

I N D E XCouncil Meeting held November 15, 1966, 5:30 p.m.

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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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Council Minutes
November 15, 1966

Torrance, California
November 15, 1966

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 at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 1966, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Beasley, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen. Councilman Lyman joined the meeting about three minutes later. City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Manager Ferraro were present.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mrs. Mary Walker led the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Minister of the Month, Reverend Francis A. Rath, Seaside Community United Church of Christ, opened the meeting with an invocation.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 1, 1966, as written. There was no meeting on November 8, 1966 because of the election. Councilman Olson seconded and the motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved that 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.

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 and the motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen acknowledged the presence of some El Camino students in the audience and welcomed them. He described the mode of operation and procedure of Council meetings for the benefit of the audience.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

8. PROPOSED RESOLUTION approving precise plan as applied for by James R. and Earl N. Hall, in PP66-5.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 66-228

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 21X OF APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", AS APPLIED FOR BY JAMES R. AND EARL N. HALL IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. PP 66-5.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 66-228 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

9. IMPROVEMENT OF INTERSECTION OF CRENSHAW BOULEVARD AND 235TH STREET Recommendation of Director of Public Works with concurrence of City Manager, that Council approve an additional \$7,000 from Section 186.1 Gas Tax Funds for the subject improvement.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation as stated and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. Roll call vote was:

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

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City Attorney Remelmeyer requested an executive session under the provisions of the Brown Act for the purpose of discussing Items 10 and 11 and Mayor Isen agreed that it would be held a little later in the evening, with those items being considered following that session.

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SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

12. APPROPRIATION OF 186.1 GAS TAX FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INTERSECTION OF CARSON STREET AND ARLINGTON AVENUE. Recommendation of Director of Public Works, with concurrence of City Manager, that \$17,000 be appropriated from 186.1 Gas Tax Funds for subject improvement.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation as stated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried as follows:

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

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SIGNS:

13. REQUEST OF LEO SALISBURY for waiver of Building Code Requirements and in effect of the moratorium on relocations.

Building and Safety Director McKinnon explained the type of building and the uses to which Mr. Salisbury hopes to put it. The move is only from the next door lot.

Councilman Olson moved to grant the requested waiver. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

14. PROPOSED ORDINANCE prohibiting entry upon private property by a Building Official unless he has a court order.

City Attorney Remelmeyer noted two changes to be made in this ordinance as presented: to add the words "or occupant" in Section 1 subparagraphs 1 and 2 after the word "owner". Mayor Isen said it would seem better to change the word "owner" to "occupant" in that the premises belong to the party in possession for such a purpose. The change would obtain as to both subparagraphs.

Councilman Olson suggested that City Manager Ferraro's letter become a part of the record as to this ordinance. Mr. Ferraro said it is a part of the Council record in ordering this ordinance and Councilman Olson moved that the minutes show a reference to the letter. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and there was no objection.

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil assigned a number and presented for first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1732

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 6.71 TO ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 6 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT THE ENTRY UPON PRIVATE PROPERTY BY A BUILDING OFFICIAL UNLESS HE HAS AN ORDER OF COURT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve Ordinance No. 1732 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING:

15. PROPOSED RESOLUTION prohibiting parking on Carson Street between Hawthorne Boulevard and Ocean Avenue.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 66-229

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 63-33, ARTICLE III, WHICH PROHIBITS PARKING AT ANY TIME, BY ADDING A CERTAIN LOCATION THERETO.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 66-229 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

FISCAL MATTERS:16. BUDGETED EXPENDITURES OVER \$300.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the following six expenditures:

1. \$471.74 to Blinker-Lite Supply Co. for 60 street barricades to be used by the Water Department for repair work as required.
2. \$343.20 to Southwest Tractor Sales for 1 only Gannon landscraper - Model #H120, to be used by the Park Department for resurfacing work.
3. \$1,201.20 to Prismo California Company (Bauer paint) for 300 gallons of yellow and 100 gallons of white street marking paint to be used by Traffic and Lighting as required.
4. \$893.88 to Essick Machinery Company for one only trailer built specifically to carry an Essicks street roller recently purchased.
5. \$825.50 to Howard Supply Company for 39 complete rain suits (jackets and pants) and 24 pairs of boots needed by Sanitation, Street, Airport, Engineering and Park Departments for replacement of wornout gear.
6. \$712.40 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for one only 8 inch flow check detector, L. A. design, to be used by the Water Department as a reimbursable item for service at Marvelene Extrusions, Inc.

