

I N D E XCouncil Meeting held August 6, 1968 at 5:30 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

i.

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Adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

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Torrance, California
August 6, 1968

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, August 6, 1968, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen. Absent: Councilman Wilson (out of town on University business).

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Bud Babcock, at Mayor Isen's request, led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Minister of the Month of August, Reverend J. Augustine O'Gorman, St. James Catholic Church, opened the meeting with an invocation.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of June 18th, June 25th, July 1st, July 2nd, and July 31st were approved as submitted, on a motion by Councilman Uerkwitz, seconded by Councilman Johnson, there being no objection. The minutes of July 23rd have been recalled for revision.

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, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.

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 Johnson, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Noted was the meeting of the Council Committee as a Whole on Oil Well Beautification on August 29, 1968 at 7:30 P.M.

Introductions were in order at this time, and this included from the Planning Department, Messrs. Harris, Chew, and Northcutt, along with Mr. Steve Wilson in attendance, with his parents, for the first time at a Council meeting.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Isen expressed the pride and gratitude of the Council in the overwhelming response represented by the many applications submitted for the Commission and Committee vacancies. After considerable deliberation, the following appointments have been made:

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

(These are individual Councilmen appointments).

In view of the absence of Councilman Wilson, and the need for clarification as to the term of office between his candidate and that of Councilman Uerkwitz, announcement of these Commissioners was held for the Council meeting of August 13th.

Councilman Sciarrotta nominated MR. WALTER R. RUHLOW (replacing Robert B. White). A poll of the Council indicated unanimous approval.

Mayor Isen nominated MR. JOHN M. LAMSON (for the unexpired term of Clifford Peterson). The poll of the Council was unanimously favorable.

In line with the established procedures, the following appointments resulted:

AIRPORT COMMISSION:

Armand Berges	Reappointment
John Blaisdell	Reappointment
Robert Vroman	New appointee

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Gordon Lynwalter	Reappointment
Bill Roberts	Reappointment
Joseph B. Alario	New appointee
Angel R. Florez	New appointee
Donald E. Geiler	New appointee
Robert W. Morris	New appointee
Vince Terrill	New appointee
Austin M. Woodward	New appointee

CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER COMMISSION:

Eugene M. Barker	New appointee
Ralph C. Grippo	New appointee
Ursel C. Nolte	New appointee
Ward A. Spoonemore	New appointee

LIBRARY COMMISSION:

Claire Crain	Reappointment
Hannah Saville	Reappointment
Richard T. Hall	New appointee
Naomi A. Leavitt	New appointee

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

Bernard M. Dougan	Reappointment
Naomi McVey	Reappointment
Ambie Schindler	Reappointment

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Gerald L. Alter	Reappointment
George W. Brewster	Reappointment
Velma Shelbourn	Reappointment

TORRANCE BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

Mrs. Gordon Phillips	Reappointment
Mrs. Kay Michels	Reappointment
Mrs. Frank Sciarrotta	Reappointment
Carrie Y. Latteri	New appointee

TORRANCE SAFETY COUNCIL:

Frank Paour	Reappointment
Bonnie Lou McElroy	New appointee

WATER COMMISSION:

Albert M. Dumont	Reappointment
Harry Matthews	New appointee
Lowell L. O'Brien	New appointee
Harold Todd	New appointee

YOUTH WELFARE COMMISSION:

Stanley Dunn	Reappointment
Christian M. Galichon	Reappointment
C.K. Norman	Reappointment
Robert W. Kornegay	New appointee
Beatrice A. Smith	New appointee
Dr. Frank E. Tyrell	New appointee

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT:

Ben Haggott	New appointee
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Mayor Isen moved for the approval of the appointment of the above named individuals. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

Swearing-in ceremonies will take place at the August 13th Council meeting.

HEARINGS:

9. STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 14. Formal hearing with two Resolutions.

Mayor Isen announced that the hour of 5:30 P.M. having arrived, this is the time and place fixed by Resolution No. 68-156 when and where any and all persons having any protest or objection to said proposed work, or to the extent of said assessment district, may appear before the City Council of said City of Torrance and show cause why said proposed work should not be carried out in accordance with said resolution.

