

I N D E XCity Council - January 28, 1969 - 7:00 P.M.

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Adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

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January 28, 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 28, 1969, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Moss were: Councilmen Beasley, Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Isen. Absent: None.

Also present: Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Treasurer Rupert. City Manager Ferraro was in an emergency meeting pertaining to the flooding at Marble Estates in the Council Conference Room, arriving at the Council meeting at 8:45 P.M. Absent: City Clerk Coil (vacation).

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Long time Torrance resident and Civil Defense commissioner Jim Burchett led in the salute to the flag, at the request of Mayor Isen.

4. INVOCATION:

Gratitude for his services during the month of January was expressed by Mayor Isen to Reverend Lloyd Newlin, First Baptist Church, followed by the invocation by Dr. Newlin.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of the regular meetings of January 14, 1969 and January 21, 1969 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and there were no objections.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

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

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 Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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Council procedure was described by Mayor Isen for the benefit of those attending a Council meeting for the first time.

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PRESENTATIONS:

8. Presentation of Permaplaque Resolution to J. Walker Owens, Executive Vice President, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, congratulating him on being named President-Elect of the California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The good wishes of the Council for Mr. Owens' term of office were conveyed by Mayor Isen; Mr. Owens expressed his gratitude at the honor represented by this permaplaque from the City.

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

9. CLAIM of Sylvester L. Doolittle for property damage sustained on January 7, 1969. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

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

1. \$604.80 to Vermont Lumber for 200 12-ft. posts requested by the Traffic & Lighting Department for use in posting street traffic signs.
2. \$3484.11 to Mail-Well Envelope Company for 600,000 envelopes requested by the Customer Service Division of Finance for use in monthly billings to residents for water and rubbish services.
3. \$405.30 to Henry Pratt Company for two 12-inch flanged water valves to be used for the improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard as requested by the Water Department.
4. \$784.00 to Coy Chandler Roofing Company for leakage repair of the Recreation Center roof as requested by the Building Maintenance Department.

5. \$371.70 to Bellview Furniture Manufacturing Company for two book display tables (birch) as requested by the City Librarian for use in the Walteria and Henderson Libraries.
6. \$417.06 to Torrance Auto Body for repair of damaged vehicle #82 as requested by the City Garage.
7. \$335.90 to Johnson's Stationers for two drafting machines to be used in precision drawing as requested by the Engineering Department.
8. \$319.99 to Johnson's Stationers for 5000 filing folders requested by the Police Department for use in their timekeeping systems.
9. \$842.90 to Redi-Rain Manufacturing Company for 1410 feet of 4" aluminum irrigation type pipe with couplings as requested by the Street Department and already purchased because of the need for emergency flood control measures here in Torrance.
10. \$630.00 to Santa Fe Bag & Bagging Company for 5,000 (50-pound) sand bags purchased as an emergency in combating flood waters for the Street Department.
11. \$344.58 to Econolite Corporation for signal repair and maintenance hardware for City traffic signals as requested by the Traffic & Lighting Department.
12. \$2754.62 to Joslyn Pacific Company for 53 mercury vapor luminaire fixtures requested to upgrade the Ellinwood Lighting District and to include parking lot lighting at El Nido Park.
13. \$300.13 to Superior Wholesale Electric for the purchase of 51 mercury vapor lamps to be used in the upgrading of the Ellinwood Lighting District.
14. \$667.28 to Blinker-Lite Corporation for 25 metal barricades with flashing units; 25 extra flasher units; and 100 spare bulbs requested by the Street Department for traffic control.
- B. SPECIAL EXPENDITURES - CITY LIBRARY:
 15. \$386.42 to Random House Publishing Company, c/o Harry Rinehimer, for 73 Adult and Juvenile books.
 16. \$514.76 to Western Library Services for 192 Juvenile books.
11. Request for refund of Parks and Recreation Tax by R.G. Garland, in an amount exceeding \$300. Recommendation of Building and Safety Director, with concurrence of City Manager, that refund in the amount of \$360 be granted.

12. AWARD OF CONTRACT - Fire Hose - Reference Bid #68-67.
13. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - VICTOR PARK PICNIC SHELTER.
 Recommendation of Building and Safety Director, with concurrence of City Manager, that Council accept the work as complete and satisfactory to the City of Torrance, approve and authorize the extra work described herein, and that final payment be made to Robert L. Reeves Construction Company in the amount of \$10,428.42.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with recommendations as stated on Items #9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

In reference to Item #13, the Victor Park Picnic Shelter, Assistant City Manager Scharfman advised the Council that, pending their approval, the dedication date for this Shelter has been set for Saturday, March 22, 1969, at 11:00 A.M. Councilman Wilson MOVED to concur with the above date and hour for the subject dedication. His motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and there were no objections.

14. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of agreement with County Board of Supervisors for the purchase of tax-deeded land described as the southerly two feet of the westerly 77.50 feet of Lot 186, Tract 19108, located at Ladeene Avenue and 226th Street, listed as Parcel 254 in proposed Auction Sale 91A, for the purpose of a utility easement.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PURCHASE OF TAX-DEEDED LAND; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST SAID AGREEMENT.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-19. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

* * * *

The latest report on the rainstorm conditions was requested by Mayor Isen at this time, with detailed information being furnished by Assistant City Manager Scharfman. Hardest hit areas were 235th, 234th, and Wade Streets, and 182nd and Kingsdale; of

particular note was the tremendous volunteer help and offers of service, the cooperation of neighboring cities, the outstanding efforts of the Marble Estates Homeowners Association, and the overall community effort in this disaster. Mr. Scharfman further advised that a formal report will be furnished the Council as soon as all the data can be assembled and compiled. On the flood scene Councilmen Sciarrotta and Uerkwitz reported on the outstanding efforts observed by them. Councilman Uerkwitz added that the real heroes would have to be the City employees who performed with credit to the City, and are deserving of real commendation for the job they did.

* * * *

Noted by Mayor Isen at this point/^{was} that, necessarily, the meeting for the Redevelopment Agency this date will have to be at 8:30 P.M. or thereafter inasmuch as the resolution revising their meeting hour is on tonight's agenda. The Agency meeting time, following such action, will be at 7:30 P.M. or thereafter on future second and fourth Tuesdays.

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PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

15. ORDINANCE amending Section 93.6.7 entitled "Conformance to Landscape Regulations" to permit minor expansion of existing development without conforming to landscaping requirements.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1946

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 93.6.7 ENTITLED "CONFORMANCE TO LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS" OF DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR EXCEPTIONS TO SAID REQUIREMENTS WHEN A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE EXPANSION IS REQUIRED BY LAW, CONSTRUCTION OF OR ADDITIONS TO BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES THAT DO NOT EXCEED A TOTAL VALUE OF \$1000, OR ADDITIONS THAT ARE MINOR IN COMPARISON WITH THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT.

Councilman Wilson moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 1946 at its first reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

16. ZC 68-8, TORRANCE PLANNING COMMISSION - CONTINUED HEARING: Zone Change from A-1, R-3, C-2, and M-1 to P-1, P-U, C-3 (PP) and M-1 on property bounded by Hawthorne Boulevard, Prairie Avenue, 186th Street and 190th Street, and described as portions of Lots 18 and 19, McDonald Tract. Recommended for approval by Planning Commission.

In view of the revision of boundaries, Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that ZC 68-8 be referred back to the Planning Commission for

for study and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried, there being no objections.

Mayor Isen added that a letter will be forthcoming from Mr. Ronald Moran in reference to certain portions of his property at this location.

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

17. MODIFICATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND HIGHWAY LIGHTING on Hawthorne Boulevard at Carson and Emerald Streets, and at Torrance Boulevard. Recommended appropriation of an additional \$3,020 out of 2106 Gas Tax Funds to cover City's share of cost. Recommended for approval by Traffic and Lighting Department.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendation of approval by Traffic Engineering Assistant. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

18. ORDINANCE regulating Transfers and Reassignments.

Withdrawn.

FISCAL MATTERS:

19. 1968-69 Capital Improvement Program. Recommendations submitted by Finance Director.

The effect of the emergency presented by the rain storm (and the necessary and unforeseen expenditure of funds) on the Capital Improvement Program was discussed at some length. Assistant City Manager Scharfman clarified that Council approval of the program in principle only was requested; specific approval of individual projects will return to Council from time to time.

