

I N D E XCity Council - January 22, 1980

| <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. Motion to Waive Further Reading | 1 |
| 7. Council Committee Meetings | 2 |
| <u>8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:</u> | |
| 8a. Recognition of North Torrance Senior Division Girls' Softball Team | 2 |
| 8b. Resolution of Appreciation to Gardena Valley Gardeners | 2 |
| <u>10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:</u> | |
| 10a. Resolution re: Cabrillo Avenue Right-of-Way Acquisition | 2 |
| 10b. Improvement of Arlington Avenue from Lincoln to Sepulveda | 3 |
| <u>12. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:</u> | |
| 12a. 1975-80 Housing and Community Development Programs | 11 |
| <u>13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS:</u> | |
| 13a. SB-4 - California Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act | 12 |
| <u>15. HEARINGS:</u> | |
| 15a. V 79-4, William and Carol Herrera | 13 |
| <u>17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:</u> | |
| 17a. Finance Committee Recommendations re: Funding for South Bay Free Clinic/Salary and Benefit Adjustments for the City Clerk | 3-10 |
| <u>19. MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:</u> | |
| 19a. Resolution re: Youth Work Experience Program | 13 |
| <u>20. ROUTINE MATTERS:</u> | |
| 20a. Award of Contract - 6 Locked Fare Boxes | 14 |
| <u>21. ADDENDUM ITEM:</u> | |
| 21a. Resolution expressing appreciation to Jaycees | 2 |
| <u>22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:</u> | |
| 22a. City Manager Ferraro, commendation of Staff members Garrett/McElroy; welcome back to Chief Nash | 14 |
| 22b. Councilman Applegate re: communication to Mobil Oil re: needed information on recent fire | 14 |
| 22c. Councilman Brown re: use of municipal bonds for Downtown Redevelopment Project | 14 |
| 22d. Mayor Armstrong re: Census Count Committee; presentation by Congressman Anderson | 14 |

Adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Ava Cripe
Minute SecretaryCity Council
January 22, 1980

January 22, 1980

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, January 22, 1980, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Brown, Geissert, Rossberg, Walker, Wilson and Mayor Armstrong. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Clerk Nelson. Absent: City Treasurer Rupert.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Police Chief Nash led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was provided by Reverend Gordon Dalbey, Seaside Community Church.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Brown moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 1980, as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Applegate, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

NOTE: Minutes of November 13, 1979, Item 10c., page 3, should be amended to reflect that Ordinance No. 2934 was an Emergency Ordinance.

6. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned 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 Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

1. City Council
January 22, 1980

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Transportation:
February 6th at 5:00 P.M.

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS:8a. RECOGNITION OF NORTH TORRANCE SENIOR DIVISION GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM.

Letters of Recognition to members of this championship team were presented by Councilman Wilson and Mayor Armstrong.

8b. RESOLUTION of Appreciation to Gardena Valley Gardeners.RESOLUTION NO. 80-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE GARDENA VALLEY GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION FOR ITS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH BAY AREA AND COMMENDING IT ON ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 80-11. His motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Taken by the Council at this time, out of order:

21. ADDENDUM ITEM:21a. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to Torrance Jaycees.RESOLUTION NO. 80-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE TORRANCE JAYCEES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND COMMENDING THEM UPON THEIR THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 80-12. His motion, seconded by Councilman Applegate, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

10. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS:10a. RESOLUTION re: Cabrillo Avenue Right-of-Way Acquisition.RESOLUTION NO. 80-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR

2, City Council
January 22, 1980

STREET EASEMENTS ON CABRILLO AVENUE
BETWEEN SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD AND THE
SOUTH CITY BOUNDARY

Councilwoman Geissert moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 80-13. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

10b. IMPROVEMENT OF ARLINGTON AVENUE FROM LINCOLN TO SEPULVEDA.

RECOMMENDATION OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

That your Honorable Body approve the design parameters for Arlington Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard as described in the Project Proposal and in sketches, of record.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Engineering Department. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

12. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

12a. 1975-80 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

See Page 11.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS:

13a. CONSIDERATION OF THE CALIFORNIA BEVERAGE CONTAINER REUSE AND RECYCLING ACT SB-4.

See Page 12.

15. HEARINGS:

15a. V 79-4, WILLIAM AND CAROL HERRERA.

See Page 13.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

17a. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS RE: FUNDING FOR SOUTH BAY FREE CLINIC/SALARY AND BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE CITY CLERK:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

RE: SOUTH BAY FREE CLINIC:

That the City Council take the following action:

1. Adopt the subject Resolution expressing the need for services being provided by the South Bay Free Clinic and requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to give additional financial support to the South Bay Free Clinic in the 1980-81 fiscal year.

3.

City Council
January 22, 1980

Minority Recommendation:

- a. Committee Chairman Wilson recommends a one-time City contribution to the South Bay Free Clinic in the amount of \$2,500.
- b. Councilman Brown recommends a \$1,000 one-time City contribution as a prorated amount for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- c. Councilman Applegate recommends no contribution be made to the South Bay Free Clinic based on the following opinion: The City should stay out of the health and social service field. He feels that the funding and responsibility for such program areas should come from the County of Los Angeles. He is against making a contribution to the South Bay Free Clinic as it may open the door to other requests since there are many such volunteer social service and health care groups serving the Torrance area. Furthermore, the County Health Department operates a clinic within the City which provides general health services.

RE: CITY CLERK SALARY AND BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS.

2. Approve the majority recommendation of the Committee that no additional salary and benefit adjustments be authorized for the City Clerk at this time.

Minority Recommendation:

Councilman Wilson expressed the opinion that the City Clerk warrants a salary adjustment based on survey data provided and recommends a total salary and benefit adjustment of \$1,100 be granted,

First considered was the South Bay Free Clinic's Request for funding: The varying opinions of the Committee members (as above stated) were reviewed. Councilman Rossberg indicated support of the position taken by Councilman Applegate.

Mr. Gary Best, director, South Bay Free Clinic, expressed appreciation for the efforts of Staff and the Committee on behalf of the Clinic, and noted the efforts of the Clinic where Torrance residents are concerned.

At the request of Mayor Armstrong, City Clerk Nelson assigned a number and read title to:

4. City Council
January 22, 1980

RESOLUTION NO. 80-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE URGING THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE SOUTH BAY FREE
CLINIC DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1980-81

Councilman Brown moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 80-14, and for the adoption of Minority Recommendation B (a \$1,000 one-time City contribution), with appropriation of the necessary funds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Brown, Geissert, Walker, Wilson;
Mayor Armstrong.
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Rossberg.

Next considered was Salary and Benefit Adjustments for the City Clerk.

Committee findings were reviewed by Councilman Wilson, with note of Majority and Minority recommendations, of record.

It was pointed out by Councilman Applegate that from the time the original salary was established for the office of the City Clerk prior to the March 1978 election through the first 16 months of the City Clerk's term of office, there has been a 39.4% salary increase from the base pay. Such a salary increase is more than adequate, in the opinion of Mr. Applegate, and he, therefore, offered a MOTION that the Majority Committee Report (no additional salary and benefit adjustments be authorized for the City Clerk at this time) be accepted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown.

City Clerk Nelson requested that her communications of January 14, 1980 and January 22, 1980 be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting. These letters follow:

January 14, 1980:
Council Finance and Governmental
Operations Committee
Torrance, California

Gentlemen:

At our last meeting, you recommended a 3% increase relating to the salary and benefits for the position of City Clerk.

Before you proceed on this matter there are several points which should be brought to your attention and placed on the record.

5. City Council
January 22, 1980

The committee received and considered a survey which compared salary and benefits for City Clerks in seven cities. As a part of this "unbiased effort" to reach a fair evaluation of whether the Torrance City Clerk should receive a raise, the figures for Inglewood were disregarded as being too high while Gardena figures were also rejected as being too low.

With the remaining figures, the analysis show there is a deficiency of 22% between the current salary/benefit level in Torrance and the amount required to put the position in line on a comparative basis.

It should also be noted that by including both Inglewood and Gardena figures into the calculation this figure of 22% is increased.

Given the fact that there is a recognized zone of responsibility within the position of City Clerk, which is unchallenged, the committee has proposed the following:

1. I relinquish five days vacation time in exchange for the constant sum of \$400 per year.
2. I be given an increase of \$100 per year.

The combined purported "increase" as it must be ludicrously called is less than 3% per year.

It should also be noted that the City Clerk shall be entitled to receive expenses, vacation and sick leave, with pay, the same as prescribed by the civil service ordinances of the City for heads of departments, yet the salary is considerably lower than heads of departments: and historically the City Clerk and City Treasurer salary/benefits were comparative even though the duties varied.

Assuming my voluntary acceptance, which I do not give, we are 19% below the mean average required by the survey to make the position competitive and 35% below the salary of the City Treasurer.

To adopt the proposed increase in the face of what must be seen as overwhelming evidence of the incongruity between the salary/benefit level suggested and that in effect for department heads, the City Treasurer and other cities strongly suggests an unrealistic analysis of the facts, a prejudiced attitude on the part of this committee toward the office of the City Clerk and an effort by this body to deal differently with me as an elected official because of my status as a woman in this position.

In conclusion, there is sufficient evidence before you to rationally, legally and morally support a salary comparable to other department heads and elected officials in the City of Torrance.

I respectfully request you reject your previous report and adopt a salary that is realistic and an equitable resolution of the problem which has existed here since March, 1978, when the Clerk's position became filled by a woman.

s/Sherie L. Nelson, City Clerk

January 22, 1980:

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
Torrance City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the City Council:

Submitted for your consideration is a revised Salary Change Analysis, inasmuch as the analysis submitted with your agenda material is inaccurate and misleading.

The analysis fails to show the annual base salary of the previous City Clerk and the percent of decrease to the current incumbent, myself. It also includes benefits as part of base salary and compensation for Clerk of the Redevelopment Agency as part of the base salary for City Clerk.

I would also like this Council to realistically evaluate the following facts before making a decision to concur with the majority committee recommendation or the minority committee recommendation.

1. The base salary set on August 16, 1977 by Ordinance No. 2776 for the City Clerk upon the retirement of the previous City Clerk is a 41.4% decrease, and 5% less than the Deputy City Clerk, yet the duties as prescribed by this Ordinance remained the same. This indicates the salary in relationship to the duties as set by Council at that time was inequitable.
2. On March 14, 1978, upon the adoption of Ordinance No. 2810 increasing the base salary from \$1260 per month to \$1517 per month, Councilman Brown made the motion the subject

7.

City Council
January 22, 1980

ordinance increasing the City Clerk's salary was an interim measure with the intent that it be supplanted by a new ordinance when the committee does come in with its final recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert and unanimously approved by the Council, yet the majority of the committee is now recommending no increase.

3. A survey showing the drastic differential between the Torrance City Clerk and other City Clerks was disregarded by the Committee. This survey was requested by the Committee.
4. All elected officials in the City of Torrance other than the City Clerk receive car allowances.
5. The committee recommended a reduction in vacation until it was discovered to be in violation of the City Charter.
6. In April, 1980, the Deputy City Clerk will receive \$17.00 or 1% more per month in base salary than the City Clerk, yet the majority recommendation is no increase.
7. Salary increases on January 28, 1979 and July 15, 1979 were cost of living increases and not based on the inequities between the salary and responsibilities.
8. From 1971 to 1978 the City Clerk's and the City Treasurer's base salary were comparable. The ordinance setting forth these salaries were based on the performance of duties.
9. On July 17, 1979, the City Council referred the matter of the City Clerk's salary back to the committee for consideration, with a report back to Council within 90 days, yet to date, 6 months later, this matter goes unresolved.

For 22 months I have made every effort to negotiate in good faith an equitable compromise; the committee has not.

The conclusion to be derived from these facts must be that the City Clerk's position is entitled to a substantial base salary increase.

s/Sherie L. Nelson, City Clerk

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8. City Council
January 22, 1980

Council discussion followed.

Councilman Rossberg indicated support of the minority report, noting that the absence of any salary increase based on the fact that the City Clerk is a woman had never occurred to him nor has he heard such an opinion from any other member of the Council. It was added by Mr. Rossberg that the material provided indicates that Mrs. Nelson's salary is considerably under what other City Clerks are making -- further, if you look at the City Clerk's responsibility as a department head, and the substantial public contact in this office, it is questionable that the salary is as low as it is in comparison to other department heads. Noted by Mr. Rossberg was the fact that a relatively new Senior Assistant to Staff is making more money than the City Clerk. City Treasurer and City Clerk responsibilities are comparable, per Mr. Rossberg -- the Clerk's salary has been increased some 39%; the minority recommendation is a token for a long delayed situation.

It was the opinion of Councilman Walker that the overall efficient performance of the office itself is due, in large part, to the direction and leadership of that office -- people are judged by the compensation they are paid, and the City Clerk's compensation should be on a par with her peers; it is very evident that it is not. The \$1100 increase recommended by Dr. Wilson is insufficient; a reasonable, justifiable raise should be awarded at this time, per Mr. Walker, and at the same time look at a program wherein the salary of this office over a period of time would be brought into range in accordance with like communities.

Councilwoman Geissert stated her opinion that a fair compensation for the City Clerk position would be somewhere in the range of \$24,000-\$25,000 per year, this being substantially more than what is recommended by Dr. Wilson and yet substantially less than some of the cities used in the comparative studies.

Mayor Armstrong reviewed past practices in filling high level positions, and noted that in the case of the City Clerk position the salary was revised prior to the election, as well as the fact that the negotiations for new salary contracts will be underway in a matter of weeks and any inequities could be resolved at that time. The Mayor will support the majority recommendation of the Committee.

Councilman Applegate's motion for acceptance of the Majority Committee Report FAILED TO CARRY, with roll call vote as follows:

9.

City Council
January 22, 1980

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Brown; Mayor
Armstrong.
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Geissert, Rossberg, Walker,
Wilson.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to support the Minority
Committee Report (\$1,100 adjustment). The motion was seconded
by Councilman Rossberg but likewise FAILED TO CARRY, with roll
call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Brown, Rossberg, Wilson.
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Geissert, Walker;
Mayor Armstrong.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved that instead of the
\$1,100 figure indicated in the Minority Report, that the
figure be \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman
Geissert, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Geissert, Rossberg, Walker,
Wilson.
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Applegate, Brown; Mayor Armstrong.

* * * * *

The hour being 7:50 P.M. the Council recessed and
reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency, returning to its
agenda at 8:46 P.M.

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12. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:12a. 1975-80 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.RECOMMENDATION OF PLANNING STAFF:

That the City Council solicit citizen comments on progress and performance during the City's first five HCD program years, and that Staff be directed to include all written comments in the annual Performance Report to be submitted to HUD by March 31, 1980. Staff also recommends that Council concur with the proposed public hearing/meeting schedule for preparing the City's 1980-81 HCD application.

Mayor Armstrong announced that this was the time and place for the subject public hearing, and, following Staff presentation by HCD Coordinator Judy Garrett, invited comments from the audience.

Representing the Central Torrance Homeowners Association, Mr. Bob Fraser, 2325 Sonoma Street, expressed appreciation to the Council and to Staff for the great amount of activity that has resulted from the subject grant program relating to the revitalization of the downtown area -- sewers, streets, flood control, alley improvements, etc. Mr. Fraser suggested that a Neighborhood Strategy meeting be scheduled for March 6th, with the Central Torrance Homeowners Association serving as host. Mayor Armstrong welcomed this cooperation.

Ms. Kay White, League of Women Voters, stated that the League applauds the City's efforts to date regarding a host of housing and community development activities, and are pleased with the recent shift of HCD funds from capital improvements to good faith efforts in providing affordable housing for Torrance citizens. The recently adopted housing plan will assist in reaching a well balanced mix of family as well as senior citizen and handicapped low cost housing stock, in the opinion of the League. Also noted was the lack of public input. In conclusion, Ms. White stated that it is the belief of the Torrance League that an on-going citizen participation mechanism should be adopted which will allow citywide and continuing analysis in determining the most pressing needs of the community -- this analysis would be most effective if presented to the community prior to the required public hearings thus allowing more informed input at such hearings. The establishment of a "citizens' advisory committee" was recommended by the League via Ms. White.

Reverend Gordon Dalbey, Seaside Community Church, recommended that the allocation for downtown housing property acquisition be increased considerably.

11.

City Council
January 22, 1980

Council discussion was directed to the formation of the League-recommended "citizens' advisory committee" -- City Manager Ferraro stated that Staff would return with a report on this matter. (Reservations regarding such a committee were expressed by Mayor Armstrong and Councilman Applegate -- however, a "working paper" from Staff was deemed appropriate, in view of the interest voiced.)

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

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Planning Staff. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Geissert, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL/BUILDING AND SAFETY MATTERS:

13a. SENATE BILL 4 - RELATING TO REQUIRING A REFUND VALUE FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

RECOMMENDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION:

That your Honorable Body support Senate Bill 4 and communicate your position to Senator Beverly prior to January 24, 1980. The Bill will be presented to the Senate on this date.

Staff presentation was provided by Acting Administrator, Environmental Division, Monte McElroy.

Speaking in support of the subject legislation were: Ms. Tania Lipshutz, Southern California Coordinator, "Californians Against Waste" (written material, of record); Mr. Bob Shrader, representing L.A. County Lifeguard Association, reviewed problems related to broken glass encountered on the beaches and bike paths -- support of S.B. 4 was urged by him; and Ms. Elizabeth Lanser, League of Women Voters, noted the League's substantial support of this legislation; Council support was requested.

There was no one present to speak in opposition to S.B. 4 -- it was confirmed by the Council that there had been adequate notification to interested parties.

MOTION: Councilwoman Geissert moved to support Senate Bill 4, in concurrence with Staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

15. HEARINGS:

- 15a. V 79-4, WILLIAM AND CAROL HERRERA - Request for approval of a Variance of off-street parking requirements to allow two, rather than the required four, garage spaces for a duplex located at 902-904 Crenshaw Boulevard. PLANNING COMMISSION AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMEND DENIAL.

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

Mayor Armstrong announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing re: V 79-4. City Attorney Remelmeyer noted pending litigation involving the City of Torrance, among others, in this matter -- apart from the lawsuit, per the City Attorney, this case should be returned to the Planning Commission for consideration as a Validation Permit rather than a Variance.

Mr. and Mrs. Herrera were present and indicated concurrence with the return of this case to the Planning Commission.

There being no one else present who wished to be heard, Councilman Rossberg moved that the hearing be closed. His motion, seconded by Councilman Walker, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilman Walker moved that Item 15a. be returned to the Planning Commission for consideration as a Validation Permit, with waiver of all fees connected with the item, including those previously paid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rossberg; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

19. MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

- 19a. RESOLUTION re: Youth Work Experience Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 80-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THOSE CERTAIN SUBGRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1980 UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 1978 THROUGH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CETA OFFICE

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 80-15. His motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

20. ROUTINE MATTERS:

- 20a. AWARD OF CONTRACT - Re: Purchase of 6 Locked Fare Boxes (For Transit Service) - Ref. Bid #B79-78
Expenditure: \$15,200.40 Funding: SB 325 Funds

RECOMMENDATION OF PURCHASING SUPERVISOR:

That Council award a contract for the purchase of six registering-locking fare boxes to the Keene Corporation, the only source for these fare boxes, in the total amount of \$15,200.40, including tax.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above stated recommendation of the Purchasing Supervisor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Applegate, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

21. ADDENDUM ITEM.

- 21a. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to Torrance Jaycees.

See Page 2.

22. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- 22a. City Manager Ferraro commended the efforts of Staff members Judy Garrett and Monte McElroy in their presentations to the Council this date.

Mr. Ferraro also welcomed back Chief of Police Don Nash, sorely missed these past weeks.

- 22b. Councilman Applegate recommended that a letter go forward to Mobil Oil regarding needed information pertaining to the recent fire. Chief Slonecker will follow through on this matter.

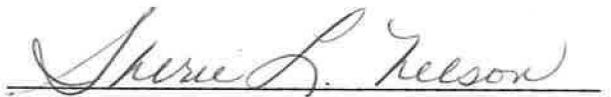
- 22c. Councilman Brown requested that Staff explore the use of municipal bonds to support the Downtown Redevelopment Project.

- 22d. Mayor Armstrong advised that he has appointed a complete Count Committee for the Census; the list will be shared with the Council.

Congressman Anderson will be addressing this Census group on Saturday, January 26th, at 11:00 A.M. at the Civic Center Library.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

* * * * *



SHERIE L. NELSON, Clerk of the
City of Torrance



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

15.

City Council
January 22, 1980