

I N D E X.

Council Meeting held July 16, 1968 at 5:30 P.M.

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Kathleen Johnson  
Minute Secretary

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Kathleen Johnson  
Minute Secretary

Torrance, California  
July 16, 1968

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, July 16, 1968, at 5:30 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Beasley, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, Wilson and Mayor Isen. Absent: Councilman Johnson. Also present were City Manager Ferraro, City Treasurer Rupert, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Clerk Coil. (Councilman Johnson arrived at 5:40 P.M.)

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Isen called upon Mr. Leon Taylor, the recently installed President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, to lead in the flag salute.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend Milton Sippel, First Christian Church, opened the meeting with an invocation.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that the minutes of the regular meetings of June 18, 1968, be approved. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and approval was unanimous.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley MOVED that all regularly audited bills be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta,  
Uerkwitz, Wilson, 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, seconded by Councilman Wilson, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Council Committee as a whole to meet on Commission appointments, July 29, 1968, at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Isen ascertained from the City Clerk that a Committee Meeting to consider the Sign Ordinance was scheduled for August 12. When it was

learned that both Councilmen Beasley and Sciarrotta would be away on that date, this meeting was re-scheduled for August 5, 1968.

A Committee Meeting to discuss Torrance Oil Problems was set for August 29, 1968. (Oilwell Beautification Committee).

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A brief explanation of Council procedure was given by Mayor Isen, and he reminded those present of the concert to be held by the "Symbols of Tyme" next Tuesday at 7:30 P.M., and thought it should be advertised.

9. PRESENTATIONS:

Permaplaque Resolutions to Junior Chamber of Commerce and League of Women Voters.

At this time, Mayor Isen presented Permaplaque Resolutions to both Mr. Leon Taylor, President of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. William Birdsall, Voter Service Chairman of the League of Women Voters, and expressed the Council's appreciation for the participation in the Voter Education Program prior to the General Municipal Election April 9.

10. FISCAL MATTERS:  
Councilmanic Expenses.

Councilman Sciarrotta recalled that the motion concerning the Mayor's and Councilmen's expenses was held until there was a full Council.

The Mayor reviewed his situation with reference to expenditures incurred in connection with his duties as Mayor, indicating that he is required to employ an answering service, and, because the City is unable to furnish secretarial services, his own staff is required to answer innumerable correspondence and trouble-shoot for the City. He felt that it was time to take stock of the situation, particularly when all costs have gone up astronomically.

Discussion centered around the need to establish some criteria from which to operate in performing their functions as Mayor and Councilmen, after which Councilman Miller MOVED to retain the existing ceilings on the Councilmen's expense accounts at \$125, with the provision that any expenses over that be paid upon presentation of an itemized list. There was no action.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that the Mayor be allowed up to \$250. expenses. Councilman Johnson seconded this motion, but he took the stand that the Mayor and Councilmen should account to the public. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Wilson, Sciarrotta, Johnson, Beasley,  
and Mayor Isen  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Miller and Uerkwitz

Councilman Beasley then MOVED that the Councilmen's expenses be raised to \$150. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Sciarrotta and Mayor  
Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Miller, Uerkwitz and Wilson

Councilmen to have the right to go back in another three or four months to review what has been done.

At 6:20 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adjourn as City Council and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency, which was followed by a ten minute recess.

\* \* \* \* \*

10A. LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM:

Next considered was the matter of the City's liability insurance program.

City Attorney Remelmeyer addressed the Council concerning the judgment against the City of Torrance and the Dominguez Water Company for \$471,000. as the result of the death of two laborers (Alvarado and Gastelum), and gave some of the background of the case which involved the construction of a sewer along Torrance Boulevard. He said that a suit was subsequently brought against the City and the Dominguez Water Co. by the widows of the laborers. The sewage contractor, Popovich, broke a water line belonging to Dominguez Water Company.

Mr. William Brady of Lund Co. was present, and he further clarified the circumstances surrounding the subject judgment. He recommended that consideration be given to the adequacy of our present liability insurance coverage.

Mayor Isen directed City Clerk Coil to obtain a report on the City's liability insurance for the Council Meeting of July 23, 1968, with the suggestion that Messrs. Brady, Coil and Remelmeyer get together concerning future insurance.

