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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretaryi.
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Torrance, California
January 19, 1965

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, January 19, 1965, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen. ABSENT: None. City Manager Ferraro and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Stanley Dunn led the salute to the Flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Councilman Beasley opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

In keeping with the City policy to encourage employees to seek schooling in their particular fields, Mayor Isen announced Messrs. Nollac, DePrez, Rempert, Weaver and Bourbonnais had completed an in-service training course in Municipal Public Works Administration. City Manager Ferraro presented certificates to the five with appropriate comments.

Councilman Beasley introduced Mr. Jerry Russell who is the Assistant to Mr. Telford, Assistant Highway Engineer in charge of the metropolitan district of the California State Highway Division. Mr. Russell lives in the City of Torrance and frequently attends Council meetings, Mr. Beasley said.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 12, 1965. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried, there being no objection.

7. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

8. 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 Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING HEARINGS:

9. CASE NO. 64-62 - Variance - Prairie Avenue Church, 18098 Prairie Avenue. Formal hearing on a variance to permit construction of a church complex on a portion of Lot 11, R. O. Hickman Tract, 18098 Prairie Avenue, A-1 zone. Recommended for approval.

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

This being a public hearing, Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard on Case No. 64-62. Reverend Johnson of the Church responded, calling attention to the change of zone into which this variance will automatically merge. He stated the church has deeded the alley to the city subject to complete approval. Mr. Swarts of Planning explained the circumstances under which there could possibly be a deficiency in parking for the size of the sanctuary which is proposed. He said the variance could be granted with the condition that the parking requirements be met.

Councilman Lyman moved to close the hearing and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of approval. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Reverend Johnson further asked a 15 foot setback rather than a 20 foot setback. City Manager Ferraro asked for time to evaluate this request and was granted one week to do so and make a recommendation without having to go back to the Planning Commission.

Reverend Johnson was told the signal to proceed would depend only on the recommendation at next Council meeting.

10. CASE NO. 64-99 - CHANGE OF ZONE - Planning Commission

Third and final hearing on a change of zone from R-2, A-1, and C-2 to R-P and/or C-3 on property located on west side of Crenshaw between 181st Street and 182nd Street, recommended C-3 by Planning Commission; Lots 10 through 13, Tract 18911 located on west side of Crenshaw between 180th Place and 181st Street be rezoned from R-3 to R-P (recommended R-P by Planning Commission). Recommended for approval.

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. 64-99 and there was no response.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to close the hearing and his motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Beasley asked if the City had all the easements needed and City Engineer Nollac agreed that the sketch is misleading in this respect. Mr. Swarts said his understanding is that the dedication has been made including the corner cutoff.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in approval, providing the dedication on 182nd to 181 Street on Crenshaw has been obtained. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote. The ordinance will be held pending that determination, Mayor Isen said.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

11. W-65-1, James H. Webb, appealing decision of Planning Commission. Request for courtyard waiver of 8 feet 6 inches to construct a ten unit apartment building 11 feet 6 inches in width on property located at 1912 Plaza Del Amo in Zone R-3.

City Manager Ferraro announced there had been a request to withdraw the request. Councilman Miller, however, asked for some clarification or interpretation as to courtyards or entry ways. He believed the law to be vague and in need of some sort of official correction by the Council, and moved that there be an amendment to the zoning ordinance to effect clarification. Councilman Olson seconded and there being no objection, Mayor Isen instructed the City Manager to comply. The request of Mr. Webb was considered to be withdrawn, there being no objection.

12. REVISION OF RR-3 ZONE ORDINANCE. City Attorney submitting for approval at first reading:

- a. Ordinance amending Section 6X-A of Appendix I to prohibit only R-1 uses in RR-3 zone.
- b. Ordinance amending Section 6X-A of Appendix I to prohibit both R-1 and R-2 uses in RR-3 zone.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to refer this matter back to the Planning Commission and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. Councilman Beasley and Mayor Isen asked that the Planning Department recommend a choice between the two ordinances. There was no objection.

13. REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF THE CITY'S CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 30186 (R. Garland and K. Clark). Recommendation of City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that the original conditions of approval be modified as outlined in the said recommendation.

The recommendation is to make the following modifications to the conditions:

1. Condition 5 requires all lots to drain to the street. It is felt that the condition is reasonable. However, the Engineering Department would have no objection to allowing the southerly 150 feet of Lot 12 to drain to Amie Avenue and the remainder of this lot to drain northerly, provided that an adequate drainage structure is installed to intercept any cross-lot drainage and carry it underground to Spencer Street.

2. Condition 9(a) requires the Torrance Municipal Water Department to serve all lots. This condition is in line with Council policy of requiring subdivisions in this area to be served by the City Water Department. No change is recommended to this requirement.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in the recommendations as stated in both 1 and 2 quoted above. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and there was no objection.

14. RESOLUTION ON CASE NO. 705 - R. A. WATT.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ON PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 73, McDONALD TRACT IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 705.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-11. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

In answer to a question by Councilman Vico, City Manager Ferraro said a deed had been received for the 50 x 110 parcel of land and it will be recorded tomorrow. The wire has been put up with the agreement that if it is not sufficient as a backstop outfield fence, they will install additional wire fence. This is for use by the Little League.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable to adopting the resolution.

15. ORDINANCE ON CASE NO. 64-53 - Planning Commission.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1572

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 64-53. (Torrance Planning Commission).

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve Ordinance No. 1572 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

16. BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT 5-E, PHASE II (Sump and Storm Drains - ALTERNATE METHOD OF PROCEEDING. Recommendation of City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that (1) the single bid received be rejected, and (2) the over-all project be divided into various operations (storm drain, earth work, fencing).

Councilman Olson moved to concur in the recommendations as above stated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

REAL PROPERTY:

17. EXCHANGE OF BEACH FRONT LAND - SOVEREIGN DEVELOPMENT CO.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISAPPROVE A PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF BEACH FRONT LAND IN THE CITIES OF TORRANCE AND REDONDO BEACH OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND SOVEREIGN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-10 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Olson, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING:

18. VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT NO. 1.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-12

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING THE CITY ENGINEER TO MAKE AND DELIVER A DIAGRAM OF ACQUISITION FOR AND OF PROPERTY WITHIN VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT NO. 1 OF SAID CITY.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-2 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

19. TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION that a decrease in speed limit from 65 mph to 35 mph be established on Monterey Street from Madrona Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF RESOLUTION NO. 61-157 WHICH ESTABLISHES 35 mph PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS BY ADDING A CERTAIN LOCATION THERETO.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-13 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

20. CLASS SPECIFICATION - CITY ENGINEER/STREET SUPERINTENDENT. Civil Service Commission submitting class specification for City Engineer/Street Superintendent and resolution amending the salary resolution to add position to the position classification plan, with report from City Manager.

City Manager Ferraro said the Street Superintendent classification had been eliminated and its responsibilities added to the City Engineer position with the title of City Engineer/Street Superintendent. In answer to detailed questions from Councilmen Vico and Olson, he explained the reorganization which created this situation, and the net saving produced as a result. However, there is no guarantee that this will remain static in a growing city such as Torrance.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 64-122 TO ADD THE POSITION OF CITY ENGINEER/STREET SUPERINTENDENT TO THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-14 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,
Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

* * * *

At 6:25 Mayor Isen declared a recess in order to convene as the Redevelopment Agency. The Council reconvened as such at 6:30 p.m.

* * * *

FISCAL MATTERS:

21. CURB AND SIDEWALK FOR GUENSER PARK: Park Superintendent, requesting permission to have curb and sidewalks constructed northerly of 178th Street and Gramercy Place, easterly of Guenser Park, at a cost of \$300.

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

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

22. FUNDS TO COMPLETE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF VICTOR AND ENTRADERO PARKS. Request of Recreation Director, with comments of Finance Department, and concurrence of City Manager, for additional allocation of \$15,690 out of the Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation Centers Fund, and transfer of funds in amount of \$10,500 to complete initial development of Victor Park and Entradero Park.

Councilman Beasley moved to allocate and transfer funds as above stated and his motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

23. INSTALLATION OF RUBBER VINYL CARPETING AT BENSTEAD PLUNGE.

Recommendation of Director of Recreation, with concurrence of City Manager, that City accept the bid of Peck's Products to cover the floor in the office and lobby of the Victor E. Benstead Plunge with U. S. Rubber Royal Vinyl Carpeting for the bid amount of \$1,395.25.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. There were several very favorable comments, and roll call vote was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

24. PROCLAMATION: Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of February 7 through 13 as CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH WEEK.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

25. EXPIRATION OF TERMS OF OFFICE OF VARIOUS CITY COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Isen stated it has been the practice to recommend nominations for these positions on various commissions and that the Council be polled for their approval. He pointed out that the council has the right to ask for a personnel session if they wish.

For the Civil Defense and Disaster Commission, Mayor Isen recommended reappointment of J. H. Bruchett. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

For the Civil Service Commission, George Morehart be reappointed. Councilman Beasley seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

For the Library Commission, Mrs. Claire V. Crain be reappointed. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

For the Park and Recreation Commission, Mrs. Rose Craig be reappointed. Councilman Beasley seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

For the Park and Recreation Commission, Ambie Schindler be reappointed. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

For the Water Commission, R. "Pat" Hogue be reappointed. Councilman Beasley seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Lyman announced as his appointment to the Torrance Beautiful Commission, Alfred Cagle, and Councilman Miller reappointed Donald W. Walker, both subject to the wish to serve of the appointee.

Without having consulted with the two persons named, Councilman Olson appointed Margaret O'Brien and Councilman Lyman appointed William Faulds to succeed themselves as members of the Youth Welfare Commission, provided they wish to so act.

Polling of the Council resulted in unanimous approval as to the appointments to the Torrance Beautiful Commission and Youth Welfare Commission.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE:

26. At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil presented for second reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1571

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 64-90. (Felipe Gonzales).

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1571 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,
Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

27. City Manager Ferraro reported that Jack McKinnon, Superintendent of Building and Safety, who has been ill will return tomorrow and City Treasurer Rupert will return to work a week from yesterday.

28. City Manager Ferraro recalled instructions regarding a midyear salary survey. Information has been taken from various cities and as soon as it has been evaluated the information will be given to the Council. He said he will meet with various employees' groups to go over the subject and summarize the results of those meetings for the Council. Mayor Isen said if it is determined that any increases are to be made, they will be retroactive to January 1, 1965. Mr. Ferraro repeated that the differences of opinion of the various groups would be summarized by his office for the Council. This has not been the previous way of handling it.

29. City Manager Ferraro referred to the request for relief from the emergency ordinance by Mr. Steffes as attorney for the Yamiguchi family. The Government has authorized the use of pictures and a field report on the Yamiguchi property and as a result the City Attorney can be instructed to make certain revisions and amendments to that emergency ordinance which declared a moratorium on demolition and clean-up work. Mr. Steffes will be advised that his clients may remove the buildings and otherwise clean up their property and the property will still retain eligibility for urban renewal. Mayor Isen said if there is no objection, the City Attorney is so instructed; there was no objection.

30. City Manager Ferraro stated there is a general lack of understanding on the part of the public regarding highway and freeway planning and location. He referred to an article in the Los Angeles Times and the presence of Mr. Russell of the Highway Division at this meeting. He asked the Council to please study and make a recommendation in a couple of weeks. Councilman Beasley said he is a member of the group which opposes this and Mr. Ferraro promised to bring in an analysis.

31. City Manager Ferraro asked that the Council at the close of this meeting adjourn to 8:30 p.m., rather than 8:00 on January 26, 1965 because the Daily Breeze is holding Public Officials Night at their new building that evening.

32. Recreation Director Van Bellehem said John Gauthier has asked for a permit to erect a refreshment stand on the Civic Center for the Boy Scout celebration in February. Councilman Beasley moved to grant the request subject to approval by staff, including adequate insurance.

Councilman Olson seconded and there was no objection.

33. Councilman Lyman distributed copies of a proposed motion or resolution which contains his thoughts on some changes in the system of electing public officials in Torrance, as follows:

"That a committee be formed to study the system of electing public officials in Torrance and the basis of representation of our citizens and that recommendations be made to the council on what changes it is felt should be made in the section of the City Charter that covers the election of public officials.

"Further that this committee shall consist of five members. Three of the members shall be city councilmen selected by the City Council. One member shall be a representative of the League of Women Voters selected by that group. One member shall be a faculty member of El Camino College from the Department of Political Science to be selected by the faculty of El Camino College.

"Further that the City Manager is to act as secretary of this group and advisor on a non-voting basis.

"Further that the City Attorney shall act as legal counsel to this group on a non-voting basis.

"Further the committee is to bring in a recommendation to the City Council on the following subjects:

1. What do they consider to be the best system of representation for the City of Torrance.
2. A recommendation as to whether a primary system of election for the City of Torrance is advisable.
3. A recommendation as to what can be done, if anything, to reduce the size of the ballot in a city election.
4. Any further recommendations they might have for the improvement of our system of city elections and representation.

"Further that members of the public and civic groups be invited to submit in writing plans and recommendations to this committee for their consideration."

Councilman Lyman pointed out that the present system in use was initiated in 1921 when Torrance had 4,000 population and the last amendment was in 1957 with a population of 82,300. In his opinion the system needs some changes to accommodate a population of 128,000 at present, looking toward 250,000. He believes also that Torrance needs some type of primary election system and a way of eliminating names of candidates who are not seriously running in an election.

After reading the above quoted material in full, Councilman Lyman moved in accordance with its contents.

Mayor Isen expressed surprise at the motion and said he did not think anyone would want to act on it tonight. He recommended a large committee to study every facet of the matter and other problems along the same line, with the thought of possible charter revisions. These are not matters which can be done hurriedly.

Councilman Lyman said he had not intended to present this for action tonight, but made the motion to bring it to light so that some action could be planned.

Councilmen Beasley and Sciarrotta agreed with Mayor Isen.

34. Councilman Lyman noted the interest of citizens in tax matters at this time and hoped they would continue at the time of budget hearings.

35. Councilman Miller called attention to Information Item I, a letter from Senator Rees on the subject of apportionment of the State Senate on a population basis. In order that Torrance not find itself without representation on this subject, he suggested appointment of a committee, or an individual to coordinate and inform Senator Rees of Torrance's action.

Mayor Isen said he also had planned to make an oral communication on the subject and appointed Councilmen Lyman, Sciarrotta and Miller as members of the committee.

36. Councilman Sciarrotta said he would save his oral communication for next meeting.

37. Councilman Vico referred to an article about council members travel expenses and said the councilmen have not "been out of line" but on the other hand have been rather conservative.

38. Councilman Vico complained about a rubbish truck traveling on Torrance Boulevard, spreading papers and trash along the street, because the load was not covered.

39. Councilman Vico inquired of City Manager Ferraro what has been done, or what can be done, about cleaning up the approach to Torrance from the east - Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue.

Mr. Ferraro answered that his office is working on it but it is difficult to make contact with officials of the Pacific Electric. However, he asked authorization to paint the overpass if and when permission of the railroad company can be obtained. The trestle and uprights are defaced with obscene and unsuitable words and a spray paint job would be very helpful.

Councilman Vico moved to grant the authorization on condition permission can be obtained. His motion was seconded by Councilman Lyman and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

40. Councilman Vico asked Councilman Beasley why there was not some money promoted for Del Amo Boulevard. Councilman Beasley answered that this is not a state highway.

41. Mr. Warren Post of 220 Vista del Parque asked on behalf of a group of young swimmers and their coach, for use of the Benstead Plunge which is the only 55 yard pool in the South Bay area. He said it would be planned so as not to conflict with its regularly scheduled use. Mayor Isen moved to grant the permission subject to approval by Recreation Director Van Bellehem. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote. City Manager Ferraro stated there might be a maintenance charge in this connection.

Councilman Beasley moved to adjourn this meeting to January 26, 1965, at 8:30 p.m. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

The time of adjournment was 6:50 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

11.

Council Minutes
January 19, 1965