City Clerk Coil presented the Affidavit of Publication of Resolution of Intention and Affidavit of Posting of "Notice of Improvement". Councilman Sciarrotta moved that these documents be received and filed; his motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

Mr. Patrick Rossetti, Vice President of Laurence J. Thompson & Associates, was duly sworn in by Mayor Isen, and gave testimony concerning the nature of the work and extent of assessment district, in response to City Attorney Remelmeyer's questions, as follows: There are some five districts in force, with District #14 picking up certain small segments throughout the entire City where they are trying to fill in the areas that are unlighted. Further, they are picking up areas where subdividers have put in their lights and are requesting energy and maintenance, along with other small areas where lights are in the City but not in any district which means that the General Fund is paying for these particular lights. Mr. Rossetti displayed a diagram setting forth all these parcels and the zones they are in. Mr. Rossetti further advised that, by previous Council policy, they have made the usual contribution of 30% towards all residential areas and 50% of the cost towards the commercial areas, adding that there is a large map in the Council Conference Room showing all the districts in the entire City, the number and what they cover, spelling out as well District #14.

In reference to money, Mr. Rossetti advised that the total project costs for one year amounts to \$35,110.79, of which the property owner is going to pay \$20,536.08 and the City contribution toward both residential (30%) and commercial (50%) will be \$14,574.71. The breakdown in the residential is approximately 15¢ per assessable front foot -- the residential with installation is approximately 29¢, and commercial lighting is 23¢ with most of the commercial lighting on wooden poles where such poles are now existing, the steel poles being used only where there is a need to fill in between the wooden poles.

Mayor Isen invited anyone interested in viewing the above described diagram to please do so. He then inquired of City Clerk Coil if there were any written protests; City Clerk Coil advised that there were none.

Mayor Isen then inquired if there was any person in the audience who wished to speak for or against this matter; there was no response.

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there being no objection, the hearing was ordered closed by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-181

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING ENGINEER: CONFIRMING THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, ESTIMATE, DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN SAID REPORT: OVERRULING PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS IN THE PROCEEDINGS UNDER RESOLUTION OF INTENTION NO. 68-156; ORDERING THE WORK AND LEVYING THE ASSESSMENT FOR SERVICE NECESSARY TO INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND ILLUMINATE BY ELECTRIC ENERGY THE STREET LIGHTS AS SHOWN ON SAID DIAGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 1968, AND ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1971; ORDERING THE CITY CLERK OF SAID CITY TO TRANSMIT DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT TO THE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR: AND EMPOWERING TAX COLLECTOR TO MAKE COLLECTIONS. (STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 14.)

Councilman Johnson moved to waive further reading of Resolution No. 68-181. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

Councilman Sciarrotta then moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-181; his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-182

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CONTRACTOR PRACTICALLY CAPABLE OF SERVING THE STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM WITHIN TORRANCE STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 14 IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIAGRAM AND PLAN L-14-68, AND ORDERING THE IMPROVEMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY SUCH CONTRACTOR.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that further reading of Resolution No. 68-182 be waived. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-182; his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

10. Budgeted and Special Expenditures in Excess of \$300.

A. Budgeted:

1. \$1481.34 to Game Time, Inc. for: (1)-15 portable park benches requested by the Recreation Department for upgrading seating at the Bartlett Adult Center; (2)-1 only replacement children's merry-go-round as requested by the Recreation Department for use at McMaster Park.
2. \$813.75 to J. Jones Company for 100 water service "T" fittings requested by the Water Department "for stock" to be used as needed.
3. \$1664.88 to Graybar Electric for 8 complete flood lights with mounting fixtures requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department for lighting the City Yard parking lot as part of a previously approved capital improvement project #68063.
4. \$822.99 to Johnson Stationers for 4 card file cabinets for IBM cards requested by the Police Department for use in the Planning & Research Division to retain a one year record system on police calls and dispatch records.
5. \$324.23 to G.M.C. Truck and Coach for GMC bus repair parts requested by the City Garage for an emergency repair of bus #337.
6. \$392.15 to Howard Supply for galvanized pipe, steel cables, and wire netting requested by the Park Department for use in extending the fence height behind hole #6 at the Sea Aire Golf Course, to eliminate window breakage problem.

B. Special Expenditures - Requested by City Librarian:

7. \$1111.43 to Random House Publishing Company c/o Harry Rinehimer for 172 adult fiction and non-fiction books and 30 juvenile books.
11. Award of Contract - Los Angeles County for Light Bulbs, Fiscal Year 1968-69.
12. IMPROVEMENT OF CRENSHAW BOULEVARD FROM DEL AMO BLVD. TO SIERRA STREET. Recommendation of Assistant City Engineer that scheduled improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard from Del Amo Boulevard to Maricopa Street be expanded to include minor widening from Maricopa to Sierra Street and that an additional \$6,000 be appropriated from 2106 Gas Tax Funds to cover the cost thereof.
13. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 26484; Subdivider: WOODLAKE APARTMENTS. Recommendation of Assistant City Engineer and Planning Department that subject final tract map be approved.
14. Withdrawn - re: Central Library basement.
15. MICROFILMING PROGRAM - 1968-69 FISCAL YEAR. Recommendation of City Clerk that proposal of Orco Microfilming Service, Inc. be accepted and all other bids be rejected.
16. Selection of appraiser for the acquisition of certain property.
17. Request of the Park and Recreation Commission to have a special bus tour of park and recreational facilities.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the approval of the above items - 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

18. ORDINANCE adding Article 3 to Chapter 4 of Division 9 of the Code to provide a procedure for the issuance of restricted Manufacturing Permits to allow Light Manufacturing uses under certain circumstances in the downtown Torrance area and repealing emergency Ordinance No. 1898 relating to the same matter.

The communication from the Downtown Torrance Association recommending light manufacturing permits, under very restrictive conditions, was reviewed by the Council. The Association president, Mr. Babcock, expanded on their feelings. It was agreed by the Council to hold this matter until the Council meeting of August 20th to await the further recommendations and comments of the Downtown Torrance Association.

19. ORDINANCE increasing landscaping of parking lot regulations.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1902

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 93.6.2 AND 93.6.4 AND ADDING SECTIONS 93.6.5, 93.6.6 AND 93.6.7 TO DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED LANDSCAPING OF PARKING LOTS.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 1902 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

20. Planning Director submitting plan for formulation of goals in connection with the General Plan.

The proposed procedure was reviewed; questioned was the need for the extensive participation recommended. Mayor Isen suggested that this be a matter for a Council Committee to determine.

Mrs. William Geissert, 439 Calle de Castellana, representing the League of Women Voters, stated that the Council authorization was for the Planning Department to give top priority for the development of a long range General Plan - before work on the Plan can begin, however, a set of basic assumptions must be worked out as to the direction that the City's physical development will take. These assumptions - or goals - might very easily and quickly be set down by the Council, the Planning Department, and the Planning Commission, but this might not necessarily be the best way. Unless the General Plan truly reflects community-wide thinking and involvement it is virtually worthless. It is the feeling of the League that it is necessary to take the time to involve the citizens in this process, the Planning Department's program is well thought out and workable for such an involvement; further, they would like to see it even expanded so that instead of the 2% questionnaire sampling suggested by the department, that every household, if possible, become involved in the questionnaire technique. The League urged adoption of the program at this time for maximum physical involvement in goal-setting and to give the program support as it goes along. At Mayor Isen's question, Mrs. Geissert advised that the League would be of assistance to the extent of their ability in the coordinating with other groups, etc.

Discussion returned to the size and composition of such a committee, it being generally agreed there was a need for finer definition.

Mayor Isen then MOVED to concur with Item 20, in principle, which was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, who acknowledged the need for working out of the details.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Uerkwitz - that the subject Plan for Formulation of Goals go to Council Committee for one week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, but failed to carry, with roll call vote as follows:

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

Roll call vote on the main motion, to approve the communication in principle, carried as follows:

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

Councilman Johnson commented that his vote is in the affirmative because he wants the plan to get underway, but still feels it should go to committee first.

Discussion resumed on the selecting of people for the proposed Goals Committee and the time consuming aspects of launching this project. It was MOVED by Councilman Sciarrotta that this aspect of the project be referred to the ad hoc committee of the Council; the motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections. This would represent Council Committee #5 with Councilman Wilson to serve as Chairman, and members Mayor Isen and Councilman Beasley.

