

## I N D E X

City Council - January 14, 1969 - 8 P.M.

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretaryi. Council Minutes  
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Adjourned at 12:00 Midnight.

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

ii. Council Minutes  
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January 14, 1969

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 1969, at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen. Councilman Wilson arrived at 8:20 P.M.  
Absent: None.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mrs. William Hunter led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by City Clerk Coil.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 30, 1968 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved that all properly audited demands be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Uerkwitz,  
Sciarrotta, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.  
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson (had not yet arrived at meeting).

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Uerkwitz 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 Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Wilson absent).

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Appreciation for the new gavel through the courtesy of Mr. Gerald Alter was expressed by Mayor Isen -- the present gavel, an Alter creation as well, to be incorporated in the archives of Torrance.

\* \* \* \*

With a large number of people in attendance for the first time, Mayor Isen gave a detailed explanation of Council procedure.

\* \* \* \*

PRESENTATION:

Representing West High School, Miss Sue Griffith, 4928 Onyx Street, first introduced the members of the Student Council, including Student Body President Paul Johnson. Mr. Johnson, in turn, presented with much pleasure on behalf of the West High School student body a pledge in the amount of \$500 for the Torrance Civic Center Fountain Project.

Responding, on behalf of the Council, Councilman Uerkwitz expressed their particular pleasure in such a contribution by the youth of the community and the civic pride represented thereby.

\* \* \* \*

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

8. PROCLAMATION - Request from Torrance Jaycee Chapter that the week of January 19-25, 1969 be proclaimed "JAYCEE WEEK".

The president of the Torrance Jaycees, Mr. Leon Taylor, was present, and Mayor Isen expressed his special pleasure in proclaiming January 19th through 25th as "JAYCEE WEEK" in view of their tremendous contribution to the community.

9. CLAIM of Pete R. Hernandez for vehicle damage on December 28, 1968. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
10. CLAIM of Madge Nelson for Bodily Injury sustained on October 16, 1968. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
11. AWARD OF CONTRACT: (A) Trucks - 3 only (Tilt Cab and Chassis) Ref. Bid #68-65; (B) Rubbish Packer Bodies - 3 only - Ref. Bid #68-55.

12. BUDGETED AND SPECIAL EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$300:A. BUDGETED:

1. \$764.40 to Matthew Bender for two sets of California Law Books - "Forms of Pleading and Practice" and a 12-volume set of "Points and Authorities" requested by the Legal Department for their use.

2. \$413.70 to Gymnastic Supply Company for one (1) only tennis ball pitching machine requested by the Recreation Department to be used in their recreational sport classes.

3. \$380.52 to Shepherd Machinery Company for parts and labor to repair parts on a "downed" Caterpillar tractor Unit 902.

4. \$1922.55 to Decalcomania Manufacturing Company for 5,000 new City logos and 600 copies of official and police decals requested by the City Garage for use on City vehicles and equipment.

B. SPECIAL EXPENDITURES - Library books requested by City Librarian.

5. \$331.14 to Lord Associates for 97 juvenile books.

6. \$474.78 to Doubleday and Company, Inc., c/o John Thorne, for 63 adult books and 46 juvenile books.

7. \$439.61 to Richard Pexton for 178 juvenile books.

8. \$2692.73 to Carl J. Leibel for 8 reference books, 306 adult fiction and non-fiction, and 283 juvenile books.

9. \$314.48 to Grolier, Inc. for 1 only set of American Encyclopedia books.

10. \$307.13 to Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. for one only set of encyclopedias.

11. \$1515.94 to New York Graphic Society, Ltd. for 61 framed prints.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with Staff recommendations for approval on items 9,10,11, and 12. 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 (had not yet arrived at meeting).

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PLANNING AND ZONING HEARINGS:

13. ZC 68-28, TORRANCE PLANNING COMMISSION. Change of zone from A-1 and C-2 to C-2, C-1, C-R, and R-3 on property located on the north side of Artesia Boulevard between Casimir and Van Ness Avenues and described as a portion of Lot 59, McDonald Tract. Recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

An affidavit of publication was presented by City Clerk Coil, and it was ordered filed, there being no objections.

(Councilman Johnson departed from the Council Chambers at this point, announcing that, on the advice of the City Attorney, he will abstain from participating in this case because of possible financial interests.)

The communication from Mr. Alvin Wechsler, on behalf of one of the property owners at the subject location, Mr. B.A. Wechsler, noted, advising that there had been no notification of Planning Commission meetings on this matter. Planning Director Shartle confirmed that a clerical error had been responsible for the failure to notify Mr. Wechsler relative to the Planning Commission hearings. Mayor Isen stated that if this is the case, then to proceed would be out of order; there must be due process, with notification furnished at the lower, most important, Planning Commission level to permit him to be heard - City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed the propriety of this.

Another property owner in the subject area, Mr. Charles Klingler, 700 Carnelian Street, Redondo Beach, was present to protest further delays on this matter.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that item #13, ZC 68-28, be referred back to the Planning Commission to hold proper hearings. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Miller, Sciarrotta,  
and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Uerkwitz.  
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Johnson  
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Wilson (had not yet arrived at meeting).

It was the recommendation of City Attorney Remelmeyer that Mr. Wechsler be personally served, in addition to the routine notification.

Mr. Klingler again protested the delay; Mayor Isen expressed regret, but pointed out the impossibility of doing otherwise.

At Mayor Isen's question, City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that the above action of the Council, returning this matter to the Planning Commission for proper hearings, made the record clear.

\* \* \* \*

(The following two items were considered together.)

14. V68-7, SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN. (LeVane Forsythe, President). Request for a variance to the provisions of the zoning ordinance to allow the use of a single-family residence for offices and a waiver of the yard requirements to allow construction of a 6-foot chain link fence on property located at 17929 Amie Avenue. Recommended for denial by the Planning Commission.
20. PROPERTY AT 180TH STREET AND REGINA. Communication from Park and Recreation Commission recommending that the property not be leased or sold to Southwest Association for Mentally Retarded Children and that the area be developed as a vest pocket park for the homeowners in the area.

An affidavit of publication on V68-7 was presented by City Clerk Coil, and it was ordered filed, there being no objections.

Mayor Isen announced that this is a public hearing, and requested that the proponent speak first, to be followed by those who wish to speak on the other side of the issue.

Accordingly, Mr. LeVane Forsythe, President of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children, 4255 Newton Street, responded. Mr. Forsythe related that some time ago a proposal was made to the Council to buy this property for a park for retarded children at which time it was indicated to the Council that their organization would not necessarily keep the park for their use alone but that they would actually share it with the community. Mr. Forsythe then described the activities of the Southwest Association and the problems faced by this community in the care of these children, particularly in the area of recreational needs. Also outlined by Mr. Forsythe were the extensive efforts put forth to make this project acceptable in neighborhoods, as well as the renovations at the subject property of the requested variance. Space difficulties were pointed out also by Mr. Forsythe, with a church presently being used on a rental basis. It is the opinion of Mr. Forsythe that the program of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children is of great merit, a credit to the community, and deserving of favorable consideration.

At this point Mayor Isen inquired as to the zoning of the property at present, in line with the development proposed by Mr. Forsythe. Planning Director Shartle advised that it is not properly zoned. Mayor Isen then stated that at the time of the original communication on the purchase of the park, the Council had no knowledge of any such extensive development -- now the matter is before the Council with a request for a temporary use which, in Mayor Isen's opinion, is just a small portion of the issue; it now appearing there are zoning problems, with a type of master-planning needed so that all may be enlightened. Mayor Isen further affirmed the fact that there is no question of the need and the wonderful cause represented. At Mayor Isen's question, Mr. Forsythe agreed that the entire complex would ultimately be before the Planning Commission and Council for approval. It would seem to

Mayor Isen that there would be merit in conferences between a neighborhood committee and the organization's Board of Directors in an attempt to satisfy the surrounding community. Voices of protest rose from the large audience in attendance on this matter, and Mrs. Swartz, 17838 Bailey Drive, spoke in their behalf, stating that the neighborhood is informed on what has been planned, they have visited Mr. Forsythe's other facilities, and while there is absolutely no objection to retarded children per se, they strongly oppose what Mr. Forsythe plans to develop in a residential area. Further, according to Mrs. Swartz, a similar operation in Gardena is in a factory section of this town and they are engaged in a small manufacturing type of work; the neighborhood desires a park very badly and they do not consider sharing a park a desirable arrangement.

Discussion by the Council followed, and it was the consensus that little would be gained by neighborhood meetings, and that the presentation continue.

The next speaker, on behalf of the Southwest Association, was Mr. Les Foster, principal of Columbia School, who outlined the program at Columbia School and its relationship to the Association, as well as the aims and goals of this valuable Association. The desired location came about as a result of conferring with the Mental Retardation Services Board and requesting a geographical survey of a logical center for the type of youngsters being handled; this Board designated that an area within two miles of Columbia School would be the most appropriate location. Mr. Foster added that every available advice has been sought to provide a service whose surroundings would be a credit to the community.

Mr. Joe Catanich, 2445 West 230th Street, stated, first, that it is his privilege to serve the children discussed this evening, and, further, that it might be well to understand that the Southwest Association for Retarded Children is a non-profit corporation, composed of citizens who are endeavoring to provide services not presently provided. The decision to locate in a survey-recommended area seemed quite legitimate and appropriate; the acquiring of property, at the comparable market value, for a school, which is a typical type of installation in a residential area was certainly not unique insofar as the Southwest Association school was concerned. The subject area was selected, and in good faith negotiations were entered into for the purchase of property, it also being stipulated that the Association wished to conform, and did indicate that the purchase of the property was completely contingent upon securing the necessary variance wherever necessary. Mr. Catanich then commented that there now appears to be a change of attitude with one portion of the property, the park.

Interrupting, Mayor Isen clarified that all the Council has ever known has been the request by the proponent to purchase this park -- until this matter appeared on the agenda, the Council had absolutely no knowledge of the temporary use of a house request or the actual installation of a school.

Mr. Catanich confirmed the correctness of the Mayor's statement, pointing out that the proposed development in its entirety was presented at the Planning Commission meeting. In conclusion, Mr. Catanich stated that this is a program which should be evaluated from the standpoint of community service sorely needed by a group of

citizens who need it; the Southwest Association selected this particular area because that seemed to be where it belonged.

Mr. Fred Marsee, 1025 2nd Street, Hermosa Beach, stated that he is on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Association, as well as Director of the Development Center for Handicapped Minors in El Segundo, and, further, that the attitude of the residents is not unfamiliar to him based on his experience at El Segundo when the Center was started there some two years ago. However, when the community became involved and actively participated in the plans and in the running of the program, there developed an awareness and understanding. It was the hope of Mr. Marsee that a neighborhood committee and an Association committee could be formed to review the plans, and then present it to the Council.

Next to speak was Mr. Richard Oliver, 4129 West 180th Street, who first requested that the people in the audience represented by him in opposition to the subject request raise their hands -- a considerable number of hands were raised. Mr. Oliver, as their spokesman, stated that there is no opposition to the type of work done by this organization -- their concern is the fact that this is taking place in a residential district; he then reviewed the various steps through the Planning Commission, outlining the problems reviewed at that time, and furnishing the Council with recent pictures of the parking situation. In reference to neighborhood interest in having a "vest pocket" park, Mr. Oliver presented a petition bearing 112 names asking that the City construct such a park at Regina and 180th Streets at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, which is now before the Council.

Mayor Isen inquired of Mr. Oliver at this point if he felt that a neighborhood committee working with the Association's Board of Directors would be of any useful benefit in this matter, and Mr. Oliver replied "no, sir".

At Councilman Sciarrotta's question regarding the ages of the retarded children, Mr. Oliver reported his understanding that the oldest student at the Gardena school is 40 years of age, with an average age of 16 to 27.

Mr. Oliver continued, referring to a report from the Director of Recreation wherein it is stated, in essence, that this particular piece of property would make a fine park -- Mr. Oliver added that the people who would be served by a "vest pocket" park in this area represent some 230 adults and 739 children under the age of 18; such a park would be in the center of a complex of single-family homes and apartment houses. Drainage problems were also recited by Mr. Oliver, and a channel was recommended to facilitate school traffic to Perry Elementary School.

Adding to her husband's remarks, Mrs. Oliver stated that a visit to the Gardena school at 135th and Vermont was made by several residents, and it was learned that children in the area are never allowed on the school playground; it was further noted that the

school is not located in a residential area but, rather, surrounded by a water tank, a lawnmower business, and a trailer court. It was also noted by Mrs. Oliver that Mr. Forsythe had made no contact with the neighborhood.

Mr. Keith Hunsaker, a director of the Southwest School District's cooperative special education program which consists of eight schools of which Torrance is one, acknowledged the leadership taken by Torrance in the cause of handicapped children. In the event of denial of the subject request, Mr. Hunsaker expressed the hope that every assistance would be afforded this very fine organization in finding a desirable location.

Mr. John Conch, 4056 Hickman Drive, requested information regarding the church used by Mr. Forsythe. This was decreed as not germane to the issue before the Council, and a matter to pursue directly with Mr. Forsythe.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Beasley moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and Planning Department for DENIAL of V68-7. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Discussion on the motion followed.

Councilman Miller felt that the proponents were entitled to know the Council's thinking and why the opposition to such a development. There is no question as to the worthwhile nature of the cause, but the impact on a neighborhood cannot be denied, with the proposed school serving children from quite a large area which provides more leeway for location within the recommended two mile area. Of further concern is the park arrangement, shared by the children, particularly in view of the ages referred to (16 to 27 years of age, with the age of 40 mentioned as well). Another problem is that of ingress and egress, with an anticipated enrollment of 300 students, <sup>and</sup> with the possibility of the City ultimately having to provide needed streets. Expressing regret at finding it necessary to oppose such a deserving undertaking, Councilman Miller concluded that the problems are insurmountable; such a school would be most welcome in Torrance but in a more appropriate area.

Concurring completely with Councilman Miller, Councilman Uerkwitz noted that it is an emotional problem as well as a practical one, and the practical considerations must come first. Further noted by Councilman Uerkwitz were the unfortunate circumstances of "piece-meal" presentations, as has happened in this case -- his first knowledge of this matter was for the use of a park, which now turns out to be one-third or less of the total project -- which necessitates an entirely new view of the matter.

Councilman Johnson referred to earlier discussions wherein he recommended the use of neighborhood parks in lieu of the full expansion of Columbia Park, a part of that recommendation being to find small "vest pocket" areas. Further recalled by Councilman Johnson was his recommendation at the time the matter was before the Council for sale or lease of the property that the City not sell the park; however, because of the high cost suggested by Staff, with concurrence by the Parks and Recreation Commission at that time,

plus his considerable knowledge about the good works of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children, he acted favorably upon the request -- however, it was with reluctance, a continuing reluctance, to sell any part of any property that the City may have that might fit into the overall neighborhood park concept. Councilman Johnson concluded, stating that he must join in denying the request, advocating that favorable action be taken on the park.

Councilman Sciarrotta added his reservations as to the compatibility of the suggested park-sharing arrangement.

Mayor Isen stated that there is not a finer, more worthwhile project than that of the proponents, and they are to be congratulated, but the Council has a keen responsibility to the neighborhood which was there first, a neighborhood which has indicated virtually unani- mously that they do not want the project in their area. Certainly an acceptable location should be sought, and every help should be offered, but, Mayor Isen concluded, on the basis of location, he must vote for denial. Aside to Mr. Oliver, who represented the homeowners, Mayor Isen recommended that a homeowners association be formed to provide a greater voice in the problems faced by this area.

Roll call vote on the motion to deny V68-7 was unanimously favorable, "yes" being for denial.

MOTION: Mayor Isen moved, re: agenda item 20, that all negotiations for the disposal of this area be terminated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

The matter of the "vest pocket" park was returned to by Councilman Johnson, and the following action taken:

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved that the subject area be designated as a park in principle, concurring with the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation that it be used as a "vest pocket" park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley; there were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Uerkwitz then MOVED that the matter of appropriation and priority status, relative to such a park, be considered at budget time. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

Further action was reflected in a MOTION by Councilman Beasley that the subject "vest pocket" park be referred back to the Park and Recreation Commission for recommendation as to type of develop- ment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

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The hour being 9:40 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council, immediately reconvening as Redevelopment Agency, followed by a 10-minute general recess at 9:42 P.M.

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PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

15. REQUEST TO LIFT MORATORIUM ON AREA NORTH OF REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Land use study of area bounded by Hawthorne Boulevard on the west, 234th Street on the north, Madison Street on the east, 236th Street (Skypark Drive) on the south. (Hawthorne/Skypark Study Area).

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved that the moratorium on the subject area be retained. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

Discussion followed on the motion. Mayor Isen first ascertained that the expiration date for the moratorium is March 3rd. Councilman Beasley stated that the reason for his motion is because of the many problems, and need for control, in this area.

Mrs. Thelma Turner, Turner Real Estate, was present to outline the efforts to date to develop the subject area, in addition to the fact that the Planning Commission and the Council will control any proposed building in view of the C-5 zoning. Planning Director Shartle stated that the control would depend on the use proposed, and discussed at some length were the many considerations involved in the development of this valuable property, it being generally agreed that a precise plan of development could be presented, and, if of sufficient merit, the moratorium could be lifted to accommodate a particular site.

Owner of four lots on Hawthorne Boulevard, Mr. Joseph Schaffer reported that this property is now in escrow and tied up pending the decision of the Council; he urged immediate action.

Next to speak was Mr. Jerry Gray, Catalina Uniforms, who desires to build in the subject area. Mr. Gray advised that his escrow instructions contain a buy offer to the City of Torrance for the lot on 234th owned by the City, which will be used for parking facilities, and alleviate the concern as to the depth of the lots.

The pros and cons of an alley were reviewed, returning to the consensus of the Council that a review of precise plans for proposed developments would permit a decision. City Attorney Remelmeyer pointed out that it may be necessary to obtain consent of all the property owners up and down the line, it being a rule of law that the owners of those properties have the right of access; that includes the alleys.

Mayor Isen then reiterated his recommendation that the interested parties get together with the Planning Director and the Building Superintendent, come in with a precise plan (however, without Planning Commission review); if it meets with the approval of the Council, the moratorium could be lifted as it applies to the particular parcel. At Mrs. Turner's question, Mayor Isen advised that plans could be submitted eliminating the alley, with the further recommendation that Mrs. Turner get with Staff in resolving the numerous details.

It was recommended by Councilman Wilson that the motion to retain the moratorium should include the in-depth study to avoid what is otherwise proceeding in a piecemeal fashion. These matters should be considered one at a time, Mayor Isen ruled; the procedures indicated above would not include an in-depth study, and a double-jointed motion would not be in order.

Councilman Beasley's motion that the moratorium on the subject area be retained carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta (a "temporary" yes), Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

The temporary status of Councilman Sciarrotta's vote was for the reason that he is concerned about the entire district, and feels the in-depth study should be made.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved that Staff, with the Planning Commission, make an in-depth study of the subject area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

In reference to his "yes" vote, Mayor Isen stated that it is based on the premise of the previous discussion that it will not preclude the petitioners present to attempt to have the moratorium lifted.

Councilman Sciarrotta stated that, in view of the second motion, his temporary "yes" vote in the first action taken is now a permanent vote in the affirmative.

Minus any formal action, it was the recommendation of Councilman Johnson that the precise plan procedure apply to the remainder of the property as well.

16. CARSON STREET STUDY. Communication from the Planning Director; a report and recommendation to the City Council from the Carson Street Citizens' Committee and status of ZC68-6, Tompkins and Brick.

It was first noted that the references to the "southwest" corner of Carson and Fern should correctly read "southeast" corner.

Mayor Isen announced that this is the time and place for a public hearing on this matter for anyone who wished to be heard.

Mr. Daniel Tompkins, 4037 Via Pima, Palos Verdes Estates, stated that he is one of the owners involved in subject area, and that his requested zone change has been delayed approximately one year awaiting this study as to the proper zoning for Carson -- the result has been the same with most of the people desiring that it remain unchanged. Mr. Tompkins is of the opinion that these residents are closing their eyes to the future of Carson Street with the inevitable widening, etc. A recent rezoning (Boll and Melville) on Carson was clarified at Mr. Tompkins' question -- this case having been one of extending a commercial zoning and an entirely different matter.

Next to speak was Mr. Joe Quarter, 1754 Elm Street, who pointed out the endless problems presented by the post office; he also concurs with the results of the committee study.

Mr. Paul Roberts, 1728 Fern, stated that on his block there are some six properties which are 50 x 100 ft. which will not permit R-2 development, yet they are paying taxes on R-2 zoning. The zone change procedure was explained by Mayor Isen, along with the recommendation that Mr. Roberts check with the Assessor as to the difference,

if any, in taxes between R-1 zoning and R-2 zoning.

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Department: that no further rezoning take place within the Carson Street zoning study area except rezoning of residential property at the property owner's request from R-2 to R-1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Miller (has property listed on  
Carson Street).

MOTION: Mayor Isen moved that ZC 68-6, Tompkins & Brick, be advertised for public hearing before this Council, to be held on February 11, 1969 at 8:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

17. TRACT NO. 23099 - Request for one-year extension within which to complete Public Works improvements, submitted by Gertrude Schreiber, dated 12/31/69. Recommendation of Acting City Engineer that request be approved.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer for approval of the request. His motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

18. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - INSTALLATION OF SANITARY SEWERS IN SAMUEL STREET NORTH OF LOMITA BOULEVARD (B68-48) JOB NO. 68073.

Recommendations of Acting City Engineer:

1. That Council approve and authorize extra work;
2. That Council accept the project; and
3. That final payment be made to the contractor.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations of the Acting City Engineer, as outlined above. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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A 10-minute recess was ordered at this time by Mayor Isen -  
10:40 P.M.

\* \* \* \*

PARKS AND RECREATION:

19. RESOLUTION authorizing an application for Federal Grant for Columbia Park. (New Resolution necessary similar to R68-167 with change of figures, due to County wishes to acquire more land than originally planned.)

Mr. Ronald Moran requested permission to be heard on this matter whereupon he related the unexpected position in which he now finds himself relative to Parcel 12. Mr. Moran finds it necessary to protest very, very strongly on the inclusion of Parcel 12 in the Regional Park development, and outlined the CBS-City negotiations in this matter; to the point, Mr. Moran now has a 6-months option on a portion of the curved property on the corner of 190th and Hawthorne involving another Class-A automobile dealer.

Clarification as to the inclusion of this Parcel 12 was furnished by Assistant City Manager Scharfman -- in order for the City to qualify for State bond issue money available, it would be necessary to have 50 acres in addition to the Edison leasehold; the County would not be interested in acquiring and developing this park unless they could have 50 acres or more exclusive of the Edison leasehold. <sup>of</sup> therefore, they have recommended adding to the original proposal 52 acres, (two acres at the corner of Prairie and 190th which was not included originally and the 10 acres belonging to Mr. Moran on 190th Street. This was done for several reasons, Mr. Scharfman continued, in addition to the State bond money - it was felt this would make a better park with greater facilities available, would afford better traffic circulation, along with other technical reasons. It is at the request of the County of Los Angeles that the resolution now before the Council has been prepared, with a deadline of January 17th in order to be considered in the Department of Housing and Urban Development budget; further, to participate in the State bond funds development must be started by approximately January, 1970. A suggested alternative by Assistant City Manager Scharfman, following extensive discussions between City Attorney Remelmeyer and the Edison Company regarding the lease, the best offer from Edison being a perpetual lease so long as used for recreational purposes with a one-year cancellation clause - the State does not like such a cancellation clause, and <sup>it</sup> was recommended as a matter for discussion between the Council and State legislators during the forthcoming visit of the Council to Sacramento. In conclusion, Assistant City Manager Scharfman stated that the elimination of Mr. Moran's property presents the probability of not getting any State funds, but possibly Federal funds will be available.

The idea of the County Regional Park, Mayor Isen recalled, was to take all the burden away and the cost of upkeep from the City -- somewhere along the line this has grown into a large project that no one ever visualized, and it now contemplates the taking of very valuable commercial property of high sales tax potential, plus real estate taxes, at a location which all would agree is certainly not at its best use as a park; the same arguments do not apply to the area in the rear. Mayor Isen expressed his reservations as to whether or not the County now, as originally intended, would assume the burdens of financing and upkeep by the direction taken now, and

reiterated his original reservations regarding premature action by this Council - a simple 35-acre park, as envisioned by him at the start of this matter, now appears reasonable and logical. Further, it seems more appropriate for the County to pursue what is now requested of this Council, in Mayor Isen's opinion, with apparently no end of problems and financial handicap to be faced by the City.

Concurrence with Mayor Isen's comments above was expressed by Councilman Beasley who added that he cannot accept the fact that the State will not accept the Edison property and is probably only a tentative statement; further, Councilman Beasley would regret seeing a parcel of this land which would probably bring in a revenue of a million dollars within the next ten years added to the park site if it can possibly be avoided. In reviewing this entire matter, Councilman Beasley, in order to vote against this resolution if the other Councilmen cannot be persuaded to vote against it as well, would move to reconsider the motion which he made on the Regional Park, feeling that strongly about it. Mr. Beasley would like to see a park developed in this area which could be done within the means of the City, but he does not feel that acquiring this 12-acre parcel would be one of the means of doing that.

The lack of communication, and the January 17th deadline, were questioned by Councilman Miller who feels there are many unanswered questions yet to be resolved -- Assistant City Manager Scharfman clarified that if the Council took no action on the subject resolution, the original resolution would be submitted.

Councilman Sciarrotta expressed his concern with the new trend of affairs, recognizing that the Moran property is a prime piece of land that can go into commercial use and resultant revenue to the City. It was his feeling that the original resolution should be used and see what can be worked out.

Review of the inception of the park was undertaken by Councilman Uerkwitz, a project which was now grown in area to a prime piece of commercial property, that he would not vote for, under any circumstances, to incorporate in this package, either now or later on. It is the feeling of Councilman Uerkwitz that the original intention of the City putting in a park can be accomplished, and there will be a park of reputable size which will make everyone happy. Mr. Uerkwitz added that no one in their right mind could possibly vote to put that kind of property with the revenues involved into this park project.

