

Torrance, California
July 9, 1968

TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL CONVENED AT
A PRE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 P.M. IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL.

ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were:
Councilmen Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, Wilson
and Mayor Isen.

Also present were City Manager Ferraro, City Treasurer Rupert,
City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Clerk Coil.

The meeting opened with a presentation by Councilman Beasley regarding the status of the proposed Torrance Freeway. Regarding the status of the proposed Torrance Freeway, Councilman Beasley said, he was anxious for unanimous agreement by the Council as to the general area in which the freeway should be located, as it will take a good deal of its right of way from the City of Torrance. He referred to the fact that a Resolution was passed about a year ago which was sent to the State Highway Division asking that the freeway be near to our western border and as near to Redondo Beach as possible. When the time is ripe, we should impress on the Highway Commission in Sacramento on our being the largest city and that the largest part will come in Torrance; this should be accomplished with unity among our Councilmen, and with the cooperation of our sister city, Redondo Beach.

Councilman Johnson felt that a presentation should be made to the people affected before any plan is made, and that the two meetings tentatively scheduled should still be held. Councilman Beasley disagreed, as what came out of these meetings would not influence Sacramento in their decision. Councilman Wilson thought Councilman Johnson had a point but wondered how long away the project was. City Attorney Remelmeyer replied that the State has tentatively scheduled a public hearing to adopt a final route between September and January of this coming year, and they will commence buying immediately after that. Mayor Isen said that at the appropriate time we should consider having special meetings, to which Councilman Beasley responded by saying that he had no objections to meetings but thought that the Council should get on to some serious study themselves. Councilman Johnson was in agreement that the Council should be united in their decision, and also thought meetings most important.

City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that two public meetings have been arranged tentatively with the School District and the State Division of Highways - one on the 15th July, and the other on the 31st July, 1968. The first one will be at West High and the second at South High. Starting time 8 O'clock.

Next considered was the report on Administrative Leave Practices. Mayor Isen stated he had been disturbed by the lack of clarity defining any policy and that all would be better off to get down to proper definitions. Councilman Uerkwitz was of the opinion that executive leave, as such, really should not apply, and Councilman Wilson was interested in knowing why the question was raised, as he felt that the integrity of the staff was being questioned. Councilman Wilson thought they should talk about time, and what is reasonable and fair, as five hours administrative time off per month is not unreasonably. Mayor Isen did not think it was a matter of integrity, nor did he

agree with Councilman Miller 100%. He thought there should be a set of rules by management, and that taking the three months of February, March and April was very unfair. As far as Council Meetings are concerned, he said, I think this is part of civic duty without extra time to compensate for it. When the level of administrative head of department has been reached, because of the nature of the job, time spent has to a degree to be a donation.

Councilman Miller asked City Manager Ferraro if the 27½ hours per month over normal work week included attendance at dinners or speeches, and his reply was that it was additional. The Mayor said that he did not think there should be any compensatory time - when the policy says 'up to three days' and that is multiplied per diem, on highly paid executives that becomes a very large amount of money. He suggested savings in time rather than extravagant expenditure, in the interests of everyone concerned.

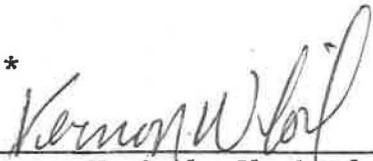
Time off by administrative department heads, at their specific discretion, rather than the so-called three day rule, was suggested by Councilman Johnson, as they were supposed to be above the level of counting hours. He thought they should be their own policemen and controlling agent, feeling free to do what was right in their own good conscience. City Manager Ferraro replied that that was what they had been doing, as no one had ever abused the three days.

Councilman Uerkwitz was in agreement that as executives they should be accountable. Councilman Sciarrotta expressed the opinion that, as far as he knew, the work was being done in an excellent fashion and agreed that they should police themselves. The demands on heads of departments and city officials is great, he said, attending meetings even on Saturdays and Sundays and after hours. The question is whether the work is being done and whether it is being done well. Councilman Beasley felt that they should have the dignity and right of a free citizen.

City Attorney Remelmeyer related the history of the time-off procedure which dated back to former City Manager Peebles who requested that something be included in the Ordinance that would give him direct authority to grant time off for executives; we worked over this rule and put the maximum of three days on it, but it was not thought as being compensation in time for time worked.

A five minute recess at 7.55 P.M. was ordered by Mayor Isen.

* * * * *


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

APPROVED:

