

I N D E X

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The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Torrance, California
January 28, 1964

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, January 28, 1964, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were:
COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen. Also present were City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Manager Peebles.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Pat Hogue, a member of the Torrance Water Commission led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend H. Milton Sippel opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Councilman Benstead, there being no objection, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 21, 1964 were approved as written.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Benstead moved all bills regularly audited be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Sciarrotta 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 Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen stated he had been advised that Mr. Lee Wilson would be present at Council meetings on behalf of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board to report back matters of interest to them and he introduced and welcomed Mr. Wilson.

Mr. John Haidinger, one of the new Planning Commissioners, also was introduced.

Mayor Isen gave a brief explanation of Council procedure for the benefit of the audience.

HEARINGS:

1033 #63-94 8. CASE NO. 63-94 - Change of Zone - Petitioner, Yukiharu Kawada. Third and final hearing for a change of zone from A-1 to R-1 on property located westerly of Madison Street between 227th Street and 229th Street. Recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and Planning Department. Letters of approval were attached.

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

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard on Case No. 63-94; there was no response.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and there was no objection.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve this change of zone. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Prior to voting Councilman Drale expressed the opinion that the zoning should have been considered prior to the tract map. Mayor Isen explained this policy does not apply in changes from A-1 to R-1, because R-1 can be built on A-1 land.

1033 #63-96 9. CASE NO. 63-96 - Change of Zone - Petitioner, Kenneth Battram. Third and final hearing for a change of zone from A-1 to R-1 on property located at 230th Street and Ocean Avenue. Recommended for approval by planning Commission and Planning Department.

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

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard; there was no response.

Councilman Benstead moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PLANNING MATTERS:

1121 #28277 10. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 28277 - GALL-A-RETO, INC. 31 lots located on the north side of 230th Street between Hawthorne and Madison, R-1, R-3 and C-2 zones. Recommended for approval by Planning Commission and Planning Department.

Councilman Sciarrotta asked about the omitting of the word "Curbs" and City Engineer Nollac explained this is included in the phrase "street improvements".

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission and his motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Miller and Vico.

10A. Transmittal of Avigation Easement in Tract No. 28277 to City Council for acceptance.

1184

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to accept the Avigation Easement described and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

11. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 29107, revised - Kenland Development Co. 16 lots located north of Spencer and east of Victor, in Zone R-1. Recommended for approval by Planning Commission and Planning Department.

1121 # 29107

Mayor Isen asked Planning Director Shartle if this is substantially the same as the tentative tract map and was referred to the recommendation of denial by the Engineering Department and the fact that the Fire Department has indicated Lot 5 cannot be built upon until the oil tank has been removed.

Mr. Shartle explained the revision of the map was caused by the fact that the subdivider was not able to acquire part of the land to the east. It became a matter of acquiring either the five lots indicated or six substandard lots, or another alternative of four lots.

Mayor Isen asked City Engineer Nollac for an explanation of his recommendations. Mr. Nollac did explain and summed up his explanation by saying there is only one portion to the east which is in litigation and the only problem will be the jog. He said all the lots are 6,000 square feet or more. Mr. Nollac said his objection was purely technical and referred to aesthetic quality. The Planning Commission has approved the extension of the streets for further development of the property. The only unfinished street will be White Court between this property and Reynolds Drive.

Mayor Isen commented that the record should be clear that Lot 5 is not to be built on unless consent is given by the Council in the future after removal of the oil well. Councilman Miller moved to concur in approval with that provision and Councilman Sciarrotta seconded his motion. Roll call vote was:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta and Mayor Isen.
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

12. Revisions to the off-street parking regulations for residential purposes submitted by Planning Commission chairman, with concurrence of City Manager.

1034

Councilman Drale said he had not had time to study this and would like to have more time. He moved to hold this matter for one week and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

13. Proposed new zones for the South Torrance oil fields submitted by Planning Commission Chairman, with concurrence of City Manager.

1030.3

On motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Mayor Isen, this item was also continued to be considered on next week's agenda. Several of the councilmen asked and were given information to help them in their study and consideration of this proposed amendment.

Councilman Vico renewed his plea for a Master Plan, stating the net cost to the City would be only one-third of the total cost.