Councilman Vico seconded and roll call vote was:

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

BUS SYSTEMS:

17. Request of Bus Superintendent to attend semi-annual meeting of California Association of Publicly Owned Transit System to be held on November 17, 1966, in San Diego, with appropriate expenses paid.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the request. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote:

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

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

18. SIX RESOLUTIONS bestowing title of Honorary Citizen on visiting Turkish officials.

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil assigned numbers to six individual resolutions, reading title to each:

RESOLUTION NO. 66-230

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE MAYOR A. HILMI NALCADI, MAYOR OF KONYA AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-231

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE GOVERNOR ALI CAHIT BETIL, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF KONYA AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-232

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE GOVERNOR HUSEYIN MEYDANOGLU, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF KOCAELI AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-233

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE GOVERNOR OSMAN MERIC, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF ESKISEHIR AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-234

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE GOVERNOR FETHI TANSUK, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF BALIKESIR AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-235

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WELCOMING TO TORRANCE DIRECTOR ALIMETIN DIRIMTEKIN, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND BESTOWING UPON HIM THE TITLE OF HONORARY CITIZEN.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that Resolutions Nos. 66-230, 66-231, 66-232, 66-233, 66-234, and 66-235 each be adopted and each be prepared in perma plaque form. Councilman Olson seconded and roll call vote was:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

19. This item had been withdrawn from the agenda prior to the time of meeting.

20. REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS on Second Semi-Annual Torrance Clean-up Day.

Councilman Beasley moved to receive, file and refer the report to budget workshop sessions in the spring. Councilman Miller seconded and there was no objection.

21. DEDICATION OF HERMA TILLIM MEMORIAL BUILDING: Communication from Park and Recreation Commission, noted by City Manager, setting date for dedication of Herma Tillim Senior Citizens Center at McMaster Park for 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 30, 1966.

This being informational matter, it was ordered filed.

22. PROPOSED RESOLUTION declaring November 29, 1966, as JUNIOR CITIZENS' DAY.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 66-236

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING NOVEMBER 29, 1966, as "JUNIOR CITIZENS' DAY".

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 66-236 and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico, roll call being unanimously favorable.

With respect to the costs of the event, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to appropriate \$550; 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.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

23. Recommendation of Building and Safety Director, with concurrence of City Manager, that the request of Irwin Paris to erect a temporary billboard at 23323 Hawthorne Boulevard be approved.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the request under the circumstances set forth in Mr. Paris' letter. His motion was seconded by Councilman Olson and there was no objection.

24. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SPENCER STREET FROM EARL STREET TO HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, B66-81. Recommendation of Director of Public Works with concurrence of City Manager, that contract be awarded to McAmis Engineering and all other bids be rejected.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation as stated, on the basis of alternate proposal, \$28,873.37. Councilman Miller seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

25. REQUEST OF E. L. PEARSON & ASSOCIATES FOR A TWELVE MONTH EXTENSION IN WHICH TO RECORD TRACT NO. 23177. Recommendation of Director of Public Works with concurrence of City Manager, that request be approved.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in making the expiration date June 29, 1967, subject to all previous conditions and the additional condition that underground utilities be installed within the tract. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and there was no objection.

26. PROCLAMATION: period from November 14 through 31 of December as CHRISTMAS SEAL SEASON.

Mayor Isen so proclaimed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

City Manager Ferraro stated that the Hopkins Lincoln-Mercury building on Hawthorne Boulevard had been awarded a special honor by the Southern California Chapter of American Institute of Architects.

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Mayor Isen, the meeting was recessed for the purpose of executive session, at 5:50 p.m., and returned to the Council deliberations at 6:07.

Mayor Isen announced that in connection with agenda items Nos. 10 and 11, the City Attorney had advised the Council what the law and the results of these two matters would be. City Attorney Remelmeyer stated his recommendation: that the City litigate these matters to a conclusion. If an opinion of the Attorney General protecting the City is received, Mr. Remelmeyer said he would inform the Council. As to the second item, West American Construction vs. City, Mr. Remelmeyer recommended making a settlement if the figure were believed to be a fair one and if the judgment, findings and conclusions of law, could be so worded as to make no future liability on the part of the City and its officials. As of now, the recommendation is to litigate to a conclusion.

Councilman Beasley moved in accordance with Mr. Remelmeyer's statements; Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mr. James Reese, one of the attorneys for Standard Oil Company, started to set out Standard Oil's position with respect to liability, but Mayor Isen said that is not necessary at this time to argue the merits of the case.

On motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, the meeting was recessed for the purpose of holding the Redevelopment Agency meeting, at 6:11 p.m. The Council returned to its meeting immediately thereafter.

28. City Attorney Remelmeyer asked for the appointment of a Council committee to discuss the matter of franchises with his office. He has in mind further amendments to the policy and suggested Councilman Olson as Chairman of the proposed committee. It was decided Councilman Olson would be the committee of one.

29. City Clerk Coil reported that there would be an official canvass of the election on Proposition Z the week of December 4 through 10th.

30. Councilman Sciarrotta said with reference to a previous oral communication on the subject of income tax rebate, that evidently a number of other cities have been doing this. He read from the Los Angeles Times an article on the subject and expressed the hope that there would be proper encouragement of this project.

31. Mayor Isen reappointed, or reinstated E. F. Schoonover as a member of the Civil Defense and Disaster Commission and noted that there is still one vacancy on the Commission, suggesting the commission make suggestions for a replacement of Mr. Hosler who recently resigned.

32. Mayor Isen said since quite a bit of controversy has shown in the record of the Council meetings, he would like to have the following statement incorporated into the minutes. He distributed copies of the statement to the press, also.

REBUTTAL TO A SMEAR

Although not a candidate for office, I was the target of a well-financed smear campaign carried on by a small, unscrupulous group for over three months preceding the November 8th election. The public has the right to know what and who were behind it.

Charter Amendment Z was rammed through and placed on the ballot by Councilmen Lyman, Beasley, Sciarrotta and Vico. If passed, this amendment would have given them control over the choice of Mayor. Thousands of dollars were spent to promote it. Who put up the money? Why?

The purpose of the smear and character assassination was to stampede the voters into sacrificing their right to vote in the choice of Mayor, with the possibility that this would eliminate me from city government. In this way the promoters would have rid themselves of an obstacle to their objectives, one of which was the rezoning of choice industrial land to more lucrative uses.

It is in the area of rezoning that occur most frequently the corruption of public officials. This is understandable when we realize that the rezoning of land can change its value so drastically. Millions of dollars can be added to the valuation of land by a majority vote of four persons. Losers are the residents and taxpayers for whose protection the zoning restrictions had been placed. It is because of the importance of proper zoning that we hold hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council. This gives all interested parties an opportunity to be heard - to recommend, approve, or protest, as the case may be.

We come now to the Butcher-Wilson rezoning, which was one of the motives for placing Amendment Z on the ballot and for the libelous smear campaign against me. This concerned the rezoning of industrial land to cemetery and housing tract uses.

In spite of many valid reasons against it and overwhelming public protest, Councilmen Lyman, Beasley, Sciarrotta and Vico voted in favor of the rezoning. I was one of those who voted against it although repeatedly warned in advance by Robert L. Curry, editor-publisher of the Daily Breeze, to vote in favor of it. I also indicated at the time that I would continue to oppose it. This was on July 26, 1966.

Two days later the smear campaign commenced in the Daily Breeze with a derogatory editorial, and continued throughout the weeks preceding the November 8th election. Included were self-serving statements by Councilmen Lyman, Beasley and Sciarrotta, all of whom aspire to the Mayorship but lack the courage to run for the office. The editorials, news stories and statements from the councilmen were packed with lies and insults, all perpetrated in the name of free speech. I had never before seen or heard of such viciousness in a newspaper and was deeply shocked by it, as were many other Torrance people. It will take a long time for the people of this community to forget such an exhibition of bad taste and vindictiveness, and the part a hitherto respected newspaper had played in a shameful power play.