* * * *

Mayor Isen ordered a recess at this time - 6:25 P.M. - adjourning as City Council and reconvening as the Redevelopment Agency - followed by a general 10-minute recess at 6:27 P.M.

* * * *

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

21. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of contract between the City and C.J. Petrofanis for appraisal of property needed for right-of-way at 232nd Street and Arlington Avenue.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-183

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHRISTY J. PETROFANIS.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-183, and that an amount not to exceed \$500 be appropriated from the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta,
Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.

REAL PROPERTY:

22. City Manager submitting recommendation re: Negotiator for right-of-way acquisition.

Clarification was furnished the Council by City Manager Ferraro and City Attorney Remelmeyer on the complexities of this type of service. A report on the total cost after completion of this undertaking was requested by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the City Manager's recommendation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

23. Council Committee's recommendation re: Salaries of Executive Employees.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the subject recommendation be delayed until August 13th, for a full Council. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

FISCAL MATTERS:

24. Resolution authorizing the execution of agreement between the City and Schwabacher-Raferty and Company relative to Financial Consulting Services.

This item withdrawn from the agenda.

AIRPORT MATTERS:

25. RESOLUTION authorizing execution to Second Amendment to E.E. Wilson Airport Lease.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-184

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THAT CERTAIN AMENDMENT TO AIRPORT LEASE DATED AUGUST 1, 1968 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND ERWIN E. AND DARLENE J. WILSON.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-184. His motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

Mr. Wilson was present to request Council approval of his plot plan and elevation plan, a requirement of the lease, and only now available for presentation. Councilman Beasley MOVED for approval of the elevation and plot plans, subject to Staff review and approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

26. RESOLUTION authorizing execution to Rolling Hills Nursery lease.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 68-185

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AIRPORT LEASE DATED AUGUST 1, 1968 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND ROLLING HILLS NURSERY, INC. AND AN AIRPORT AGRICULTURAL LEASE DATED AUGUST 1, 1968 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND ROLLING HILLS NURSERY, INC.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 68-185; his motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

It was further MOVED by Mayor Isen that the City Attorney and the City Manager be authorized, per the Airport Manager's recommendations, to prepare and submit a request to the FAA for relief of the subject leasehold from the recapture and reversion conditions under which the City holds title. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

PARK AND RECREATION MATTERS:

27. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of contract with State of California and accepting grant of \$197,000 toward acquisition of Columbia Park.

Preliminary discussion to insure complete understanding of any action to be taken was held. At Mayor Isen's direct question pertaining to the possible jeopardy of the \$197,000 from the State without adoption of the subject resolution, City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that there is a need for written confirmation from the State as to the binding nature of such action. Councilman Sciarrotta then MOVED that this matter be referred back to the City Attorney for one week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.

BUS OPERATIONS:

28. City Manager submitting recommendation re: Torrance Transit System - New Design and Colors.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager, for a red and gold color scheme.

Mayor Isen commented on the choice of red as a color for the buses and the overall pleasant association with the red street cars of long ago and far away.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

29. City Manager submitting recommendation re: Torrance Transit System - Additional Restrooms.

City Manager Ferraro requested that this item be deferred pending the investigation of a Chamber of Commerce proposal regarding such facilities.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the request for deferment. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

30. ORDINANCE 1899

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil presented for its second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1899

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 61.4.13 TO THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO INSTALL "NO PARKING - STREET SWEEPING"

SIGNS ON THOSE STREETS WHERE IT IS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY AN ENGINEERING STUDY TO MAINTAIN PROPER SANITATION STANDARDS.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1899 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

31. ORDINANCE 1900

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil presented for its second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1900

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING ARTICLE 9, SECTIONS 74.9.1 THROUGH 74.9.9 TO THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT TRESPASSING ON POSTED CITY OF TORRANCE PROPERTY.

Councilman Miller moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1900 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

32. ORDINANCE 1901

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil presented for its second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1901

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 11.6.3 TO THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT OR LICENSE SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE THE DOING OF ANY ACT PROHIBITED BY THIS CODE.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1901 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Wilson absent).

ADDENDUM:

ADDITION OF URGENT, NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEM:

33. Recommendation of Traffic and Lighting Engineer that permission be given to South Bay Chapter No. 69 Parents Without Partners to close Nancy Lee Lane between Newton Street and Greenmeadows Avenue on Sunday, August 11, 1968, between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 P.M. for the purpose of conducting a Gravity Power Racer Event, subject to three conditions.

Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Traffic Engineer. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

34. City Attorney Remelmeyer reported that a team has been formed, consisting of himself, a representative from his office, a representative from the Fire Department, and David Cleveland, Building Department, and tours have been made of the South Torrance oil fields, every Code violation has been checked; it is hoped that a similar tour can be made of the Victor Precinct by the end of the week. Following this, Mr. Remelmeyer continued, notices will be issued to all violators to remedy the deficiency; if they fail to do so within a reasonable time, criminal prosecution will be brought against them to insure that they do.

The August 29th meeting of the Council on the matter of Oil Well Beautification was pointed out by Mayor Isen - City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that action would have been taken on flagrant violations of existing laws by that date.

A bus tour - in view of the outstanding past success of such tours - on August 29th prior to the consideration of Oil Well Beautification was recommended by Councilman Johnson. It was agreed to schedule a tour for 6:30 P.M. on that date.

35. Appreciation for the many courtesies shown him during his trying year and a half was expressed by Councilman Beasley -- three outstanding memories remain with him: the statement made before this Council by the president of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Van Oppen; the great number of letters received by him concerning the 52-acre park; and, lastly, the statement made by Mrs. Donna Turner on the same subject at the Council meeting of July 30th. Mr. Beasley then stated that this has all occurred because of the forum the City Council has provided, and the Council is to be complimented on the provision of such a forum.

36. Commenting on Columbia Park, Councilman Sciarrotta stated that this subject appears fraught with misrepresentation, and feels that the record should be set straight, reciting figures regarding the financial transaction involved. Mr. Sciarrotta reiterated his opposition to certain types of Federal aid, but there are times when such funds can be put to good use in a community, and, in this case, there appears to be no alternative in view of the windfall represented here. The administrative paper work involved was acknowledged by Councilman Sciarrotta in obtaining the Federal and State money, but it seems worth the effort to him, outlining all the recreation benefits to result. Councilman Johnson recommended a Staff study relative to the quotation of figures to assure a true picture of the situation. Councilman Sciarrotta reaffirmed his reluctance for the seeking of Federal funds, stating, however, he will not permit his philosophy to interfere with his serving the best interests of the citizens of Torrance.

37. Councilman Uerkwitz agreed that any financial statistics were premature, noting that the purchase of the land does not represent the entire cost -- what about what must go on this land? He recommended that such considerations as these should be along the lines of a bond issue in the amount of seven million dollars to put this proposal in operation -- the true kind of money that it will take for the City of Torrance to build a 52-acre park -- it not being just the ground, or the grass, nor the grading, nor the fence, but the whole package. With the apparent doubt regarding differences of opinion, Mr. Uerkwitz stated that the people should make the choice by putting it on the ballot, and then it is known for sure which way the City wants to go.

38. It was requested the letter from the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce in reference to Unification of Postal Addresses be referred to the Citizens' Advisory Committee, by Councilman Uerkwitz who asked that a report be submitted by them as soon as possible.

39. Noting the list of employees who have completed their probations, Councilman Uerkwitz extended his congratulations for this accomplishment.

40. Concern for the status of the Library basement was expressed by Councilman Uerkwitz. City Librarian West advised that a report on this matter will be on the Council Agenda for August 13th.

41. Mayor Isen directed his oral communication to the subject of parks. The mixed emotions, including his own, have been very evident the past few weeks, and all the arguments, both pro and con, have been in good faith and all with the thought of the best interests of the City. Relative to the neighborhood park, Mayor Isen continued, there is unanimous agreement, adding that he would work hard for a bond issue in a number of areas where such parks are needed badly, that being away from the Columbia Park issue and one to be faced later on, it not being his desire to be a defeatist who because of this issue, the matter of small parks is foreclosed. It was also noted that the Park and Recreation Commission, in conjunction with the school district, has worked out a wonderful system of neighborhood parks, and credit is due that they have taken open space acreage that was a playground of the school, connected it with property fixed up by the City, and provided open space in a number of neighborhoods -- this, however, is not enough.