11. Unclassified Employees' Salaries.

The City Manager's report concerning salary increases for unclassified employees, which had been held over from a previous meeting, was again reviewed. There was considerable comment as to what was justifiable and reasonable. It being the consensus that this matter needed further study, Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that this matter be referred to a committee for study and recommendation. Councilman Johnson seconded, and as there were no objections, it was so ordered. Councilman Johnson suggested that the Committee also consider a percentage-based method to be included with any recommendation returned to Council.

For the record, City Clerk Coil said that this would be Committee No. 68-4, consisting of Councilmen Miller, Uerkwitz and Sciarrotta.

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

12. RECOMMENDATION to close Nancy Lee Lane between Newton Street and Greenmeadows Avenue for Cub Scout Pack 656-C for a period of approximately four hours from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 20, 1968, for Cub-Mobile Derby.

13. RECOMMENDATION of Traffic and Lighting Engineer to award contract for the installation of traffic signals, street lighting, traffic signs, pavement markings, and street improvement for the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Bluff Street to low Bidder, Steiny & Mitchel, Inc., in the amount of \$13,165.

14. RECOMMENDATION OF Purchasing Supervisor that contract for annual requirement for Paper Goods and Recreation Craft Paints for 1968-69 Fiscal Year, (Reference Bid No. 68-38) be awarded to the following: Nationwide Paper, Inc., - \$873.81; Noland Paper Co. Inc., - \$6,306.49; and, Zellerbach Paper Co., - \$1,736.71.

15. RECOMMENDATION of Purchasing Supervisor for approval of items in excess of \$300. as follows: A.B.C. Sandblasting, Torrance Blvd., - \$1090; Ajax Sandblasting Co., Western Avenue - \$1380; Hersey-Sparling Meter Co., - \$1030.18; Entenmann-Rovin (Police Badges and Emblems) - \$472.50; and Morton Pitt Co., - \$420.00.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED to concur with submitted recommendations on Items Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15, above itemized. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and roll call vote was unanimously approved.

16. RECOMMENDATION of Library Commission and City Librarian that the Ci accept a donation from Mrs. Vern Cadieux of a gemstone collection, valued at \$15,000. City Librarian West gave a short description of the gems included in the collection, which he thought would be a handsome addition which would be distributed throughout the branches.

Mayor Isen MOVED to concur with the recommendation of the Library Commission and City Librarian, which was seconded by Councilman Johnson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that \$250. be paid to Mrs. Cadieux for the display cases, which was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Uerkwitz MOVED that a Permaplaque be presented to Mrs. Cadieux. Seconded by Councilman Beasley and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

17. RECOMMENDATION of Airport Manager and Director of Public Works for Airport Capital Improvement Program, ID No. A5, Access Road, Crenshaw to Airport Drive. \$10,800 to be appropriated from the Airport Unappropriated Surplus.

Mayor Isen MOVED to concur with the recommendations of the Airport Manager and Director of Public Works. Councilman Miller seconded the motion, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

18. RESOLUTION authorizing an Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for 1968-69 Fiscal Year Operating Budget, including an appropriation of \$36,000 to promote and advertise the City.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-159

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING AND PROMOTING THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1968-69.

Councilman Wilson MOVED for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-159. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta. Roll call vote as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Wilson and Mayor Isen
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Uerkwitz

Councilman Uerkwitz thought it would be good to determine that the

\$36,000 is used to the best possible advantage, comparing the Chamber of Commerce with the Jaycees who have done an excellent job with much less money.

Mayor Isen then MOVED that the Chamber of Commerce furnish with the first item of payment to the Council, a breakdown of their expenditures. Seconded by Councilman Beasley with unanimous approval of roll call vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

19. REVISED LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS: Planning Director submitting recommendation of Planning Commission that the Municipal Code be amended to require increased interior landscaping of parking lots from 1% to 5%, as a prerequisite to the issuance of a building permit for expanding or altering an existing structure.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion, which was unanimously favorable.

20. Next submitted was a proposed ordinance by the City Attorney to correct an inadvertent error in the wording of the Municipal Code section relating to Variance procedure.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1894

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 94.1.5 ENTITLED "CRITERIA FOR GRANTING" (VARIANCES) AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION 94.1.5 THEREFOR TO CORRECT THE WORDING OF SUBSECTION a) THEREOF.