In addition to the Daily Breeze's part in this hitting-below-the-belt activity, a costly smear sheet was mailed out over the signatures of Councilmen Lyman and Vico.

Robert L. Curry appears to be the captain of this little team. According to Councilman Beasley, it was Curry who suggested Charter Amendment Z. The same four councilmen voted to put Amendment Z on the ballot as voted in favor of the questionable rezoning. Mr. Curry's interest in this matter is obviously not a civic one, and although his hunger for power is well known, I believe his motive here is on the practical side. His involvement in this venture appears to be considerable.

The other interested parties in this rezoning are Don Wilson and Dan E. Butcher, owners of the land. Neither is a resident of Torrance. The influence they exert is financial, both being givers of substantial campaign contributions. Torrance has been good to these two developers, and the community deserves better from them than the devious acquisition of rezoning through excessive influence, with its resultant huge tax loss to the homeowners.

I have no intention of descending to the level of my attackers on the City Council by enumerating in factual detail their many shortcomings in matters of ethics, morals and integrity, as it would serve no useful purpose. Instead, I suggest and urge that Councilman Lyman resign from the council so that he may be replaced by a man of stronger moral fiber. I submit the following reasons:

1. Since his election in 1964, he has done nothing constructive for the community. He has shown no interest in city problems and his attitude has been one of boredom. His intention, evidently, was to use his position on the council as a stepping stone for office in partisan politics.

2. He is primarily responsible for wasting \$7,370 of taxpayers' money on Amendment Z to satisfy his ego and to facilitate the favorable outcome of a matter opposed by thousands of taxpayers. In his zeal, he took the lead in a degrading campaign of malicious lies and smears.

3. For his abuse of City employees in the performance of their duties.

4. It is no longer possible for the people of Torrance to have confidence in him. Expenditures and debts incurred in his unsuccessful attempt to win election to the State Senate were reportedly around \$35,000.00. This has created a serious conflict-of-interest situation. The question is -- how will he vote when his sources of campaign funds request a rezoning? His voting record already indicates that he does not represent the taxpayers' interests.

5. His resignation would serve to break up the Council bloc that has been operating against the interests of the people.

In closing, and speaking for all the future Mayors of Torrance as well as for myself, I wish to thank the people of Torrance for keeping the Mayor independent in his vote and opinions, for allowing him to be responsible to the people instead of to members of the council, and for not requiring him to agree with any four of them. As long as I can take it, and the people of Torrance want me, I shall continue to serve them faithfully to the best of my ability.

The following statement was made by Councilman Lyman:

May I have the opportunity to answer that since it was directed at me? Number 1, I will state this, that since sitting on this council I have had a chance to observe the big lie in action and the Mayor is an expert in making charges that have no foundation. Number 1, this charge of his that has been bandied around in regard to financial interest in regards to rezoning, there is only way that I know of that any legislative body can check into the activity of its members and that is to pass an ordinance requiring a financial disclosure by its members so that once a year the members of the council can file with the City Clerk a statement of their finances and the public can

check and see which ones of those on the Council are increasing their net worth and because of this I would like to suggest that this Council enact such an ordinance because I am perfectly willing to submit to the public a record of my financial worth.

Allright, so much for that; now the other item is in regard to the rezoning case that has been bandied around and dragged in by this Mayor. I would like to state just exactly what the position has been in regards to this to make my position clear in the past, I'll make it as clear as I know how now. Now this case goes back for a long period of time and also involved in it, I'm going to give you some reasons for my position in this.

For over a year three members of your City Council, Mr. Miller, Mr. Olson and myself, have been meeting with representatives of Del Amo Properties, Great Lakes Carbon Co., Guilford Glazer, Standard Oil, Santa Fe Railroad in regards to their mutual problems to do with their property in both the land use and the oil beneath the surface and this is the property over between Crenshaw and Madrona, north of Sepulveda.

In return for the cooperation of the City of Torrance, in an attempt to solve some of the many complex problems confronting these people, Del Amo Properties has offered to make available to the City a site to construct a city auditorium and to help the City with the construction of an auditorium on extremely advantageous terms to the City.

As a result of these meetings, Del Amo Properties and the City of Torrance have determined it would be for the best interests of the City of Torrance and all parties concerned if the railroad tracks south of Torrance Boulevard could be removed.

Del Amo Properties, as a result of these discussions, has made an offer to Santa Fe Railroad to develop the Santa Fe property north of Sepulveda between Madrona and Crenshaw into a high class, sophisticated, urban type development. Del Amo's offer to the Santa Fe Railroad is conditioned upon the removal of the railroad tracks south of Torrance Boulevard.

One of the problems associated with the removal of the railroad tracks has been what to do with the present rail users and proposed users along the route. Now, as you know if you've followed it, the Chicago Iron Works has been taken care of - their lease has been terminated and arrangements have been made to relocate the roofing people, the material yard at Madrona and Sepulveda and the railroad has been working on an arrangement whereby the Mahon plant and the one next to it can be served by rail service from the east, crossing Crenshaw.

And at one time during the last year, Dena Pictures was going to put in a facility south of Lomita Boulevard that would have required a team yard down there with railroad cars moving in and out of that area. This matter was stopped. Now, the final problem that confronts the removal of the railroad track is that the removal must be approved by the State Public Utilities Commission. If there is opposition by the rail users along the route, the PUC may not approve the removal of these tracks.

At the present time the only problems appear to be at the southern end near Lomita Boulevard which is the old Ryan plant which does not use rail facilities; there is a furniture manufacturing plant there that has stated that he wishes the rail facilities - that he is using it now and that he will fight and is going to enlist the aid of the Chamber of Commerce of Torrance to keep the rail facility in there.

Now, another thing that has entered into my thinking has been the land there of the Butcher-Wilson property. That land is a zone M-2. Now, some of us on this council have attempted to work out a compromise where by some type of development placed on that property that would preclude the fact that those property owners would not have the zoning that would require rail transportation. Now, that has been my main concern with this zoning case and all the time it has been in here, I have attempted to work out some type of a compromise between the land-owners and the City that we could come up with some type of development that would not interfere with this other development. Now, that has been the sole basis for my concern with what's taking place here.

The Council now finds itself faced with making a decision in the very near future, in fact, next week, on this piece of property. We're split with bad feeling and all types of charges in regards to the propriety and honesty of the members of this council who have supported this compromise in regards to this cemetery and the residential development.

The Mayor has been instrumental in bringing chaos and confusion to the situation while at the same time he has never made one constructive offer or suggestion in regards to what we should do with this property. He has used all of his influence and has gone out of his way to defeat the proposal of Mr. Butcher for residential development. Then, a year later when this came up, which answered the Mayor's objection, the residential, the Mayor has again used all his efforts to defeat this proposal and to defeat the compromise that was worked out. Now, I would like to point out that the Mayor has only worked to defeat and destroy. He has never offered one constructive thought or idea to reconcile the interests of the City as a whole, the local industrial property owners and Mr. Butcher and Mr. Wilson and the surrounding property owners.

I feel that for the best interests of the city as a whole the conflicts of all the parties should be worked out so that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Butcher can develop their properties so that they can give up the rail service and that the interests of the surrounding property owners can be protected and that the railroad tracks can be removed and that the development that was discussed can go on. Now, I don't know what the solution to this is, but as far as I am concerned it appears that we are headed for a monumental mess and for the best interests of the City this is what I would suggest. That I would suggest that Mr. Olson and Mr. Miller, both of whom I consider honorable men, that they should try to work out some type of solution to this. I have no interest, in any way, shape or form in what is done on this property other than my concern that it might interfere with this other development and I am willing to go on record right now that my position has not been in favor or against the cemetery. I will support any reasonable compromise that can be worked out encompassing either all residential, part residential and cemetery, all cemetery, no cemetery, light manufacturing and commercial, or whatever else there would be.

Now, that is my position and I would say right now that if some kind of compromise cannot be worked out on this that the situation has become so confused and so cluttered, to end all speculation in regards to this, I will vote against this cemetery, because if that is the wish of the people, but I implore upon the other members of this council the fact that this may be the last time that we have all the property owners and all the interested people before this council, that we do everything in our power to work out a compromise. And, that's my position on it, besides and my reiteration - I have no financial interest in it - I never have. My concern for this has been based solely upon my great interest in the other project and that alone.