The next problem described by Mayor Isen was that of the cost of police enforcement on large parks which has not yet been considered, and must be a very important consideration, in view of the calls received by him pertaining to El Prado's green area (scarcely a park) and the unsavory incidents occurring there.

Commenting now on Columbia Park, Mayor Isen recited the history, as well as the problems, of this site -- pointing out that the Edison Company has not as yet donated the 10 acres, it being a question in his mind whether it can indeed become a part of the 50 acres, and in need of further legal clarification by the City Attorney.

Further, Mayor Isen continued, there is Alondra Park, a County park, and it is likely that CBS would consent to the transfer of the 17 acres to the County, and if it is to be a regional park of some 50 acres, the cost, the expense, the upkeep - since more than Torrance residents will make use of such a regional park - should be the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors with the decision pertaining to Federal funds to be their decision.

A series of events have propelled the Council to this stage, with many unanswered questions, Mayor Isen continued, stating that he does not propose to do the thinking for the people, with the many diverse opinions, and that they should be permitted to vote on a proposition devoid of emotionalism and misleading statements - that it is the further responsibility of the Council to ascertain the true feeling of the people in Torrance.

September 6th is the deadline for ballot issues, Mayor Isen advised, it being his proposal that there be a directory provision on that ballot, an inexpensive procedure, his proposed measure not requiring reconsideration, which does not stop the processing

of the Open Space Application, and represents a compromise of all the thinking and allows a complete processing without any roadblocks in its way but permits the people to decide without interference and at the same time affording direction to the Council.

Mayor Isen thereupon MOVED that the following proposition be placed on the November General Election in the following words, or substantially these words:

"That the City of Torrance proceed with its application for a Federal Grant under the Open Space Program for the acquisition and development of Columbia Park."

The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Prior to roll call vote, the following comments were forthcoming:

Councilman Miller repeated his often-stated comment that all the facts are not yet available, there being virtually no concept as to the basic cost of the proposed park development -- any action at this time is premature.-- to place this issue on the ballot is an attempt to remove the Council from the obligation of responsibility to and for the people. The philosophy of Federal funding has clouded this issue, Councilman Miller added, it being his intention to keep an open mind and await the facts and figures as is done in other matters requiring Council decisions.

It was the comment of Councilman Beasley that the only action taken by Council at this point is to make application, and upon receipt of all the information, it will be possible to make a decision. He is in complete agreement with Mr. Miller's remarks expressed above.

Councilman Johnson has received the impression, in his discussion with the people, that the people would like to vote on this issue. A similar feeling was apparent at the time of the urban renewal consideration, and it proved to be a fact -- the people should be given an opportunity to decide in this matter, as in all matters involving a major controversy. What could be accomplished with a five million dollar bond issue, with the development of small parks, obviating all the problems, was pointed out by Councilman Johnson.

While placing this issue on the ballot may sound ideal, according to Councilman Sciarrotta, the experience of placing the Housing Code on the ballot has resulted in chaos and hardship for many Torrance residents. Councilman Uerkwitz commented that Mr. Sciarrotta is misled in this interpretation of this action by the people -- disallowing the people to vote on the proposition of urban renewal resulted in the overwhelming voice of the people on Proposition A, which supports the feeling of Mr. Uerkwitz that the people want to vote on the matter of the subject park as well.

Mayor Isen called for roll call vote - "yes" to go on the ballot; "no", not to go on ballot. The motion failed to carry, with a tie vote, as follows:

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

It was the comment of Councilman Miller that the frequency of this recommendation, if it is indeed an attempt to embarrass or harass him, does not do so, and he will look forward to it week after week - his opinion will not alter until the facts are available.

42. . Mayor Isen directed City Manager Ferraro to investigate the El Prado situation referred to in his oral communication, and report back to the Council.

43. Mr. Denver Bullock, Chairman of the Southern District, American National Red Cross, Torrance-Lomita Chapter, was introduced by City Attorney Remelmeyer. A presentation to the City of Torrance was made by Mr. Bullock in recognition of the City's contribution of 4,580 pints of blood for those in need, with the appreciation and gratitude of the Red Cross.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

15.

Council Minutes
August 6, 1968

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

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance