /per action taken at March 5th Council meeting -- a satisfactory resolution of the problem has been achieved, and a report will appear on the March 26th Council agenda.

South Bay Corridor Study Committee:  
Councilman Uerkwitz announced that this Committee will meet in Torrance on March 13th re: selection of a study consultant; it will be an "open to the public" meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS:9. TORRANCE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB SHAMROCKS AGAINST DYSTROPHY WEEK.

So proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

PRESENTATIONS:9A. PLAQUE to Jim Allen, South High School, for being selected as a member of the All-American Soccer Team.

Presentation was made by Mayor Miller and Councilman Armstrong who conveyed the congratulations of the Council and the City to Jim Allen for this achievement. There was grateful acceptance by Jim who, in turn, introduced his coach and teammates present in the audience.

LAND MANAGEMENT:10. AIRPORT RENTAL POLICY/LEASE RENT ADJUSTMENTS.RECOMMENDATION OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

1. That the Land Management Team be directed to meet on an individual basis with those airport lessees who are in imminent peril of becoming insolvent.

These meetings will be held with any of the ten commercial or sixteen aeronautical lesses who can furnish satisfactory proof they are in such a situation.

If the lessee can prove he is in this situation the lease may be renegotiated to explore ways in which the

City can provide relief to the lessee. However, the City must receive something of equal value in return.

Under this procedure, Land Management be directed to meet with Oriental Gardens lessee at the earliest possible date.

2. That Staff be directed to look into the possibility of using a moving average rent formula on rents for all lessees.
3. Staff be directed to prepare a study and report as to whether or not the City should continue to use the present inflation<sup>hedging</sup> method or establish a new method for future leases.

(The Committee has scheduled a meeting for March 26, 1974, 5:30 P.M. to discuss the Airport Commission's specific suggestions re: providing other forms of financial relief to Airport tenants.)

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the above recommendations of the Transportation Committee. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable. (Absent: Councilman Wilson).

TRANSPORTATION:

11. RAILROAD CROSSING GATES AT TORRANCE BOULEVARD AND MADRID AVENUE.

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

That Council approve the installation of railroad crossing protection at Torrance Boulevard and Madrid Avenue, per Plan "B-1". It is anticipated that the necessary agreement with the railroad will be submitted to Council for approval and execution within the next few weeks, at which time the necessary funding would also be appropriated.

Particularly noted, and of concern to some Council members, was the report that "unless the City takes some action in the near future the PUC will reopen Case No. 8437, and, in all probability, will order the City to install gates. Also, if the case is reopened, the PUC will study all other existing ungated crossings within the City, and either order these to be gated or order the crossings to be eliminated." Necessary clarification was provided by Director of Transportation Horkay. Further noted was the revised "Plan B-1" which does not affect the current street pattern, and does not prohibit any existing left-turn movements -- these matters being the previous concern of residents in the area.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Department of Transportation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

12. ORDINANCE NO. 2474.

ORDINANCE NO. 2474

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ARTICLE 8, CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 7 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING USE OF PUBLIC SIDEWALKS AND PARKWAYS; AND ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 8, CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 7 TO SAID CODE REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, USE AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLICATION VENDING MACHINES (NEWSRACKS).

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2474 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

13. ORDINANCE NO. 2475.

ORDINANCE NO. 2475

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.53.1 OF PART V, CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO EFFECT REVISIONS IN CERTAIN HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2475 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

# # #

ROUTINE MATTERS:14. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

A. BUDGETED ITEMS:

1. \$1039.07 to Park Son, Inc. for various small tools, taps, drills, caulking tools, etc., as requested by the Water Department.
2. \$3855.60 to Neptune Meter Company for 72 each 3/4-inch Neptune water meters, as requested by the Water Department for stock for replacement service.
3. \$511.18 to Graybar Electric for electrical switches and long life street lighting lamps, as requested by the Department of Transportation.
4. \$715.15 to Oranco Supply Company for two each sprinkler controller units with pedestals, as requested by the Park and Recreation Department.
5. \$1803.56 to Baker & Taylor Company for 267 library books.
6. \$387.03 to E.P. Dutton & Company, Inc. for 219 Greenaway Plan subscriptions.
7. \$645.01 to W.W. Irwin, Inc. for survey and repairs to tank and pump located at the Airport, as requested by the City Garage.
8. \$740.43 to GMC Truck & Coach for various GMC repair parts requested by the City Garage.
9. \$442.37 to Barnes & Delaney for 140 feet of various size equipment drive roller chain, as requested by the City Garage.
10. \$914.34 to Crawford Compressor Company for one only replacement 30 gallon air compressor with tank, as requested by the City Garage..
11. \$381.00 to Los Angeles Door Repair Corp. for necessary repairs to a rolling steel door at Fire Station #1, as requested by the Fire Department.
12. \$4024.44 to Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc. for the purchase of four Motorola radios requested by the Police Department for the new "Intruder Alarm Program which is funded under a new Federal Grant recently approved.

13. \$367.22 to Torrance Car Wash for 737.4 gallons of gasoline requested by the City Garage to refuel police vehicles during the month of February.

B. REIMBURSABLE ITEMS:

14. \$2376.65 to Martin Hannum for 10½ ounces of gold and 208 ounces of sterling silver requested by the Park and Recreation Department for use by the jewelry class. The City is reimbursed for this expenditure via fees collected from class participants.
15. CLAIM of Frederick Strelitz for property damages.
16. CLAIM of Esther Muhl for personal damages.
17. CLAIM of Ryan Robinson for personal damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claims on agenda items #15,16, and 17 be DENIED and referred to the City Attorney. The insurance carrier concurs with the recommendation.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #14, 15, 16, and 17. His motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

HEARINGS OTHER THAN PLANNING AND ZONING:

18. S.P. CAST CORPORATION application for permit to operate 21 taxicabs in the City of Torrance.

RECOMMENDATION OF LICENSE REVIEW BOARD:

That the application be approved.

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

Staff presentation was made by License Supervisor Hill, and the proponent, Mr. Solon P. Cast, was present to describe existing and proposed operations of his Checker Cab Company.

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

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the License Review Board that the subject application be approved. His motion, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Absent: Councilman Wilson).

Mr. Cast returned to request consideration of the imposition of a surcharge on each cab trip to offset the high price of gasoline and other increased costs.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the subject request be referred to the City Manager for study and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

ADDENDUM ITEM:

19. RESOLUTION re: South Bay Information and Narcotics Unit.

RESOLUTION NO. 74-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO  
IMPLEMENT A SOUTH BAY INFORMATION AND  
NARCOTICS UNIT GRANT FOR LAW ENFORCE-  
MENT PURPOSES.

Councilman Armstrong moved for the approval of Resolution No. 74-41. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, as follows:

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

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The hour being 7:40 P.M., Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council, and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent). The Council returned to its agenda at 7:41 P.M.

# # #

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

20. The March 9th birthday of Councilman Sciarrotta was noted by City Manager Ferraro -- this occasion was magnificently noted by way of the following poetic tribute, authored by Council Secretary, Claire Gall:

"The senior Councilman for 12 full years  
Has served his people well  
Endeared by loyal friends and citizens  
And his sidekick, lovely Nell.

He's brought the City much success  
By showing us the way  
To better Torrance in health and wealth  
And make the system pay.

His ban on jets at the Airport  
And lower density plan  
And senior citizen programs  
Make him an admired man.

Authorized poet laureate  
 His witty verse abounds  
 He's known as official story teller  
 Of the City's sights and sounds.

Local, State, and County men  
 Acknowledge Torrance's fame  
 You ask -- who is this raconteur?  
 SCIARROTTA is his name."

21. Councilman Armstrong commended the Torrance Transit System, based on his recent personal experience -- the buses are comfortable, air conditioned, clean and bright, along with skillful drivers. "Try it; you'll like it!" was the recommendation of Mr. Armstrong.
22. The status of recommendations re: gasoline station price/hour posting was questioned by both Councilman Armstrong and Surber -- City Manager Ferraro advised that this matter would appear on the March 19th agenda.
23. Councilman Sciarrotta provided the following "State of the City" message:

"Torrance is a wonderful City -- desirable, beautiful and balanced. I am proud to be one of its residents and one of the City Fathers. When some of our opponents run it down, I wonder why they live here.

"FBI records list Torrance as having the least amount of crime in any city our size. The average income of each household is the second highest in the nation. 61% of our people make over \$10,000 per year. Only 6% make under \$3,000. Our schools are rated as being the best in California. We have jobs for 162,000 people which is 106,000 jobs more than is needed for a city of 140,000 population. Our industries are varied. Our Police and Fire Departments receive commendations week after week. Our paramedics have saved many lives in the short period they have been in existence. We are about to expand the program. Our fire insurance rate is low in comparison to other cities and the most brutal, vicious and atrocious crimes committed in our City have been solved by our Police Department.

"These things don't just happen. The credit must go to our elected officials, management, and staff, department heads, and to those citizens of Torrance who have contributed their efforts to help achieve these goals.

"We lead the nation in traffic safety. We have received citations and plaques year after year for being the safest city in the nation. We have made possible more opportunities for people to participate in our local government than any other city in Los Angeles County. We have installed 16 traffic signals in the last 4 years -- 1/2-million dollars worth. Our libraries

have over 130,000 books and 650 magazine subscriptions available to the public. We have ample medical facilities and medical centers for our people -- more doctors than any city our size.

"We attract affluent people to our city. We have been leaders in pioneering low density housing -- we reduced the density from 42 units to the acre to 28 units to the acre. This somewhat eliminates the scares of low rentals. My only regret is that we did lose our local Housing Code led by those who use scare tactics to achieve their goals --if blighted areas are coming, blame it on them.

"We have recreation programs for people of all ages. Investigate the numerous citations given to our City's Recreation Department.

"We have added hundreds of acres of parks to Torrance at a very minimal cost to the taxpayers. We have plans to convert many of our present sumps to neighborhood parks.

"We have instituted many oil ordinances which are restrictive and also ordinances for safety and beautification. We have expert oil men whom we have hired to watch and report to the City Council any and all significant changes taking place in the oil fields which may be detrimental to our people.

"The Airport remains a community airport void of commuter planes and the sale of jet fuel. I personally was the first Councilman to attack the idea of commuter planes when suggested by Mr. Egan, our former Airport Manager, in 1967.

"Some of the aspiring candidates can only promise to do what we have already done or things which we have in the hopper.

"Traffic is being attacked. The widening of Crenshaw and Carson did not just happen. The opening of Madrona to Prairie and Del Amo Boulevard to Western did not just happen. We are leaders in the Corridor Study; we have laid the groundwork for opening 223rd Street - a four-lane east-west artery to our shopping center. We are not at a standstill. We are computerizing traffic flow on Hawthorne. Parking has been abolished on Hawthorne Boulevard. We have reduced bus fares in hope that people will get in the habit of using our buses.

"I call this to your attention because some people will want to tell you that we haven't done anything. Above all else let me remind you that we have had no fights on our Council and no name calling. The last four years under Mayor Miller have been the best in my 12 years as a Councilman. We have the respect of the County Supervisors, State Legislators, Governor, Congressmen, and Senators."

24. Councilman Surber noted the report that the Federal Government will likely institute the death penalty again, which supports his opinion that those who claim it is not a deterrent acknowledge that it is the next best thing.

25. Mayor Miller introduced Ms. Martha Reyes, Council observer from Long Beach State, and welcomed her to these proceedings.

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9.

City Council  
March 12, 1974

The hour being 7:55 P.M., Councilman Uerkwitz moved to recess for the purpose of an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that this was a proper subject matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

The Council returned at 8:35 P.M., and took the following action:

26. COLUMBIA PARK LITIGATION.

City Attorney Remelmeyer recommended that in the matter of the pending Columbia Park litigation that the Council approve the employment of Attorney Richard del Guercio to represent the City in this regard, at a fee of \$75.00 per hour, not to exceed \$2500.00.

Councilman Armstrong MOVED to concur with the above recommendation of the City Attorney, and to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$2500.00 from the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Armstrong, Brewster, Sciarrotta; Mayor Miller.
  - NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber, Uerkwitz (for previously stated reasons).
  - ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.
- # # #

27. Mr. Henry Nowicki, Oil Board Chairman, requested that there be Oil Board review of certain aspects of the proposed Prudential development, in line with Code section 94.4.4.

The imperative need for City Attorney/Planning Director analysis of the subject request was pointed out by City Manager Ferraro.

MOTION: Councilman Armstrong moved to defer the subject matter until Council has an analysis from Staff. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

APPROVED: Ken Miller # # # Vernon W. Coil  
 Mayor of the City of Torrance Clerk of the City of Torrance, California

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

# # #

Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

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