Councilman Miller commented:

To comment on Mr. Lyman's statement, we did attend a meeting on Wednesday or Thursday, I don't recall the day - and to put it back in its proper perspective, I do think it should be brought out that, yes, we have been attempting to negotiate, hoping that the ultimate result of the development of that property will be for the good of the City. However, over the past many, many months, we have been unable to obtain any definite commitment on the auditorium that we wish to secure. We just, by the officials, we can't do anything further until we do something here. We haven't bought the property and therefore we can't commit - which is rightfully so and so we have nothing, absolutely nothing but conversation. The removal of the tracks is important to them, however, Mr. Ferraro, Mr. Olson and Mr. Lyman were at the same meeting and will substantiate this, that the removal of the tracks will not necessarily kill any purchase of this property for development. They would prefer to have it out - I presume it would be a condition. However, when I asked the question, would the entire deal fall through if the tracks were removed, I got the answer "probably not". There was no definite assurance that the present industry that we have at this particular point would - service would be replaced to them as far as the rail line is concerned. There are several answers there that we would have to consider.

But, I would like to take a few minutes - I didn't really prepare but I do think I should say something. In the aftermath of this Proposition Z, first of all, I would personally like to thank the organizations that participated in it. The League of Women Voters, The Chamber of Commerce - not necessarily because they agreed with my theories, but the fact that they did recognize something here and that someone had to take the leadership in it and to go forward on it and to stand up and be counted. And I think it's something that they could have stayed away; I think they recognized the importance of the entire issue to the community and I think that evidently the vote, the overwhelming vote on Proposition Z substantiated this. I think it is time now that we - that this council get back to doing its job that it was elected to do and that is to run the City with some dignity and responsibility that the office dictates. Realistically, I cannot expect the personal feelings of some councilmen to change over night towards others, but I do believe for the good of the City whatever the feelings may be toward each other it is far more important to the City that these feelings be set aside and that we work as a council toward solving the problems facing our community. For instance, if we had put the time that was put into Proposition Z to solve the solution of our library system, create our independent library system, how much better it would have been and I think that the people of this city are just fed up with the constant bickering - it serves no useful purpose. I know that whatever any member of this council does does affect all of us - it affects me individually and in case anyone feels I am moralizing, I will include myself in all these statements. I think it's time we stick to the problems and attempt to solve them and get out of this personality kick we're on. Otherwise, are going to be - another year and a half before another election and we'll be in the same position we're in right today and this just isn't good.

Mayor Isen: Mr. Sciarrotta?

Councilman Sciarrotta: Yes, I'd like to point out to the people of the City of Torrance that for four and a half years - look at my voting record - it always has been with the people that right now - I mean, with the people that - as a matter of fact, the Mayor, Mr. Miller, Mr. Olson and so on. All of a sudden because I voted once the opposite, immediately we're being branded as having factions on this council and

believe you me, it's the last thing that I want to do. That's one thing that I always ran on, I don't want to see any factions on this council at all. I also have some information on this. I have met with these people many times, these people that are opposing the cemetery they know that I have carried out exactly what I told them that I was going to do. This thing is not solved. It's going to be solved next week. I have two letters coming in: one from the Santa Fe people and one from the Del Amo Properties stating exactly what their views are because three men appeared on this committee and of course I got conflicting reports. For example, one report is that absolutely this Del Amo, this Madrona track must go in order for this ninety million dollar development to take place. We stand a chance to lose all this development, high rise and so on, that the track must go. If you were to build hotels, other high rise buildings, would you build it along a track? The answer is "No" that you would want that track removed. Secondly, it has been stated, verbally and I know that I'm not going to get in writing by one of the representatives of Santa Fe, that in the event that the cemetery falls through and that in the meantime that Mr. Butcher brings in some industry and asks for a spur, they already know that the furniture company is going to ask that the track remain because their business depends on this track and then here you have a second individual and the possibility of losing this great big development is there. However, that's beside the point. This is coming up next week and the way the council is going to go I am pretty sure that each and every one will have reasons as to why they are going to do the things that they are going to do. You may be on one side one time and you may be on the opposite side when you get additional facts, and this is what we have been trying to do and to jump at conclusions right off the bat certainly is not very logical.

Now, I just leave that to you people who know just as well as I know that I am standing right here tonight, that my vote has been consistently with the City at heart. I have not been to - now, all of a sudden I have become a man who is being bought, for example, by the developers. I'd like to see any citizens' committee or any group, if they so desire, say Ross A. Sciarrotta got more than anybody else, let me know about it. Investigate it, you are free to do this, it is your privilege.

Mayor Isen: Anyone else from the Council?

Councilman Miller: Mr. Sciarrotta was not at these meetings. Mr. Lyman can speak because he was there; Olson also. None of us want to lose what is good for the City but prior to the vote on the cemetery I got certain phone calls from people suggesting I vote for it. (a few words here are unintelligible). I didn't vote for it. Some people and even I think, Mr. Sciarrotta might substantiate this, one person who wanted to vote for it at one time now comes back and says: No, we're not getting cooperation, I'll vote against it. Is that right, Mr. Sciarrotta?

Councilman Sciarrotta: Cooperation what?

Councilman Miller: In regard to the cemetery - certain people have suggested it be voted for and now are saying, vote against it, we don't care?

Councilman Sciarrotta: Oh, you mean people have informed me to this effect?

Councilman Miller: Yes.

Councilman Sciarrotta: Yes, that is true, yes, one of the individuals what Mr. Miller is saying is true, one individual that insisted that -

Councilman Miller: Playing us one against the other and I can't see a City becoming a game. I suggested these people stay out of our local politics and if a project merits consideration to be approved, it will be approved on its merits and not who knows who, or who is pulling what strings.

Councilman Sciarrotta: This man is not interfering with City politics. He is interested in the Del Amo development. Now, it isn't politics that they are after. They are after removal of that track.

Councilman Lyman: Mr. Mayor, could I just say one thing? My statement was only to explain; it could be the most erroneous opinion in the world but I merely made the statement to explain why I did something that I did. That is the sole - one reason has been given by the Mayor; several reasons. I am entitled to set forth my reason, whatever it may be, be it completely fallacious or whatever it may be, that's up to the public to decide, and that's the only reason I brought it up; not to try to explain somebody else's position, but my own.

Councilman Miller: You have a right to your position, but there is the other side - the guarantees that we don't have that anything will happen.

Councilman Lyman: Right, I agree with you, but I am just explaining -
Mayor Isen; Mr. Beasley, do you want the floor?

Councilman Beasley: No, I don't particularly care for this particular type of discussion going on. I think we ought to have oral communications and then let's adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Isen: Well, we are having oral communications. This is the last time that I felt I should make my statement. I'll never mention it again. I do want to thank my wife who has been completely wonderful over these past six weeks.

Councilman Vico: You say you'll never bring it up again?

Mayor Isen: Not this particular statement, no.

Councilman Vico: Can I hold you to that?

Mayor Isen: You certainly can; it's in the record.

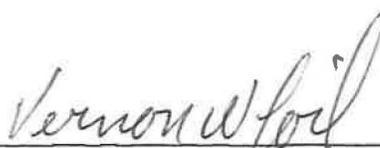
33. Mr. Wm. Uerkwitz of 23136 Anza introduced the new President of the Southwood Homeowners Association, Mr. Joe Bena, and the Vice President, Len Wyngarden.

34. Mr. F. C. Fuller of 23050 Nadine Circle, thanked Councilmen Sciarrotta, Lyman and Miller for the background on the Butcher/Wilson property controversy, and asked if Mr. Lyman's statement would be a part of the Council minutes. The Minute Secretary stated she would incorporate all the statements on the subject verbatim.

35. Councilman Vico said Councilman Sciarrotta's term as Mayor pro tem, under the six months rotation system, starts tonight and will continue until May 15th, in case the Mayor is absent.

36. Mr. Jim McDonough of 5005 Avenue B, speaking as an ordinary Torrance taxpayer, expressed the opinion that the Proposition Z matter was handled in a very poor manner. The people have reiterated their desire to elect their mayor and he was shocked at the display of power politics.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



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

APPROVED:



Albert J. Lee
Mayor of the City of Torrance