

June 4, 1975

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a Budget Workshop Session on Wednesday, June 4, 1975, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Armstrong, Brewster, Geissert, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Wilson arrived at 5:25 P.M.; Councilman Surber at 5:27 P.M. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, City Attorney Remelmeyer, Deputy City Clerk Moss, Finance Director Dundore, and Budget Officer Ng.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Fire Chief Slonecker led in the salute to the flag.

4. PRESENTATIONS BY COMMUNITY GROUPS:

A. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

League president, Mrs. Pat Tyrell, 19935 Redbeam Avenue, provided a prepared statement, of record, relative to the League's appraisal of the 1975-76 Budget. Approval of the commitment toward increased open space acquisition, an improved transit system (noting the need for public information) -- concerns regarding the transfer of Water Department funds to the General Fund, the severe cutbacks in the Library budget, the reduction in Recreation program -- were voiced by Mrs. Tyrell, on behalf of the League.

B. NORTH TORRANCE PROPERTY AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION.

Mr. William Largent, 18832 Felbar, referred to specific pages and items of the 1975-76 Budget in need of clarification. Mayor Miller directed that Staff provide the desired information.

C. SOUTHWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION.

Held for Budget Workshop of June 5th, at the request of Mrs. Betty Jones, 5509 Beran Street.

D. SOUTHWOOD RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION.

The Association president, Mr. Robert Sussman, strongly urged that the Council adopt the portion of the budget which would effectuate the procurement of the Ocean Avenue School Site for the extension of Lago Seco Park.

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Mr. Stanley Dunn, speaking as a private citizen, urged acquisition of the Ocean Avenue Site by the City based on many needs -- primarily those of the Little League and soccer groups -- and outlined the varied financial considerations of such acquisition.

E. DEL AMO FLIERS.

Representing the Del Amo Fliers, Mr. Larry Arasmith, 1727 Fern Avenue, reviewed inherent problems surrounding the installation of the proposed Airport Noise Monitoring Equipment.

F. TORRANCE PILOTS ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. Betty Sanders voiced the objections of the Torrance Pilots Association to the proposed elimination of the Crash Crew at Torrance Airport -- lives should not be sacrificed for the sake of budget cuts.

5. CITY COMMISSIONS.

A. SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL.

Representing the above group, Mr. Lawrence Gitschier stated that the Council should take a firm stand on the utility tax, using the base of \$7500 yearly income.

B. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

Civil Service Commission Chairman, Mr. Rudy Limon, advised that, in reviewing the Commission budget, it is evident that additional monies must be provided in view of the recent change in testing agencies and the additional cost thereof. Further noted by Mr. Limon were necessary actions which must be taken by the Commission under the Affirmative Action Program by way of increased advertising, etc. Therefore, an additional \$7,580 is required because of the above two items, per Mr. Limon.

C. WATER COMMISSION:

Commissioner John Dunbar, speaking as a private citizen, reviewed the contents of the Brown and Caldwell Report prepared in 1972 and the water improvements recommended therein, particularly as it relates to water storage. Rather than transferring additional funds from the Water Department to the General Fund, as has been recommended, it was the recommendation of Mr. Dunbar that these monies be geared towards capital improvements for the water system, particularly in the area of water storage.

6. CITY EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS.

A. TORRANCE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES LOCAL #1117.

On behalf of Local #1117, Mr. Ben Kidner stated that the members of this group live in the City of Torrance, spend their money in the City of Torrance, pay taxes, and are "first rate citizens who deserve the same right to cost-of-living and benefits as any other citizen who works anywhere else in the City of Torrance". It is the request of these employees that they be included in all wage and fringe benefit considerations, per Mr. Kidner.

B. TORRANCE LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION.

A prepared statement, of record, was presented by Mr. Norman Reeder, vice president, Torrance Library Employees Association. The effect of the proposed Library cutbacks was reviewed at length, with the request that there be re-consideration by the Council of such action.

C. TORRANCE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

TPOA president, Dennis Frandsen, urged Council support of the 5% retirement adjustment for retired employees, and provided statistics which pointed out this need.

5. CITY COMMISSIONS (Cont.)

D. LIBRARY COMMISSION.

Library Commission Chairman John Lankford outlined the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the Torrance Library System -- these cuts will critically reduce the levels of service, hours of operation, and will completely eliminate those activities designed to attract new library patrons, along with elimination of the Library Bond Fund, and the Library Investigator position. Mr. Lankford also noted the increased popularity and prestige of the Torrance Library System in recent years -- the proposed cuts will result in reduced interest and use of the library system.

It is the recommendation of the Library Commission, per Chairman Lankford, that the Library General Fund Budget be restored to the 1974-75 level; that the use of the remainder of the Library Bond Fund be limited to capital improvements of library facilities.

7. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

A. Mr. Dick Rossberg, 410 Via Malaga, enumerated the existing parks in the South Torrance area, as well as the school playground areas, which should be a consideration re: the Ocean Avenue Site. A further consideration should be that were this site developed as a park, there will be new annual operational costs, in addition to development costs.

B. Mr. Ted Betwea (?), 464 Via El Chico, representing American Youth Soccer, spoke in favor of the acquisition of the Ocean Avenue Site, and outlined the pressing need for soccer fields. The following commitment was offered: that the American Youth Soccer Organization, Region #12, in conjunction with the Riviera Little League, would develop the subject land into a recreational facility for soccer, and baseball.

8. CITY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION:

City Manager Ferraro responded to the questions posed and comments offered in the foregoing presentations, with the assistance of appropriate Staff members.

9. COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

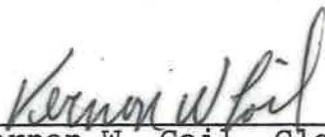
It was the general consensus of the Council that the entire meeting had provided "food for thought", and that the comments offered would be incorporated in the budget deliberations.

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Miller expressed appreciation to all those present for their interest and concern.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

At 6:55 P.M., Councilman Uerkwitz moved to adjourn to June 5, 1975, at 5:00 P.M. for a Budget Workshop Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armstrong, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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 Vernon W. Coil, Clerk of the  
 City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
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 Mayor of the City of Torrance