Councilman Johnson MOVED for the approval of Ordinance No. 1894 at its first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

21. Appeal of V66-10: Harry T. Havill, Specialty Engineering Co.

Appeal to City Council on the denial of request for extension of a variance previously granted by the City at 2080 Washington Avenue, Zone R-3. RECOMMENDED for APPROVAL by Planning Commission. RECOMMENDED for denial by the Planning Department.

Mayor Isen MOVED that the matter be reopened for consideration, and there were no objections. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and roll call vote was for unanimous approval.

At this point, Mr. Harry T. Havill came forward and expressed surprise at having been turned down at the previous meeting, to which he had not been invited. They were prepared to change the plans, he said, from the standpoint of licenses and variances.

Mayor Isen then MOVED that the previous action be rescinded and the extension of the variance be granted, provided that within thirty days the proponent has contacted the appropriate City Departments to get the remodeling underway, and that he comply forthwith with each and every condition of the variance as previously granted. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion, with roll call vote unanimously favorable.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

22. Street easement from Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co. for widening of Crenshaw Boulevard, granting the City a portion of the right-of-way for the widening of Crenshaw Boulevard, south of Dominguez Street. RECOMMENDATION of Public Works Director that submitted resolution accepting recommended deed be adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-160.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY FOR CRENSHAW BOULEVARD.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-160, and his motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Roll call vote unani- mously favorable.

23. RESOLUTION authorizing the City Attorney to proceed with a condemnation of property necessary for the acquisition of a right-of-way, for the extension of Anza Avenue between 238th Street and Pacific Coast Highway.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-161.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETION AND MAINTENANCE BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO WIT: THE SOUTHERLY EXTENSION OF ANZA AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-161. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

24. RESOLUTION authorizing the City Attorney to proceed with a condemnation action for the acquisition of a right-of-way for the Improvement of the northeast corner of 188th Street and Prairie Avenue.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-162.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETION AND MAINTENACE BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO WIT: THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF 188TH STREET AND PRAIRIE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

Councilman Wilson MOVED for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-162, and his motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

25. PROPOSED CLOSING OF ALLEY NORTH OF ARTESIA BOULEVARD, EAST OF HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD.

Recommendations of Public Works Director and Planning Director: (1) That the City Council approve the closing of subject alley, and (2) That the unused portion of the alley be vacated.

Appended to the submitted material was a petition bearing signatures of sixteen property owners approving the subject request.

Councilman Beasley MOVED to concur in the recommendations of the Public Works Director and Planning Director. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, with roll call vote unanimously favorable.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

26. RESOLUTION authorizing the County of Los Angeles to perform personnel services, 1968-69 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Isen questioned the term "open end" personnel testing, which was clarified by City Attorney Remelmeyer, who said that it generally meant something which had not been finalized.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-163.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND REQUESTING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO PERFORM PERSONNEL SERVICES.

Councilman Johnson MOVED for the adoption of Resolution No. 62-163. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

27. Civil Service Commission presenting revised Class Specification for Planning Assistant and a request from Planning Department for deletion of Graphic Artist position and addition of Planning Assistant position to Departmental Budget. (Range 33, \$849-893-937).

Referring to the recommendation that the necessary funding in the amount of \$1392 be appropriated from the general fund to offset the difference in pay scale, Councilman Beasley MOVED for the approval of this recommendation. There was no action at this time.

There followed a general discussion concerning the salary range, and Planning Director Shartle clarified the situation regarding this matter, also the change requested in the positions.

Councilman Beasley again MOVED for the adoption of the recommendation, and this was seconded by Councilman Johnson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable. (It is assumed that both recommendations were approved.)

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

28. RESOLUTION congratulating Robert H. Vroman for his selection as the 1968 Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-157

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONGRATULATING ROBERT H. VROMAN FOR HIS SELECTION AS THE 1968 DISTINGUISHED VITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

29. RESOLUTION expressing gratitude to Joe Wilcox for his community service as Director of Torrance YMCA.

Mayor Isen requested City Clerk Coil to assign a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 68-158.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING ITS GRATITUDE TO JOSEPH WILCOX FOR HIS TWELVE YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TORRANCE FAMILY YMCA.

Councilman Wilson MOVED to adopt both Resolution No. 68-157 and Resolution 68-158. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

30. ORDINANCE 1892.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1892.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ARTICLES 1 AND 2 OF CHAPTER 1 OF DIVISION 8 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING NEW ARTICLES 1 AND 2 WHICH ADOPT AND AMEND THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE, 1967 EDITION, VOLUME 1, AND APPENDIX THERETO.

Councilman Johnson MOVED for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1892 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

31. ORDINANCE 1893.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1893.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING CHAPTER 9 TO DIVISION 8 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE ADOPTING THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE, 1967 EDITION AND APPENDIX THERETO.

Councilman Beasley MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1893 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

32. City Manager Ferraro presented a letter from Finance Director Dundore, dated 16 July, 1968, with preliminary figures of assessed valuation for 1968-69, released by the County Assessor. This was discussed at some length and Mayor Isen suggested that he would like a list of everything that we need to do this year.
33. City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that both he and the City Manager would like to hire an appraiser for Columbia Park, and requested instructions to commence the hiring process. They would come back to the Council with a formal contract.
- Councilman Miller MOVED that this request be granted, which was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.
34. Councilman Johnson was sorry that he missed the meeting at West High on July 15, 1968, on the question of freeways. He will, however, be at the South High Meeting on the 31st July.
35. Councilman Johnson announced that there would be a meeting on July 24 at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank, and he would like to see as many of the Councilmen and their ladies attend as possible.
36. Councilman Johnson then referred to Item G concerning Mr. Mervin M. Schwab's resignation from the Torrance Water Commission, and MOVED that an appropriate Permaplaque be presented to Mr. Schwab, who has served on the Water Commission for many years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.
37. Councilman Sciarrotta stated that he was thinking seriously of moving that we stop these discussion, but he would leave the matter for the next meeting to allow the Council to give it some thought.
38. It was the assumption of Councilman Uerkwitz that since there are openings on the Citizens Advisory Committee that it was possible to appoint a gentleman of his acquaintance.
39. Mr. Uerkwitz recounted a personal experience he had had last week concerning the quick response of the Torrance Police Department to the theft of his bicycle, and commended them accordingly.
40. Councilman Uerkwitz had received a phone call regarding the freeway problem and Tract No. 22704, which happens to be in the path of one of the proposed routes. It was recommended that we ask the proponents of this tract to hold off until a decision has been reached. City Manager Ferraro told him that there would be a hearing on July 23rd.
41. Correspondence which he had received from the Councilmen's Association, (Item A) was referred to by Councilman Uerkwitz, indicating that the City of Torrance is not participating, and he thought that something should be decided one way or the other and so advise them. It was agreed that delegates should be elected so that Torrance can be represented. City Manager Ferraro suggested two delegates, plus an alternate, and that City Clerk Coil should be advised of the names of the Councilmen.
42. Referring to the Council Meeting on July 23rd, Mayor Isen asked if that was the date the Council would know about the fiscal situation, etc. City Manager Ferraro replied in the affirmative; also that there is a meeting of the Urban Renewal on that date at which these matters would be discussed.

43. Ray Saukkola, 20405 Anza Avenue, Torrance, introduced himself at this time. He said he had been employed by the City as Civil Engineering Assistant in the Engineering Department for nearly six years. For better than five years he had been employed in the Administrative Division of that Department. He explained that he was planning to take the State bar exam next month, and, if he passed that examination, he would be leaving the City around the first of the year. He had been informed by the Director of Public Works last week that effective next Monday he would be transferred to the Airport and Public Properties Division of the Engineering Department. He had discussed with the City Attorney a Civil Service rule to the effect that such a transfer must be placed before the Civil Service Commission, which will not meet until August. He asked that the transfer be held in abeyance until he had exhausted his legal remedies.

The City Manager stated this is an administrative matter and that Mr. Saukkola had filed a complaint with the City Manager, which has been referred to the City Attorney for an opinion.

The City Attorney said that the Council had no jurisdiction over the matter at this point. He said he would probably recommend to the City Manager to instruct the Director of Public Works to hold the transfer in abeyance, pending the receipt of legal opinion which may be forthcoming tomorrow.

The Mayor pointed out that if Mr. Saukkola was not happy with the manner in which the matter was resolved, he had a right to appeal to the City Council if he had a prima facie case.

Philip Joseph, 3102 Sonoma, President of the Police Officers' Association requested the City Attorney to send him a copy of his legal opinion in this matter.

The Meeting was regularly adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Vernon W. Coil*

VERNON W. COIL, City Clerk of the  
City of Torrance, California

APPROVED:

*Albert Davis*

Kathleen Johnson,  
Minute Secretary

10.

Council Minutes  
July 16, 1968