Mayor Isen asked Management for a report back on this. Planning Director Shartle said his department is working toward a master plan; it is a slow process but much has been accomplished.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1062 14. Request of Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce to hold its third annual charity circus on vacant land at the corner of Spencer and Hawthorne Avenues and that business license fees be waived.

Councilman Benstead moved to grant the requested permission and that business license fees be waived; otherwise all usual regulations to apply. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1105
LEASES
x 1010
C-53
15. Request of Riviera Little League to extend their sublease of a portion of the Rolling Hills Plaza Company's lease until August 31, 1964.

Councilman Drale moved to grant the requested extension to August 31, 1964 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1105
GEN
x 1315
16. Request of North Torrance Babe Ruth League to use Guenser Park for playing baseball on Sundays from April 26 to July 11, 1964, with comment of City Manager.

Mr. William Korchensky, a commissioner of the Torrance Youth Sports Council, said Guenser Park has been improved but the ball diamond has not. The League is anxious to start playing again and he spoke of the program and the schedules and advantages of the program which involves about 150 families. The specific request is for Sunday games according to a schedule outlined, although the note of the City Manager is that the Park and Recreation Commission has voted "No Sunday league playing".

Mr. Jerry Satuloff, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Guenser Park Homeowners Association, 2017 West 179th Street, was the principal spokesman of the opposition and he complained of a closed session on this subject. He described the efforts of the homeowners toward the development of the park and the hope of continued cooperation, stating the schedule asked for league playing is not suitable for a prime residential area. Noise and traffic congestion and some other "questionable goings-on" were among the reasons given.

Councilman Drale listed the persons in attendance at the so-called secret meeting: four members of the commission, Councilmen Vico, Benstead and Drale.

Mrs. Barbara Ruth of 3509 West 185th Street, secretary of the Babe Ruth Little League, set forth in detail the contentions of her organization and the disagreements with the Homeowners Association.

Councilman Drale said he believes Babe Ruth Leagues and their counterparts do a lot for Torrance children and moved this league be allowed to play baseball on Sunday as long as it is required by the League. Councilman Vico seconded.

Mr. C. W. Kaiser of 2038 West 177th Street lives 450 or 500 feet west of the ball park and objects principally from the traffic standpoint as well as the undesirable element which comes into the neighborhood as a result of the games on Sundays. He suggested some entrance be established other than on 177th Street, perhaps Western Avenue.

Mayor Isen asked that Park and Recreation, Engineering and Administration investigate that possibility.

Madeline Moon of 2002 West 177th Street recalled the promise of a park here and the gift of the land as a park. She stated the children of the neighborhood had been locked out of the park and have had to play in the street.

Mr. Joel Moon of 2002 West 177th Street contended if it had not been for the use of this land by the ball park the park that was promised would have been in their neighborhood three or four years ago.

Mayor Isen reminded the people the issue here tonight is whether or not there is to be Sunday baseball.

Mr. Cletus Schmitt of 1867 West 181st Street, interested from the viewpoint of the Homeowners Association, said there is no objection to the organized ball playing but would like to have a small amount of prime time for the children in the neighborhood. Six nights a week and Saturdays, he felt should be sufficient for the league.

Mr. Paul Court of 2001 West 178th Street, a new resident of the neighborhood said the condition of the baseball park is obnoxious and favored banning baseball completely from the park.

Regarding termination of play in that particular park, Reverend Sippel said when Babe Ruth first went on the park it was agreed when the City was able to develop it, they would remove their equipment and get off. The Commission recommended they get off a year ago but they were allowed to stay and that is the reason the whole area has not been developed. They were to get off at the end of 1963. It is not the policy of the Commission to grant the diamonds in the park to any special group on a regular every Sunday basis. He felt the homeowners should have the use of the park for picnics, etc., on Sundays.

Mrs. Ruth outlined a proposed schedule of games: two on Sunday, one on Saturday and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, leaving Monday and Friday evenings free. Mayor Isen asked her to file that schedule with the Park & Recreation Commission in the event the motion carries on this item of the agenda.

Councilman Miller expressed concern regarding the loudspeaker system and mentioned the problem in that respect at Entradero Park. Mayor Isen asked all concerned to keep on trying to find another location for use after this summer.

Mr. Bob Pryor of 3627 West 187th Street, adviser to the Torrance Sports Council, spoke of a possibility of use of school property.

Mr. William Uerkwitz offered the use of a piece of property in the Southwood Tract.

Roll call on the motion was unanimously favorable, noting particularly the dates April 26th to July 11, 1964.

* * * * *

A recess was declared.

- 1062 17. Request of Boy Scouts to use City property during their parade.

Mr. Ted Olson of 3217 Antonio Street added another request to his letter: the right to park a Bomarc missile behind the Police Station over the weekend of February 8, 1964. With this addition, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the request with waiver of license fees for the soft drink stands; otherwise all necessary provisions as usual. Councilman Benstead seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY CLERK:

- 1117 18. Bids for Comprehensive Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Policy. Recommendation of City Clerk Coil, with approval of City Manager, that bid of Pacific Indemnity in the amount of \$124,776 (three year basis) be accepted.

Councilman Sciarrotta and Drale thought there should be a reduction in premium on a three-year basis. Mr. Brady of Lund Company was present and explained the liability insurance has been calculated on an experience basis and it is to the advantage of the City to purchase insurance on as long a basis as possible to avoid increased cost. This bid is on a three year basis, but divided into three parts and the premium each year is determined by several factors as outlined by Mr. Brady.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation as stated and his motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

- 1117 19. Combined Comprehensive and Collision Insurance covering passenger bus fleet. Recommendation of City Clerk Coil, with approval of City Manager, that bid of Travelers Indemnity Company in the amount of \$1530.30 be accepted.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in the recommendation stated. His motion was seconded by Mayor Isen. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

- 1117 20. Combined comprehensive fire and theft policy covering automotive fleets. Recommendation of City Clerk, with approval of City Manager, that bid item 2, \$50 deductible comprehensive physical damage, of Federal Insurance Company in the amount of \$1274.30 submitted by Lund Co. be accepted.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation stated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

- 1063 21. Temporary billboard for Vickers, Inc. Request for permission to erect temporary sign at intersection of Hawthorne and Lomita Boulevards, with recommendation of Superintendent of Building Inspection, with concurrence of City Manager, that approval be granted, with conditions.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in the recommendation of the Building Superintendent to approve the sign on the basis of posting of a \$500 bond for removal and a six month time limit, to be extended only by application to the City Council. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

22. Request for sign at 5111 Torrance Boulevard. Request of A-B sign company, Inc. to erect subject sign. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building Inspection, with concurrence of City Manager, that approval be granted. 1063

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation of the Superintendent of Building Inspection and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

23. Temporary billboard for Southwood Construction Co. Request to erect temporary sign on west side of Hawthorne Avenue, 175 feet south of 230th Street. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building Inspection, with the concurrence of City Manager, that approval, with conditions be granted. 1063

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of approval on the basis of the usual six months time limit to be extended only by Council approval and with the posting of a \$500 removal bond. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

24. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Storm drain installation in Ocean Avenue from Walteria retention basin to 228th Street. Recommendation from City Engineer, with concurrence of City Manager, that Council approve and authorize changes in the work and accept project. 1295
STORM DRAIN

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation that Council approve and authorize changes in the work as described in the Notice of Completion and that Council accept the work on the subject improvement. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

25. TRANSMITTAL OF EASEMENTS TO COUNCIL:

Councilman Beasley moved to accept the following listed easement deeds:

1. Storm drain easement deed dated January 15, 1964 for the construction of a storm drain over a portion of Lot 24, Tract No. 437, given by Chas. E. Middleton and LeRoy Gothman. 1179
2. Street easement deed dated September 9, 1963 for the widening of Crenshaw Boulevard over a portion of Lot 47, McDonald Tract, given by Larry E. Freeman, et al. 1177
3. Street easement deed dated January 9, 1964 for the widening of Gramercy Place over a portion of Lot 65 McDonald Tract, given by Western Air Compressor Co., Inc. 1177
4. Street lighting facilities easement deed dated January 8, 1964 for the construction of street lighting facilities over a portion of Lot 31, Block 8, Torrance Tract, given by Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association. 1181
5. Storm drain easement deed dated January 6, 1964 for the construction of a storm drain over a portion of Lots 2 and 3, Meadow Park Tract, given by Torrance Unified School District. 1179

Councilman Benstead seconded the motion which carried, there being no objection.

1202
x 1092 26. Acceptance of future streets in Tracts 21811, 28242 and 28022.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 64-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC STREET PURPOSES LOT 15 AND A PORTION OF LOT 17 OF TRACT NO. 21811, LOTS 11 AND 12 OF TRACT NO. 28242, AND LOT 27 OF TRACT NO. 28022 AND NAMING SUCH ACCEPTED PORTIONS "SARA DRIVE, WHITE COURT, WHITE COURT, WHITE COURT, AND SARA DRIVE," RESPECTIVELY.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 64-10. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT:

1041
HOSE 27. Purchase of break-apart 100 gpm 1 1/2" nozzles. Recommendation of Fire Chief, with concurrence of City Manager, that order be awarded to W. B. Equipment Company, in the amount of \$436.49.

" 28. Purchase of 4 Morris Nozzles. Recommendation of Fire Chief, with concurrence of City Manager, that order be awarded to American LaFrance Company, in the amount of \$457.60.

1041
OFFICE
EQUIPMENT 29. Purchase of dry photo copier machine. Recommendation of Fire Chief, with concurrence of City Manager that order be awarded to Thermo-Fax Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$614.32.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in all three items listed as Items 27, 28 and 29. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNICATION FROM PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

1039 30. Park and Recreation Conference. Communication from Park and Recreation Chairman, with concurrence of City Manager, requesting that two commissioners be permitted to attend the Annual California & Southwest Park and Recreation Conference, at City expense.

Councilman Vico moved to grant the requested permission and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOUTH WELFARE COMMISSION:

1019.1 31. Communication from Chairman Joseph Piatt requesting additional \$100 for Town Hall meeting.

Mayor Isen asked that a statement be made showing exactly how the \$100 originally allowed and this additional \$100 were expended.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to appropriate the additional \$100 to cover expenses for the Town Hall meeting as requested. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

32. Chairman Piatt submitting for approval Annual Report of Youth Welfare Commission with individual annual reports attached. 1019.1

Councilman Benstead moved to accept the report and expressed the opinion that the Commission had done a good job. Councilman Sciarrotta also commended the Commission highly and asked that serious consideration be given what seems to be a lack of communication between the Commission and some part of City Hall administration. Mayor Isen volunteered to take over that liaison duty in that he is not chairman of any of the six Committees of the Council. Councilman Sciarrotta moved that he be so appointed and Councilman Benstead seconded the motion which carried, there being no objection.

Mayor Isen said he will meet with a committee of the Commission very soon to see what can be done about the problem and expressed appreciation of the individual commissioners' reports.

COMMUNICATION FROM WATER DEPARTMENT:

33. Refund of portion of Water Main Charge. Recommendation of Water Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager, that refund of water main extension charge to Roemisch Bros. in the amount of \$117 collected in error, be granted. 1272

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the above recommendation and his motion was seconded by Mayor Isen. Roll call vote was:
AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

34. ROLLING HILLS PLAZA LEASE. City Attorney Remelmeyer submitting for approval and adoption resolution re leases No. 5, 6, 7 and third amendment to lease No. 3-A between City of Torrance and Rolling Hills Plaza Company, with copies of subject leases attached. 1010 c-53

Mayor Isen noted the last word of the next to last line on page 1 of the report on this matter should be "to" rather than "at". Councilman Drale said he is not prepared to vote on this and Mayor Isen also asked that it be held for one week for clarification. Messrs. Bower and Levitt were present and agreed to the postponement.

There was a further clarification which Mayor Isen would like to have regarding the percentage provision on non-sales tax paying tenants. This will be considered next Tuesday.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

35. Communication re Case No. 705, R. A. Watt (Guenser Park 50 ft. dedication). 1031 #705

City Manager Peebles said the proponent, Watt, had asked that this matter be held to February 4th which is a 5:30 meeting. There was no objection.

1144
BLDG
EXPANSION

36. Request for final construction drawing approval on Emergency Operating Center.

Assistant City Manager Johnson introduced Mr. Bob Madison who briefed the Council on the emergency operating center, pointing to various parts of a large sketch. Half of the cost of the equipment will be reimbursed by the Government. No appropriation is necessary at this time, only approval of the construction drawings. Councilman Benstead moved to so approve and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

37. Miscellaneous Recommendations:

1039 1. That Garage Superintendent be authorized to attend Pacific Automotive Show in San Francisco, with appropriate expenses.

1041
OFFICE
SUPPLIES

2. That the Police Department be authorized to purchase 50,000 file cards for the amount of \$408 plus tax.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the two listed items but Councilman Beasley and Councilman Drale wanted the two separated.

On Item 1, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the permission and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Miller, Sciarrotta,
Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

On Item 2, Councilman Miller moved to concur. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1181 40. This item has to do with an Edison Company easement which Airport Manager Egan recommends be approved.

Mr. Egan explained the runway is working, but without lights. The airport will be open twenty-four hours and there is considerable traffic up to nine or ten o'clock in the evening. This easement will be to provide lighting for the new facilities.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in granting the easement and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Miller, Sciarrotta,
Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

1321
#8A

38. Exclusion of Schreiber properties from the South Torrance Oil Field Flood Hazard Area.

Mayor Isen explained this is an emergency ordinance to give Mrs. Schreiber the relief requested at last Council meeting.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1458

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING THE PROVISION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1359 WHICH PROHIBITED BUILDING IN A CERTAIN PART OF THE SOUTH TORRANCE AREA SO AS TO EXCLUDE THEREFROM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2015, 2021, 2027, 2049, 2055 and 2061 - 234th STREET, IN TRACT NO. 530, AND DECLARING THE PRESENCE OF AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1458 at its first and only reading, as an emergency measure. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Drale stated Mr. Reese of Gardena Savings and Loan would like to have the file sent to his office and Mr. Remelmeyer said he would see that this is done.

39. PROCLAMATION: Mayor Isen declared February as HEART FUND MONTH.

1057

39A. FOR STUDY ONLY:

Letter from City Attorney re Charter Amendment - City Clerk, submitting resolution placing on the ballot at the General Election to be held April 14, 1964, an amendment to Section 1, Article XIII of the Charter to set forth the rights and duties of the City Clerk, his appointment of deputies and his salary and working conditions.

1089
CHARTER
AMEND

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to allow a week's study on this and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried, there being no objection.

41. DESIGNATION OF SUMP SITE FOR DRAINAGE DISTRICT 8-A (231st and Arlington).

1321
#8A

A sketch was attached showing location of the proposed sump and the recommendation of the Committee is that the City Attorney be instructed to proceed immediately with condemnation and orders of immediate possession so that the engineer may begin design of the sump and that excavation of the sump may begin immediately, in order to provide some drainage protection to the immediate area. Councilman Drale moved to concur in that recommendation. Mayor Isen seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

42. REPORT ON INSPECTION NEEDS OF CITY ENGINEER

The Councilmen had not had a chance to study this report and it will be held for one week.

1053
CONSTRUCT-
ION
PROJECTS

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

43. Councilman Miller said if there is to be a motion regarding the Attorney General's report, he moved a twenty-minute adjournment to a personnel session for the purpose of discussion. Councilman Vico seconded and Councilman Drale called for the question. There was no objection although no roll call was taken.

1290
X 1144
INVESTIGATION
10/2

The Council meeting adjourned to a closed personnel session in the conference room with City Attorney Remelmeyer invited to join.

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The meeting was called back to order at 10:22 p.m. and proceeded with oral communications:

44. City Clerk Coil reminded all incumbents and prospective nominees for the Council that their papers could be picked up from his office on January 30th.

1089
GEN.

1089
CHARTER
AMEND

45. City Attorney Remelmeyer said with respect to charter amendments on police and fire chiefs and the one discussed tonight, arguments should be prepared in favor and if the Council wishes, against, them. Someone should be designated to write the arguments in favor and if anyone wishes to write a minority opinion that can be done. Mayor Isen said he plans to write an argument in favor of the police and fire chief examination going outside the City. Councilman Sciarrotta said he will write the opposite.

Councilman Sciarrotta then asked if this goes on the ballot, if it would be possible to break it down so that the two department heads would be considered separately; in other words, perhaps to go outside for one, but not the other. City Attorney Remelmeyer said it would be in order providing the resolution so provides. Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the City Attorney be instructed to separate that resolution so that the people could have the choice indicated in his previous remarks.

Councilman Benstead moved a substitute to carry this on as it has been in the past, but Mayor Isen said that substitute motion was not necessary.

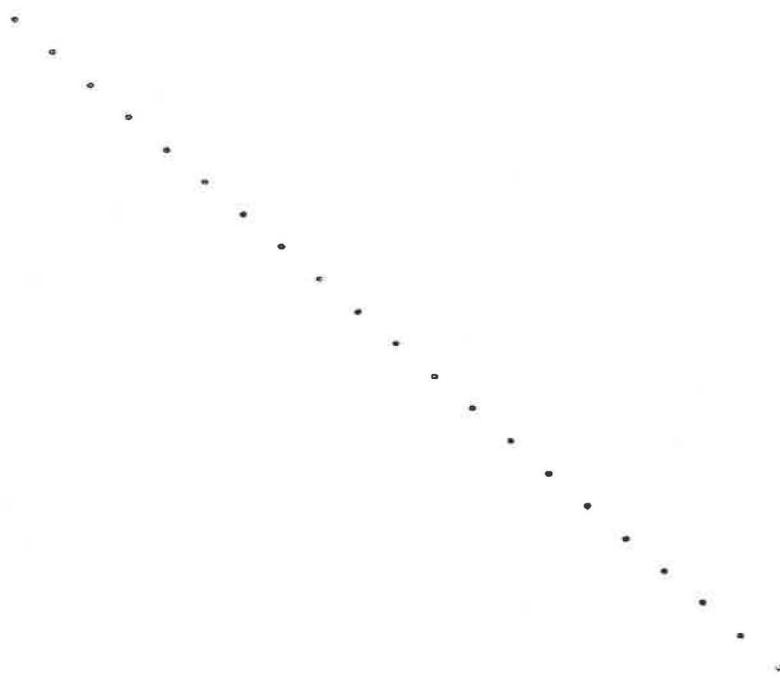
Councilman Drale seconded Councilman Sciarrotta's motion and Lt. Fischer of the Fire Department said he feels Mr. Sciarrotta's motion shows lack of confidence in either or both of the departments affected.

Councilman Sciarrotta, with the consent of Councilman Drale, the second, withdrew his motion.

1135
190th St.

46. City Manager Peebles said City Engineer Nollac is prepared to give a report on 190th Street. Mr. Nollac orally reported that the six borings (four on the south side and two on the north) to measure the thickness of the pavement, showed specifications were met. The samples were not tested as to sieve analysis, but this was certified by the vendor, not the contractor. If later, it develops the material is defective that will be the responsibility of the vendor.

? Councilman Vico asked what the situation was as to the poor condition of Sepulveda Boulevard and Mr. Nollac said that was just original poor design.



The balance of the minutes of this meeting consists of a verbatim transcript of the last oral communication: 1290

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Mr. Mayor, I have an unfortunate task here to perform - got the report from the Attorney General's office - didn't have the opportunity to pick up mine but Mr. Beasley was kind enough to give his to my wife so I had a chance to go over it pretty thoroughly with my wife and there are innuendoes in here that concern me very seriously because of my association with the people that are mentioned in this report. And I would like to move at this time that the City Attorney be authorized to draw the necessary resolution for the dismissal of Wade Peebles as City Manager of the City of Torrance. The resolution should be here next week.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: I second the motion.

MAYOR ISEN: Discussion?

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Did you say dismissal or suspension?

COUNCILMAN DRALE: I said dismissal.

COUNCILMAN VICO: Well, I'd like to say something, if I may. I think I was responsible for the fellow having this job and I told him at one time that if he pulled any shady deals that made anything - - the only thing is, I read the report just like you did. Now, basically, I'm not defending him, but I think the man is entitled to be heard. Now, I think what you should do in all fairness to him, without jumping to conclusions, let the man be heard. So, he's around for a week, that's fine.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Would you read the part of the Charter which gives him that right to a hearing, Mr. - ?

COUNCILMAN MILLER: May I make a substitute motion for suspension until the hearing according to the ordinance, according to what Mr. Remelmeyer says, that the hearing that we will have for Mr. Peebles? Suspension -

CITY ATTORNEY REMELMEYER: Well, I would have to draw a resolution which will be presented to you next week, on suspension, then, because I think -

MAYOR ISEN: Have a motion and second on the other so far.

COUNCILMAN VICO; Yeah, but the Charter says -

MR. REMELMEYER: I think the way the Charter reads, you should not take that action this evening. Any suspension should be made after the resolution requested by Mr. Drale has been adopted, or it may be a substitute therefor, but I think it should be done by resolution at that time.

MAYOR ISEN: Well, wait, let's be orderly on this thing. I have a motion and a second for a resolution of dismissal, that's all that's before us, Mr. Beasley.

COUNCILMAN VICO: Well, what would you recommend, Mr. Remelmeyer, I mean, legally speaking? I mean, the charter -

MR. REMELMEYER: Mr. Peebles is entitled to a hearing and the Charter specifies that it shall be two weeks after the passage of the resolution of dismissal and not more than thirty days thereafter. So the hearing must be held during that period of time.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: May I interpret that? In other words, if the motion carries tonight there would be a hearing in regard to this before the final adoption of his dismissal would take place?

MR. REMELMEYER: Correct. Two weeks after - from next Tuesday night would be the hearing.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: It would be public?

MR. REMELMEYER: Three weeks from tonight, a public hearing, yes. If he requests it - if he doesn't request it -

COUNCILMAN MILLER: How does this affect a, maybe I don't have the privilege of making a substitute motion for suspension on the same basis until the final facts are in on this.

MAYOR ISEN: Are there any procedures for suspension?

MR. REMELMEYER: The only procedure I see on suspension is the one that is ancillary to the initial passage of the resolution to remove him.

MAYOR ISEN: By that you mean a follow up resolution assuming the first one passes?

MR. REMELMEYER: Yes. Now I'd have to research the law to find out whether or not you may suspend him without any initial resolution of removal. I don't know the answer to that.

COUNCILMAN SCIARROTTA: Nevertheless he does have a chance if the resolution is drawn and even passed next week, he still has a chance for a hearing?

MAYOR ISEN: Who is the hearing before, Mr. Remelmeyer?

MR. REMELMEYER: Before the City Council.

COUNCILMAN VICO: Might as well do it right. No use jumping off the deep end, I mean, if this is the way the charter reads, we'll have -

MR. REMELMEYER: Yes, before the City Council.

MAYOR ISEN: If this passes.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Well, everybody is entitled to a hearing. This is the thing I think that we have to maintain uppermost - just wanted to make sure of that.

COUNCILMAN SCIARROTTA: The question, your Honor?

MAYOR ISEN: We are in open discussion. I would like to say something when everybody else gets through. I merely want to comment that in a situation that appears to me before the hearing to be in the nature of a kangaroo court, politically motivated, that you cast a cloud if it carries against a man who has worked his heart out for the City. I know that never has a city gone ahead so fast and so far in the short time - what is it, Wade, three years?

MR. PEEBLES: Three years.

MAYOR ISEN: Three years - point out also the economies effected in that Wade has done the work of Public Works Director as well. The office of Assistant Public Works Director was eliminated. Now, there is nothing in this report to indicate any moral turpitude on the part of Mr. Peebles, if anybody should be thinking that. Incidentally, Mr. Peebles tells me he has not seen the report. As an aside to that, I want to comment on this for the benefit of the people of Torrance. This thing started as an investigation of the Police Department. After - on the 10th of next month, it will be the seventh month anniversary, two months by Bowler and now, five months by Goertzen. There is nothing in this report in my opinion to indicate any evidence of any wrongdoing by the Torrance Police Department. Mr. Peebles, unfortunately, went into the office on a 4 to 3 vote. A lot of City Managers wouldn't have even accepted the appointment in this manner because the political motivations and connotations that may come up when councilmen are displeased. There can be a switch of the vote and a removal through the procedures where the same council that orders the proceedings, the resolution for dismissal supplemented by the resolution for suspension is heard by the Council. I will submit there is nothing here in the report that would, other than maliciousness on behalf of some parties that would justify such an action at this particular time. The Attorney General indicated there would be two more reports forthcoming. I read in the Breeze that would be accomplished within the next four to six weeks, don't remember whether it said four or six, I read it hurriedly this evening before Council meeting. It seems to me in the interests of justice to Mr. Peebles whose career is at stake, this Council could wait on this till all the reports are in and then add it all up. I have read it, I don't see an offense, I can't even see a censure involved in it, in a one-sided report to justify such drastic action. This is deferred head-chopping. It won't come about, I hope, in the interests of the City, but certainly it's done here on the spur of the moment and I think without too much meditation or thought by this Council, if it passes. I will agree with what Mr. Drale said, he said he talked it over with his wife and made a motion for something which was unfortunate. I would say it would be unfortunate for the City of Torrance if we lose Mr. Peebles' services.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Well, I'm not going to answer all your sweet words, Mr. Mayor, I'm going to have this report delivered to the newspapers and I think the public will be made aware of what's going on and it will be for them to decide.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: I'll deliver mine to -

COUNCILMAN BENSTEAD: Well, I don't think it's fair for a man to stand trial at this early date. We've got two more reports coming in and personally, the man should have seen this thing himself and evidently he has not and I don't go along with it, can't see it.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: He was a party to the testimony.

MAYOR ISEN: He didn't hear his accusers.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: Question on the motion.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: He'll have his hearing, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR ISEN: Down there in closed sessions. He didn't hear the accusations.

COUNCILMAN DRALE: These statements are under oath, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR ISEN: That's right. I'm very aware of it.

COUNCILMAN SCIARROTTA: Mr. Mayor, I feel like you, that Mr. Peebles has certainly done a great deal in this city, no question about it. I'm not going to belittle his ability. I think that he has been a manager who has done a great deal and accomplished a great deal. There's no question about it in my mind, but I certainly cannot agree with you, Mr. Mayor, on the report which we have gotten. The report is rather conclusive of the misuse of police and so consequently, we owe it to our people that things of this particular nature should not be permitted in the City of Torrance. Now, you might forego little things, but this to me, is a big thing. Now, originally I thought maybe we'll suspend him for a while but due to the fact the City Attorney has called attention to the fact he is entitled to a hearing - in other words, the doors have not been closed on Mr. Peebles, he is entitled to a hearing. At the same time I think that when the public reads the report which Mr. Drale is going to make available to the press they can decide for themselves whether or not we acted in accordance with the trust which the people have put upon us.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: Question on the motion.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: One thing -

MAYOR ISEN: Mr. Miller?

COUNCILMAN MILLER: If this goes to a hearing. If the motion carries and it goes to a hearing. At that point if the Council saw fit by the evidence submitted, do they reverse their decision, their stand, how does this come about?

MR. REMELMEYER: Yes, at that time, you either affirm your previous or you can rescind it and retain him in office.

MAYOR ISEN: Do you want to say anything, Mr. Peebles?

MR. PEEBLES: Not at this time, no, other than the fact that I do not believe the report is factual.

MAYOR ISEN: All right, roll call on Mr. Drale's motion.

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Vico.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Mayor Isen.

MAYOR ISEN: Just a minute, I think you had better not leave the City in a -

COUNCILMAN DRALE: Well, let's not make any rash statements, Mr. Mayor. I think we have a very capable Assistant City Manager and a Finance Officer and a City Attorney that can carry on just as well as -

MAYOR ISEN: Will you read that motion, please, Edith?

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Well, can I make a motion to -

MAYOR ISEN: What was the motion?

COUNCILMAN MILLER: The City Attorney states that he still has his job of running the city, is this right?

MR. REMELMEYER: For the coming week.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Till the hearing. The hearing is the key.

MR. REMELMEYER: No, no, the passage of the resolution would be the key.

MAYOR ISEN: All right, anything further?

ROBERT JAHN: Robert Jahn, 20812 Avis. Just for clarification, it's my understanding that any person, a citizen of Torrance, may get a verbatim copy of minutes by paying the extra time. Is that true?

MAYOR ISEN: How does that work?

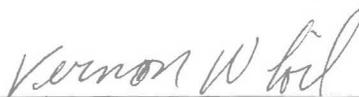
MR. COIL: That is right.

MAYOR ISEN: See Mr. Coil.

MR. JAHN: That's clearly understood, then. All right, Thank you.

MAYOR ISEN: Anyone else - goodnight, folks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.



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

APPROVED:



Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance