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June 13, 1974

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 1974, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilwoman Geissert; Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Surber arrived at 5:30 P.M. Absent: Councilman Wilson (out of the country). (It was necessary for Councilman Brewster to leave the meeting at 6:00 P.M.; Councilman Armstrong departed at 6:08 P.M.)

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, City Clerk Coil, City Treasurer Rupert, Budget Officer Ng, Finance Director Dundore, Assistant Finance Director Rankin, and Senior Auditor Murdock.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. John Kirkpatrick led in the salute to the flag.

4. BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION:

A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE PRESENTATION.

On behalf of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ed Boecher presented the recommendations of the Chamber's Budget Review Committee regarding the City Manager's proposed 1974-75 Program Plans (a matter of record). Noted by Mr. Boecher was that their recommended changes to the proposed budget leaves a balance of some \$258,000 -- enough to cover the additional paramedic unit or any other desired purpose. Mr. Boecher also reviewed findings relative to the utility tax, sales tax income, taxes, sewer service fee, bus system garage, retention of utility users' tax exemption on manufactured goods, vacant positions, etc.

It was the request of City Manager Ferraro and Assistant City Manager Scharfman that their presentation, in response to the above, be scheduled for the next workshop session, following study of this subject matter. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Finance Director Dundore projected appropriate information pertaining to revenue estimates -- Senior Auditor Murdock explained the method of arriving at the utility tax income.

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Comments from the audience were invited by Mayor Miller:

Director of Transportation Horkay referred to the Chamber Committee-recommended deletion of the bus garage, and noted that this represents 325 money which can only be used for capital improvement; if such funds are not used to match the Federal grant for the bus garage, then such funds will go to SCRTD. City use of the monies will result in better equipment, tools, etc. which will reduce the amount of manpower needed. A positive recommendation, per Mr. Horkay, would be to change the formula of the 325 money in order to spend more than 25% for operating and less for capital expenditure.

Next to speak was Mr. David Lyman, 1922 West 237th Street, who voiced his strong objections to the utility tax exemption (communication of June 13, 1974, of record), and urged that this Council "take a giant step toward restoring some confidence in the people in their government by doing the right and fair thing in the face of special interest pressure." It was the further recommendation of Mr. Lyman that the subsidy of the Chamber be eliminated.

Mr. Jack Schmidt reiterated the inequities of the utility tax, reviewed the City of Los Angeles vs. the City of Torrance in this respect, and urged retention of the exemption.

It was agreed that the Budget Workshop Session be resumed on Friday, June 14th, at 5:00 P.M. It was the specific request of Mayor Miller that Staff return with information regarding the Bus System Garage, the portion Federally subsidized, and the amount received because of the matching fund -- more information re: sewer service fee -- clarification re: vacant positions and the time/money relationship -- information re: a three-year, phase-out of the utility tax exemption.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:10 P.M., Councilman Uerkwitz moved to adjourn to Friday, June 14, 1974, at 5:00 P.M. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and approval was unanimous (Absent: Councilmen Armstrong, Brewster, Wilson.)

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APPROVED:

Ken Miller

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Vernon W. Coil

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

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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