

June 5, 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 Thursday, June 5, 1975, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Armstrong, Geissert, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Wilson arrived at 5:10 P.M.; Councilman Brewster at 5:15 P.M.; Councilman Surber, 5:40 P.M. It was necessary for Mayor Miller to leave at 6:30 P.M.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Planning Director Shartle led in the salute to the flag.

4. PRESENTATION BY SOUTHWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION:

Mrs. Betty Jones, 5509 Beran Street, offered a prepared statement, of official record, on behalf of the Southwood Homeowners Association and their specific concern regarding the Field Personnel of the Torrance Police Department, and the need for increased police protection.

It was the action of this Association to request the City of Torrance to increase Police Department field protection to 10% or greater -- further, the Association "would like to see, and would be willing to pay, an increase of 1¢ to the sales tax so that those 350,000 who come to Torrance each day could help pay for police protection which they expect and which we would appreciate."

5. SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL:

Representing the Senior Citizens Council, Mr. Leo Coleman urged favorable consideration re: utility users exemption in view of the financial pressures faced by this group of citizens.

6. PRESENTATION BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Chamber Budget Review Committee members Rice and Casey reported the Committee findings relative to the City's 1975-76 Budget, and their recommendations pertaining thereto, of official written record.

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Specifically reviewed, with appropriate slides, was the proposed water rate increase and the transfer of water funds to the General Fund; construction-related revenue; budget contingencies; future revenue projections; the Torrance Transit System; and the Utility Users Tax.

City Manager Ferraro stated that the response to the above would be at a later date, following Staff review of the material submitted.

7. WATER SYSTEM NEEDS:

Assistant City Manager Scharfman discussed the subject matter, provided clarification regarding the proposed rate increase and transfer of funds, long range water storage plans, etc. Appropriate slides were presented; there was a need for further clarification regarding certain figures contained therein, and it was requested that Staff return with a revised chart which would clearly depict beginning and ending balances, capital outlays, etc.

8. UTILITY USERS TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:

Pertinent statistics pertaining to the Utility Users Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens, present and proposed, were provided by Assistant City Manager Scharfman.

It was the recommendation of Councilman Brewster that consideration be given all residents on limited incomes, rather than restricting such exemption to senior citizens. Concurrence was indicated by Councilman Surber.

Mayor Miller directed that Staff return with alternatives to the budget, in terms of raising the money for the purpose of this exemption.

(It was necessary that Mayor Miller leave the meeting at this time, the hour being 6:30 P.M. Mayor Pro Tem Surber thereupon assumed leadership of the meeting.)

9. PROPANE CONVERSION FOR CITY VEHICLES.

The June 4th communication from Equipment Superintendent Rozendal was elaborated on by Councilman Armstrong, for the information of those present -- this report on propane usage was deemed most informative.

10. MANPOWER PROGRAMS:

The inclusion of Manpower Programs in the budget was pointed out by Assistant City Manager Scharfman who also clarified the administration of these programs.

11. OCEAN AVENUE SITE.

Held for June 9th Budget Workshop Session.

12. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Councilman Brewster requested Staff input regarding two levels of bus service in the City -- level A which would be intercity in nature; level B which would be intra-city, purely local circulation, and would operate without a fare box. Also desired by Mr. Brewster was information, based upon some reasonable level of frequency, re: General Fund requirements in the way of a subsidy for level B.

B. City Manager Ferraro advised that an Executive Session was necessary to discuss hours, wages, and working conditions.

C. Ms. Avis Fay, 114 Via Los Altos, noted the limited incomes of senior citizens, most of which are under \$5000.

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At 6:45 P.M., Councilman Armstrong moved to recess for the purpose of an Executive Session to discuss hours, wages, and working conditions (a proper subject matter, per the City Attorney). The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Mayor Miller).

The Council returned at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Armstrong moved to adjourn to Monday, June 9, 1975, at 5:00 P.M. for a Budget Workshop Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Mayor Miller)

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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

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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