Mayor Isen referred to Information Item D - a communication from the League of Women Voters relative to a joint powers agreement for the financing of the City Hall addition and other Civic Center improvements - and commented that the various ways of financing these projects have never been reviewed; when such review is undertaken, interested parties may avail themselves of that information and it will certainly be as open as any other type of projects or activities that this Council engages in. Mayor Isen recommended that it be called to the attention of the League president that there is, as yet, no plan.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the 1968-69 Capital Improvement Program be adopted, with the understanding that the Council will approve each item as it comes up. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Discussion on the motion followed.

It was the comment of Councilman Johnson regarding the League communication, that it was their intent to point out the need for public information on joint powers agreement financing, presuming this is the way the City will go. Certainly when the ultimate decision is made, Mr. Johnson continued, it should be open and public with a complete explanation as to how the plan selected will work. Councilman Johnson added that in view of the relative newness of joint powers agreement financing, a general explanation by Staff might be in order.

Councilman Miller requested that all available information on joint powers agreement financing be furnished him by Staff.

Mrs. Donald Meade, 139 Paseo de Gracia, spoke at this time, stating that it seems the intent of the League letter was misunderstood inasmuch as the League does know what a joint powers agreement is, and are preparing a fact sheet for their membership. Their concern is for the public information, noting that the Council has taken action of an intent to form a joint powers agreement with Los Angeles County. (Interrupting at this point, Mayor Isen clarified that there had been a Resolution but not as to any specific project.) Mrs. Meade added that the public does not always attend Council meetings where such matters are discussed, and that some positive effort on the part of the Council to inform the public is necessary, as suggested in the letter.

Roll call vote on the motion was unanimously favorable.

20. RESOLUTION authorizing appropriate Officers of Los Angeles County to cancel taxes and assessments of the City.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO CANCEL TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS OF THE CITY.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-20. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

21. ORDINANCE NO. 1944.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Moss presented for its second reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1944

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 93.2.28 OF DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "SANITARIUMS AND HOMES" TO DECREASE THE PARKING SPACES REQUIRED THEREFOR.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1944 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

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

22. ORDINANCE NO. 1945.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Moss presented for its second reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1945

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8, CHAPTER 13, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING THE YOUTH WELFARE COMMISSION.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1945 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

23. EMERGENCY FLOOD CONTROL PURCHASES FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:

The following emergency purchases were made after Friday, January 24, 1969, in order to combat flood waters resulting from the heavy rainfall:

1. \$2625.00 to Santa Fe Bag Company for 20,000 (50 lb.) sand bags delivered on an emergency basis.
2. \$315.00 to the H.L. Swift Company for the purchase of 600 feet of 3½" used fire hose - delivered.
3. \$2000.00 to the Redi-Rain Manufacturing Company for 110 only 30-foot lengths of aluminum pipe - delivered.
4. \$1575.00 to Essicks Manufacturing Company for one only New Pump, gas driven - delivered.
5. \$674.63 to Kelly Pipe Company for 500-feet of 4-inch 12-gauge steel pipe with couplings - delivered.
6. \$499.80 to Blinker-Lite Supply Company for 100 only barricade flashing unit replacement circuits.
7. \$113.40 to San Pedro Rental for the rental of 600 ft. of 2½" fire hose.
8. \$189.00 to Essicks Manufacturing Company for the rental of one only water pump - 4-inch - delivered.

9. \$75.00 to Evans Pump Equipment Company for the rental of one only water pump -4 inch.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the approval of emergency purchases, items #1 through #9. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried as follows:

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

ADDENDUM:

24. RESOLUTION requesting the Board of Supervisors provide for the expansion of the services of the Sheriff's Crime Laboratory so that the Torrance Police Department and its legal staff can adequately combat crime in this City. Submitted with cover letter by City Attorney.

The subject material has been presented at the request of Councilman Uerkwitz in an attempt to expedite this urgent matter of concern; Mr. Uerkwitz then outlined the problems confronted in getting material back from the Crime Lab, and the need for support from this Council in the expansion of such services.

Chief Koenig confirmed his approval of such action.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICES OF THE SHERIFF'S CRIME LABORATORY SO THAT THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ITS LEGAL STAFF CAN ADEQUATELY COMBAT CRIME IN THIS CITY.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-21. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Isen recalled efforts put forth some ten years ago regarding the fact that County unincorporated areas were not bearing their share of the load, with independent cities paying more than their just share in combatting crime by contract; the hassle continues, and, in Mayor Isen's opinion, the subject problem is directly related. He would agree that the problem is County-wide in magnitude, and rightfully within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department and the Board of Supervisors. It would be Mayor Isen's suggestion that a just per capita tax to tackle this problem be brought about equitably, levied by the County for this purpose, and to include County areas and independent

and contract cities, concluding with the comment that here is a problem that must be cured, it takes money, and Torrance would be willing to pay to bring about the right results.

25. RESOLUTION requesting the Legislature of the State of California to immediately initiate legislation to provide for effective relief and tax reform for the property owners of the State of California. Submitted with cover letter by City Attorney.

The need for the initiation of legislation described in the subject resolution was outlined by Councilman Johnson, along with the value of presenting such a resolution in Sacramento on the Council's scheduled trip there next week

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO IMMEDIATELY INITIATE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE RELIEF AND TAX REFORM FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-22. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

26. RESOLUTION requesting the Los Angeles Flood Control District to expedite the construction of bond issue storm drains to drain the South Torrance area.

Advancement of the schedule as much as possible was urged by Councilman Johnson, the subject resolution conveying the feeling of the Council.

At the suggestion of Acting City Engineer Weaver, the following correction in the resolution was requested: Add to the last "WHEREAS:the plans for project 8101 have been completed by the City of Torrance but not by the City of Los Angeles."

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE LOS ANGELES FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT TO EXPEDITE THE CONSTRUCTION OF BOND ISSUE STORM DRAINS TO DRAIN THE SOUTH TORRANCE AREA.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-23. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was the suggestion of Mayor Isen, in connection with the forthcoming trip to Sacramento, that there also be put together a packet relative to matters where cooperation from the Board of Supervisors is desired; the fine relationship between the Board of Supervisors and the City of Torrance was acknowledged by Mayor Isen, and it is his hope that perhaps in the not too distant future an agenda could be prepared for a Tuesday morning Board meeting to let them know of Torrance's interest and concern regarding many of these projects.

Councilman Beasley was in agreement with the remarks of Mayor Isen, adding that the time is approaching when it is going to be necessary to establish priorities for funds requested.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

27. City Attorney Remelmeyer advised, in reference to the City being named a defendant by the South Bay Hospital District in a suit which constitutes an injunction against the City, Ray Watt, and the City of Redondo Beach because of the construction of Flagler Lane in the Watt tract that the subject property has been inspected by the City Engineer and City Attorney. A temporary restraining order has been issued against the City and the Watt Company against continuing with the project until the judge hears the matter on February 6th.

28. Councilman Miller reported his understanding that legislation had been introduced in Sacramento this date instructing the Assessor's office to reassess all properties damaged by the storm and that property taxes be lowered accordingly, such reassessment to take place prior to March 1, 1969. Councilman Miller requested that the City Attorney bring a resolution to the Council as soon as possible supporting this legislative action. There were no objections, and City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that he would direct the resolution to both the Legislature and the Assessor.

29. Concern regarding the oil seepage which appeared with the flooding was expressed by Councilman Sciarrotta; Assistant City Manager Scharfman advised that this is a matter Staff is working on with the oil companies in arriving at a solution. The pumping at the 235th Street sump was clarified by Assistant City Manager Scharfman, at Councilman Sciarrotta's request. It further seemed to Councilman Sciarrotta that the need for transporting students to schools during the storm would be a valuable matter for study by the Civil Defense Commission.

30. Disenchantment with progress and nature of the improvement of the oil wells in South Torrance was expressed by Councilman Miller. The accomplishments to date, plus the information that the deadline for operating permits is March 1st and the improvements will necessarily have to have been made, were explained by Assistant City Manager Scharfman and Building Superintendent McKinnon. Councilman

Miller reiterated his displeasure at what has (or has not) happened, and predicted that the residents will return to express their dissatisfaction to this Council.

31. Adding to the earlier discussion pertaining to the 235th Street Sump during the storm, Councilman Uerkwitz detailed the super effort that went into trying to control the unending water -- Mr. Uerkwitz recommended that sufficient aluminum pipe be provided to pump across the top of the hill, in case this happens again.

32. Councilman Uerkwitz further recommended that the Civil Defense Commission undertake a study and recommendation as to the establishment of a centralized report center in the City of Torrance. Assistant City Manager Scharfman advised that Staff had met this date on this same matter and a group of department heads have been assigned the task of coming up with a plan -- as to the Civil Defense Commission itself they have for some time been studying a draft of a complete defense and disaster plan, which will eventually be before the Council with their recommendation. Councilman Uerkwitz will then look to administration for reports on such a plan.

33. Another communication need was noted by Councilman Wilson -- the two letters appearing on this agenda highlight: the need for communicating with the League of Women Voters and the Charter Review Committee -- looking to the future and hoped-for improvements such as the proposed newsletter and the auditorium which will aid in the dissemination of needed information.

With specific reference to the communication from the Charter Review Committee (Information Item E), Councilman Wilson stated that this Committee, as the League, is pleading for some recognition and for some opportunity to communicate with the Council. Looking back, it is Councilman Wilson's feeling that the Council did act hastily -- the Charter Review Committee spent many hours involving many people and undoubtedly have much information that the Council should know about and could use -- and one way to right the wrong, in his opinion, administered to this group would be to make the Charter Review Committee a legal entity rather than going about their work on an illegal basis. It is further felt by Councilman Wilson that it reflects upon the whole philosophy of this Council if an organization which had Council blessing in the beginning, then all of a sudden cut short, and places the Council in a very embarrassing position as a group; there is very little justification for the action taken; it is, therefore, his request that the Council reconsider its action and again institute this Committee as the legal arm of the Council, with the Council committee on Charter Review working with this group in a way that would be constructive and of benefit to the City.

The matter of good relationships, regardless of the group, for the benefit of the City was deemed of great importance by Councilman Miller. He pointed out that the material submitted by the Charter Review Committee as their first tentative draft -- wherein Mr. Miller had many disagreements, were that the final form -- and feels they are deserving of support and encouragement for a rather courageous action in their intent to continue working

on a private basis. Such stands sometimes become unpopular, Councilman Miller continued, in certain segments of the community because it hits "the establishment"; there being further concern as to the wisdom of the Council to arbitrarily cut off in midstream any free flow of information -- just because one does not like what they are saying is not enough to stop the proceedings, particularly in view of the fact that the Council, as elected officials, control the final decision, there being no question as to the Council's power to do this.

His recollection of the original feeling of the Council in this matter was reported by Councilman Miller -- the Council itself took the action that the entire Charter be studied, hence the Charter Review Committee followed the instructions of the Council. It is awesome to contemplate, Mr. Miller further stated, that the Council can use the power entrusted to them, as to what comes next -- anytime four Councilmen wish to stop a citizens' group from speaking out and being heard to a conclusion. Councilman Miller then stated that he may not necessarily support the conclusions of the Charter Review Committee, but he will support its existence whether it acts within the structure of City government or from without; they must have their right to speak. Were it possible for him to bring up the motion to rescind the previous action he would do so; he urged that one of his colleagues on the other side of the issue recognize the deep rooted meaning represented here, and offer such a motion.

Councilman Sciarrotta stated that the reason he feels it unfair to have stopped the work of the Charter Review Committee is that the best was yet to come -- the final hearings, following weeks of interviewing with educators and concerned people -- and he would have preferred to see the document in its final form before arriving at hasty conclusions. Admittedly the Committee can continue its work, with other avenues open to them to present it to the people -- it would be better for the Council to sanction the Committee, noting that the Council would review the finished product and could revise any objectionable areas.

Councilman Johnson deemed the above discussion somewhat out of order in view of the fact that the Council has already referred this matter to a Council Committee, and the next move would be up to the Council, following the Committee recommendation.

Respect for the opinions of Councilmen Miller and Sciarrotta was expressed by Councilman Beasley -- however, he would call to their attention some things that he feels were in error. First, the Council set up the Charter Review Committee to review the Charter, to see if there were amendments or alterations that should be made -- instead, the Charter Review Committee undertook the rewriting of the Charter rather than the updating of this document. It is the feeling of Councilman Beasley that the existing Charter (which has been declared to be a fine one by many experts) which has guided Torrance through its period of growth has merit; his position remains the same - rewriting the Charter is something that the experts in City government, not lay people, must do; the philosophy must first be determined

and then determine how that philosophy is to be applied -- to do otherwise is to invite problems with the people the losers in the long run.

Mayor Isen commented that two copies of the proposed Charter were mailed to each Councilman, whether the Charter Review Committee deems it official or not, and he will submit to anyone who will read it and compare it with the present Charter that the effect of the proposed draft would be to dynamite City government and retard the City's growth so substantially that it would be hard to know when recovery would come. Mayor Isen disagreed that the Committee was cut off peremptorily -- they had almost two years, interviewing many people and taking very few recommendations; several public hearings were held, with little showing despite the 300 post cards mailed to all the organizations. Further, Mr. Bowman at a Council meeting where he presented a request for additional time and money stated, at Mayor Isen's query, that he did not know how long it might take, perhaps even another year; he also replied in the negative to the question that further study would result in substantial changes. Following that, a majority vote of the Council allowed them six weeks to prepare a finalized draft, if they cared to do so. It seems to Mayor Isen that the Charter Review Committee, admittedly composed of fine people, has been playing games with the Council -- there has been a lot of rhetoric and fancy talk from the Councilmen who would like to have this reopened, but it does not properly add up -- these people, the same as any other group, can study any phase of City government and make recommendations accordingly.

Next noted by Mayor Isen was the fact that the Council was hampered right down the line with what was going on in connection with these studies -- the minutes of August 15th and August 22nd state that Mayor Isen suggested that since the City is so large that six months is too short a probationary period for the heads of departments, that it should be one year, this suggestion being made on August 15th with a request to the City Attorney to prepare an amendment for study containing these things - on August 22nd there was a proposed ordinance, with the statement by Mayor Isen that this is to bring back to the Council something which has already been approved by the Civil Service Commission. Quoting from those minutes, Mayor Isen read: "Councilman Miller recalled the appointment of the Charter Review Committee and the fact that they were given a free hand in the study. He did not think now any political implications should enter into their work nor should there be any interference. There should be strictly a 'hands off' policy on the part of the Council until such time as the Charter Review Committee brings the results of its study to the Council. Under these circumstances, Councilman Miller moved to file this item, and it was so moved." Mayor Isen then stated that the above is typical of the situation as it existed -- the comments have been made for whatever their worth to the members of the Council.

Indulging in quotations, while not verbatim, Councilman Miller recalled that the Mayor's words were: the Charter Review Committee, "let them study the entire Charter, we cannot take Page 1, Page 3, Page 5; they must study the entire Charter in its complete form". Noted then by Councilman Miller was the fact

that the cutoff date came after the first draft - the time having been extended previously - this cutoff date came with the recognition that there were certain thoughts that were not agreeable to some on the Council. Mr. Miller reiterated his earlier comment, that in the final analysis the Council can do what it wants with the recommendations, just as with the Commissions and others-- to run in fear, to be afraid of one's-self and what might happen if the public desired certain segments of this Charter passed is ridiculous.

The discussion closed at this point, with no specific action being taken.

34. The Torrance Irish Club has requested permission to have a parade on March 15th, Mayor Isen advised. City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that it would be necessary for this request to be processed through the License Review Board.

35. Mayor Isen referred to the award given Mr. Ray Watt as "Professional Builder of the Year", and MOVED that a plaque resolution be given Mr. Watt. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

36. In reference to Uniform Mailing, Mayor Isen advised that a new procedure is contemplated, which will be reviewed with Legal to take care of the technicalities - it now appearing that a certain type of petition and amended resolution, the gathering of signatures will be sufficient. In the meantime, Mayor Isen stated that names to work on the Steering Committee would be valuable, particularly people living in the affected areas.

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At 8:48 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council, and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. His motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, and there were no objections.

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Reconvening as City Council at 8:50 P.M. and dispensing with recess, Mayor Isen inquired as to any further business.

37. City Manager Ferraro reported on the homeowners meeting in progress in the Conference Room - comprised of some 50 residents of Marble Estates and Staff members - and advised that the many questions posed by the storm had been answered to their satisfaction, with the residents feeling that the City had done everything possible in this emergency, and an air of goodwill and cooperation in evidence.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

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Vernon W. Coil

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

APPROVED :

Albert I. Sun

Mayor of the City of Torrance