Councilman Johnson stated that this matter started out as a real good plan only to evolve into a big ball of snakes -- he certainly is ready to revert back to the park as originally discussed, with stress on neighborhood parks.

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

RESOLUTION 69-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A FEDERAL GRANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING A REGIONAL PARK SITE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION IN THIS BEHALF.

Councilman Johnson moved to DENY Resolution No. 69-8. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, Councilman Miller confirmed that the above action would still permit the first resolution to remain intact.

It was the comment of Councilman Wilson that the Council is placed in an impossible situation to pass the subject resolution with so many unanswered questions.

Roll call vote on the motion was unanimously favorable, "yes" being for DENIAL.

Mayor Isen commented on the "will of the wisp" aspect of this situation, having received a discouraging communication as to whether the County will ever participate in a regional park, and recommended that the County attitudes be determined. In the interest of permitting Mr. Moran to negotiate, and referring to the map of the subject properties labelled "Parcels to be Acquired for proposed Columbia Park", an exhibit on agenda item #19 of the matter under discussion, Mayor Isen MOVED that Parcel 12 be eliminated from any consideration whatsoever of being a regional park in this area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Discussion on the motion followed. Councilman Miller stated that he would not vote for the above motion for the same reason that he could not vote for the motion pertaining to the resolution; the facts needed for a decision are simply not before him. Further, there is no definite assurance that Mr. Moran's deal will be consummated. Mr. Moran advised that he is very optimistic about the pending deal, or, in any event, substantial commercial development of some nature; his appearance at this meeting is in the interest of advising the Council of the exact situation.

Councilman Wilson was in agreement with Councilman Miller -- adding that the whole concept of the regional park was to maintain and preserve the open spaces that are now available; to start on Parcel 12, one might just as well look at other parcels which would defeat the main concept of having a large regional park where open space is available.

Mayor Isen reaffirmed his feeling that Mr. Moran could proceed better, not only in his own interest but in the City interest, knowing that Parcel 12 is not included in the park plans.

The motion failed to carry, with roll call vote as follows:

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

City Manager Ferraro requested that the Council put the matter of clarification and review of the Edison Company property on their Sacramento agenda, and this was agreeable with the Council.

Mr. Moran indicated his willingness to cooperate in any manner possible, and that he has so indicated to the City Manager. Mayor Isen stated that the vote, 4-3 though it was, was still a vote of confidence of what Mr. Moran has done and what he intends to do.

20. Heard earlier in the meeting.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

21. RESOLUTION providing for a Citizen Participation Goals Program, A Goals Steering Committee, A Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Goals and Improvement, A Citizens' Resource Group and an Executive Research Group.

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

RESOLUTION 69-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION GOALS PROGRAM, A GOALS STEERING COMMITTEE, A CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY GOALS AND IMPROVEMENT, A CITIZENS' RESOURCE GROUP AND AN EXECUTIVE RESEARCH GROUP.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-9. His motion was seconded by Mayor Isen with the comment that he likes the compromises represented herein; further, that the Committee, following discussion, has reassured him that in the event there should be set up by the Council a Street and Highway Commission, or other ideas that might be valuable, that there would be no conflict whatsoever, and that the Goals Committee would work with any Commission within their province, defending their recommendations as Commissions, and to go through the proper procedures.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

22. RESOLUTION of Destruction submitted re: destroying duplicate Payment Stubs (less than 5 years), Combined Water and Waste Collection Stubs, and Water Collection Only Stubs (July through December 1966).

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

RESOLUTION 69-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO DESTROY CERTAIN CITY RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-10. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

23. RESOLUTION authorizing the installation of NO STOPPING ANY TIME - TOW AWAY restrictions on the west side of Western Avenue from a point 900 feet northerly of 190th Street to a point 2500 feet southerly of 190th Street, and on the south side of 190th Street from Western Avenue westerly to a point 700 feet west of Western Avenue.

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

RESOLUTION 69-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 64-242 WHICH ESTABLISHES NO STOPPING ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS BY ADDING ARTICLE II THERETO.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-11; his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

24. City Clerk Coil called to the attention of the Council the expiration of terms on January 15th of Civil Service Commissioners Lamson and Albright. The Council was in agreement that these appointments be held in abeyance until completion of the pending Walter Nollac hearings.

25. In order that a bank payment may be made on the final portion of site acquisition payment for La Carretera Park (R-34) Mr. Dundore asked an appropriation of \$24,200 from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Fund in that amount; this is a budgeted item.

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director and appropriate the sum of \$24,200 from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Fund. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable

26. Councilman Johnson reminded the Council of the Independent Cities meeting slated for January 22nd at Latitude 20.

27. Councilman Sciarrotta referred to action taken some nine months ago wherein the Council voted to try out ad hoc committees in place of standing committees -- he joined in voting for a six-month trial period at the end of which time an evaluation would be made. After nine months Councilman Sciarrotta has come to the conclusion that the so called ad hoc committees are not as challenging, not as effective, and do not allow for definite responsibility over a long period of time which makes for proficiency. In Mr. Sciarrotta's opinion, standing committees, chaired by conscientious Councilmen, have

developed more leadership, more ideas, more initiative, more resourcefulness, and more constructive thinking than ad hoc committees can ever hope to accomplish. This is due to specialization - often a standing committee on a given phase of City government was instrumental in averting a bad situation; a standing committee has hearing powers and investigative powers which help build sound foundations and a good sense of direction. Its recommending powers, after thorough study, have been invaluable; standing committees can be likened to such committees in Congress and the services rendered there.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the Council go back to the standing committee procedure -- with choices to be made on the basis of seniority, and choices of the three new members based on the number of votes obtained in the last election, with one exception: due to the fact that the Finance Committee was overburdened with too many activities, that the Civil Service jurisdiction be taken out of the Finance Committee and given to the Police and Fire Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Discussion followed. Mayor Isen stated that the rotating system has worked beautifully, and the above appears to be an attempt for a few people to be "Mr. Big". The inactivity of many of the standing committees was pointed out by Mayor Isen, and he fails to see where there can be any criticism of the sharing of the load represented by the rotating committees from the standpoint of sharing of responsibility and being informed as to what is going on.

Councilman Uerkwitz shared Mayor Isen's views, and inquired what committee has failed? Councilman Sciarrotta reiterated his views concerning the added responsibility and incentive of standing committees, and the failure is in the loss of interest with the ad hoc arrangement.

It was the diagnosis of Councilman Beasley that the respect earned by Councilman Miller on the Police and Fire Committee, with resultant political strength, brought about the revision in the committee method. Mr. Beasley further stated that he thought the standing committees worked fine.

Councilman Miller would have to agree with Councilman Sciarrotta as to the more effective job done by the standing committees, disregarding all personalities, and valuable relationships are formed. Mr. Miller added that he had no pre-knowledge of the motion offered by Councilman Sciarrotta on this matter.

It was the comment of Councilman Wilson that there is undoubtedly value to the rotating committee idea, it does spread the basic information that should be studied by the Council, but it is his feeling that perhaps in addition to the rotating system that there should be certain standing committees to make in-depth studies in certain areas. Councilman Wilson added that the rotating system has not worked to his satisfaction in terms of knowing more about certain phases of the City, a situation which might possibly improve were he assigned to a standing committee.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Johnson: That the choice for standing committees be made in inverse order from the manner outlined by Councilman Sciarrotta. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Sciarrotta's motion carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Miller, Sciarrotta, and Wilson.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen.

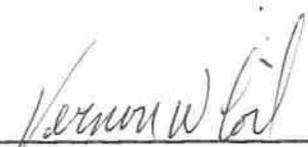
It was agreed that Mayor Isen, based on seniority, would have first choice of the standing committees.

28. Councilman Uerkwitz referred to references in the minutes of the Torrance Beautiful Commission and the Citizens' Advisory Committee on the matter of underground utilities and the statement that the money would be forfeited if not used; that is in error, such money is held in abeyance until an undergrounding district is established and will be used at that time. Staff confirmed that this was true, and Councilman Uerkwitz requested that such information be conveyed to these groups.

29. Requested by Councilman Wilson, in the interest of the taxpayers as well as for his own information, was an accounting of funds expended by the City on the Walter Nollac matter. Discussion followed on the wisdom of such action at this time in view of the pending hearings, and Councilman Wilson withdrew his request.

30. Mayor Isen referred to the second and fourth Council meetings, and the hour of 8:00 P.M. for convening; it has been suggested that the hour of 7:00 P.M. would be much more convenient and efficient, with the provision in setting up the agenda that Planning and Zoning matters be scheduled for approximately 8:00 P.M. Such an arrangement met with the approval of the Council generally, and City Attorney Remelmeyer was directed to prepare an appropriate resolution for the next Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was regularly adjourned at 12:00 Midnight.

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

APPROVED:  
  
Mayor of the City of Torrance