

I N D E XCity Council - April 1, 1969 - 7:00 P.M.

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Adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

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April 1, 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, April 1, 1969, at 7:00 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, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Isen.
Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta (out of town).

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Deputy Attorney Smith, City Treasurer Rupert, and City Clerk Coil.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mrs. Edith Keller, a City employee with thirty years of service, led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by City Clerk Coil.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of March 25th not yet received.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

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

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 Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta).

PRESENTATIONS:8. PRESENTATION of Service Pin Awards to City Employees.

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Isen congratulated the many City employees present to receive tokens for their years of service with the City, and commended them for their loyalty, honorable service, and dedication to duty.

Particularly noteworthy were the 30-year service records of Mrs. Edith Keller and Mr. Cecil Powell, both of the Water Department. Mayor Isen bestowed gold watches, properly engraved, to each of them, along with the good wishes and sincere congratulations of the Council.

* * * *

A five-minute recess followed this ceremony, the hour being 5:45 P.M.

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On resumption of the meeting, Mayor Isen gave a brief explanation of Council procedure for those in attendance at a Council meeting for the first time.

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NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

9. CLAIM of Tom A. Cramer for vehicle damage on February 12, 1969 at Crenshaw and 190th Street. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
10. CLAIM of Saturn Manufacturing Company for vehicle damage on February 17, 1969 at Crenshaw Boulevard, north of Dominguez. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
11. CLAIM of Haddco Inspection Lab., Haddad Drilling Company, a partnership, for flood damage on January 20, 1969 at 2420 Amsler Street, Torrance. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

on

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that/Items #9, #10, and #11 there be concurrence with the recommendation of the City Clerk. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

Councilman Johnson noted that Item #9 appears deserving of the short cut method of handling these matters; Deputy Attorney Smith will check.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

12. APPEAL OF S 69-5, LEO F.X. SALISBURY. Request for an oversize pole sign on property located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Spencer Street. Denied by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Salisbury had not yet arrived at the meeting, and the matter was held until later.

13. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 25836, DAN E. BUTCHER, Subdivider; LANCO ENGINEERING, Engineers. This is a six-lot tract located between 235th Place approximately 165 feet westerly of Cabrillo Avenue. Recommended for approval by Planning Commission, subject to conditions.

Mayor Isen inquired if anyone wished to be heard on this matter. Responding was Mr. Vic Overman, Lanco Engineering, who stated that he was present to answer any questions the Council might have.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Johnson. (May have a financial interest).
Mayor Isen. (Possible legal employment
pending).

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sciarrotta.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

14. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 30283: Request of Lanco Land Consultants and Civil Engineers for one-year extension to record. Recommendation of Acting City Engineer that request be granted.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer. His motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

15. RESOLUTION recommending approval of and authorizing installation of 2-HOUR PARKING SIGNS on the south side of Monterey Street between Fern Avenue and a point 155 feet west of Date Avenue.

Responding to Mayor Isen's invitation to anyone wishing to speak was Mr. Charles Updike, 2316 West 185th Street, representing Postmaster Backlund, who outlined the hardships for postal employees that would result with such limited parking. The needs of the adjacent A.J. Bayer Company were reviewed as well.

It was the recommendation of Mayor Isen that Traffic Engineer Horkay get with Mr. Updike and Mr. Bayer and that an attempt be made to work this matter out, to be returned to the agenda in three weeks. Councilman Johnson so MOVED, this item to be returned on April 22nd. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and there were no objections.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

16. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - Salary Survey.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Salary Survey. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

FISCAL MATTERS:

17. PURCHASE OF RENTAL FIRE HOSE FROM SAN PEDRO RENTALS.
600 ft. of 2½" fire hose at \$939 total price.

The method and cost of handling this transaction was discussed by the Council, and it was generally agreed that further negotiation would be in order.

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved that Item #17 be referred to the City Manager for negotiation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

18. BUDGETED, REIMBURSABLE AND SPECIAL EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$300. Submitted for Council approval.

A. BUDGETED:

1. \$831.71 to Econolite Corporation for two replacement traffic signals knocked down at 190th and Crenshaw, and Sepulveda and Crenshaw intersections. This is a request by the Traffic and Lighting Department and is a factory direct purchase.
2. \$476.96 to Freeway Truck Company for parts and labor in repairing a downed rubbish truck differential assembly.
3. \$556.08 to Moore Business Forms, Inc. for 40,000 "final notice" cards on water-rubbish overdue bills requested by the Customer Services Division for use in notifying residents of their past due bills.
4. \$600.00 to Standard Carriage for partial repainting three City Buses #343, 344 and 345, as requested by the Bus Department.
5. \$330.89 to Jamison, Inc. for 36 swing seats and 96 swing hooks and bearings needed for refurbishing City park swings, as requested by the Recreation Department.
6. \$642.60 to GMC Truck and Coach for 30 miscellaneous GMC City bus parts requested by the City Garage.

7. \$491.40 to IBM for one only IBM electric typewriter requested by the Personnel Department.

B. REIMBURSABLE ITEMS:

8. \$2447.03 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for two 8" water flow detector checks designed from Los Angeles City specifications; one 3" and one 2" water meters with check valves (bronze case) designed from Torrance specifications. This material is requested by the Water Department for use at the:

Torino Construction Company,
ABCO Construction Company, and
South Bay Theatre.

Payment has already been received from these companies for this expenditure.

9. \$1238.66 to Pacific States for 272 feet of 10" pipe plus miscellaneous parts needed to provide water service at the South Bay Theatre as requested by the Water Department. Payment has been received for this expenditure from the theatre owners.

C. SPECIAL EXPENDITURES - CITY LIBRARY:

10. \$566.61 to Western Bookbinding Company for 374 paperback books.
11. \$1293.13 to West-State Books for 207 adult books.
12. \$322.30 to G.P. Putnam's Sons for 48 adult books.
13. \$817.04 to Campbell and Hall for 76 adult and 80 juvenile books.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director for approval. His motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sciarrotta.

PARK AND RECREATION:

19. LA CARRETERA PARK GAME COURT. Recommendation of Director of Recreation and the Park and Recreation Commission that money previously allocated for playground equipment be used to construct a game court, with any surplus to be used in equipping the small children's playground area.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Director of Recreation and the Park and Recreation Commission, and that the appropriation in the amount of \$9,100 previously made for playground equipment be used to construct a game court, with any surplus to be used in equipping the small children's playground area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

BUS SYSTEM:

20. RESOLUTION re: Application to Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, for funds under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. (Resubmitted)

Councilman Uerkwitz advised that he has checked the statistics on the bus situation -- noting that no one would like to have 20 brand new buses more than he would -- but he has some reservations about the quantity of 20, as well as whether or not it is wise to put \$887,000 into this kind of a project at this time. Outlined by Councilman Uerkwitz was the light use of the buses, with there being no appreciable increase in revenue; Mr. Uerkwitz acknowledged that one of the big hopes for the bus line is the proposed flyer line to the airport but pointed out that it is not known at this time how many buses will be required, and there is a need to be realistic before undertaking a step of this magnitude.

It was felt by Councilman Wilson that there is a commitment either to operate a legitimate bus line or to otherwise forget the whole matter. If a bus line is to be operated to serve the community then there is a need for the 20 buses; Councilman Wilson also reported of his understanding of the deplorable condition of the buses now in service, with the exception of the three new buses. Further, in Councilman Wilson's opinion, the whole question of transportation needs to be looked into much more thoroughly -- for instance, see exactly what is happening with the RTD routes which he understands have been expanded and are actually in territory that could well be legitimately serviced by Torrance buses; to find out why they are there; what the City can do to establish its own routes which would be more productive than the present routes. Councilman Wilson reiterated that if it is intended to be in the bus business, then the subject proposal represents the means of acquiring 20 buses for the price that would be paid for 4 buses were the City to buy them with City funds.

Agreement with the subject recommendation was expressed by Councilman Johnson, although he is generally opposed to seeking Federal funds, in view of the crying need for good transportation and an acute need to upgrade the Torrance bus lines.

At this point Assistant City Manager Scharfman noted that the Council's policy at this time is to continue the bus lines; if the bus lines are to be continued, new buses are imperative. Mr. Schaffman also reported that mechanical difficulties are mounting and breakdowns are increasingly frequent.

Councilman Beasley reminisced that approximately one year ago this Council was one vote and five minutes from selling the entire line to RTD -- Mr. Beasley then stated that the City will have to undertake to operate the bus system as a public service, recognizing its loss and recognizing that on some lines the average passenger load is about 1½ to 2, with some lines having no reason to exist. Answers to the bus transportation problem statewide, Councilman Beasley continued, are unknown, and all are beset with the same problems. He has reservations as to the recommendation before the Council, knowing that new buses are needed (perhaps not 20), and questions too the picking up of a \$443,000 bill in terms of good for the people of the City of Torrance.

If the buses are to be maintained, Councilman Miller commented, and this has been decreed by the majority of the Council, then the fact must be acknowledged that new buses must be acquired and the most practical manner studied. It would seem to Councilman Miller that the subject grant should be accepted; otherwise where is the money to come from?

Mayor Isen noted all the merits of a bus system -- the fact that it is a public relations agency for the City, the independence of the system, the City being advertised wherever they go, and many, many indirect benefits. It seems to Mayor Isen that new buses are mandatory, who commented too on the fine quality of the three new buses, and his feeling that with the imagination presently going into the bus lines there will result a line operating out of the red.

It seemed to Mayor Isen also that there is a "bogey-man" atmosphere simply because of the application for Federal funds -- the Act has been checked very closely by him, and he pointed out two sections: Section 1602 which provides that control is with the applicant (in this case, the City); and Section 1608 pertaining to regulation. Mayor Isen commented as well on the tax-conscious citizen as April 15th approaches, and noted that the money provided by the subject Act belongs to the people of Torrance, and he can see no strings attached -- over and over again this Council has stated that they would not vote "no" for Federal funds pertaining to the Police or Fire Department; a unfortunate experience in another area of Federal funding should only serve to make the Council wary of other types of Federal grants, the subject application being under a completely different section and a different set of rules which has his whole-hearted approval and the only way to go if a truly modern transportation system is desired.

Councilman Uerkwitz clarified that he is aware that there is an obligation to some people in the City of Torrance to provide bus service -- it is his thought that there should be a more businesslike approach to the number of buses, that the need and number be established. Mr. Uerkwitz called attention to Section 1602 of the Act ".....provided that the Secretary of Commerce is authorized and directed to investigate and study the feasibility of imposing taxes on those transit and commuter systems which are the beneficiaries of the Federal Financial Assistance under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 for the purpose of raising revenues to defray Federal expenditures under such Act." This would indicate to Mr. Uerkwitz that the Urban Mass Transportation System will be taxed by someone other than the City, and that there is a need for further investigation. Of further concern to Councilman Uerkwitz is the expenditure of \$440,000+ without some statistics to support the likely return of such an expenditure.

Representing the Bus Department, Mr. Marvin Anderson advised the Council that nearby communities who have availed themselves of the Grant have built up their revenue to the point where they are making money. Mr. Anderson also described the plight of the Torrance buses -- with some of the buses 18 to 19 years old and 850,000 miles; there is no other equipment in the City of Torrance required to run that far for the City. There are approximately 13 buses that should be replaced as soon as possible, and the proposed airport run would require 4 buses and a spare in case of breakdown; very close to the 20 buses requested, and the need is acute and immediate.

Mayor Isen further called attention to Section 1603 of the Act which states "...such program shall encourage to the maximum extent feasible the participation of private enterprise." It was the Mayor's comment that, in one field, he would be very much in favor of regional transportation by bus; it has to come and is the economic way - however, the lines should not duplicate each other but should connect with transfers, etc. to provide Countywide bus service.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FOR A GRANT UNDER THE URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1964.

Councilman Beasley moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-62. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, carried as follows:

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

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At 6:31 P.M. Councilman Uerkwitz moved to recess as City Council, reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency, followed by a general 10-minute recess at 6:32 P.M. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved.

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On resumption of the meeting, the Council returned to:

12. APPEAL OF S 69-5, LEO F.X. SALISBURY.

Mr. Salisbury had arrived at the meeting, and at this time indicated his willingness to limit his proposed signing to the 1½ to 1 ratio now favored by the Council.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved for the approval of S 69-5, with a ratio of 1½ to 1 for the proposed pole sign, and that all other signs be removed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta).

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

21. RESOLUTION authorizing and directing the Chief of Police to destroy certain City records and documents pursuant to the government code of the State of California.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-63

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

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-63. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta).

22. ORDINANCE adding Sections 95.3.24 to the Torrance Municipal Code providing for automobile, truck, motorcycle, trailer and boat repair facilities, and 95.3.25, providing for automobile, truck, motorcycle, and trailer sales agencies and amending Section 95.3.15 service stations thereof.

This item was withdrawn, at the request of Deputy Attorney Smith, for technical reasons.

23. Re: 232nd Street.

Heard later in the meeting.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

24. ORDINANCE NO. 1957.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1957

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 43.2.8 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SPECIFICATIONS FOR REFUSE RECEPTACLES.

Councilman Miller moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1957 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta).

25. ORDINANCE NO. 1958.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1958

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY WHICH IS LOCATED AT 2517-19-21 WEST CARSON STREET, AND DESCRIBED IN ZONE CHANGE 68-29.

(Mervin Boll & Marguerite Melville)

Councilman Beasley moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1958 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

Mayor Isen referred to recent Planning Commission consideration in reference to paving, etc. on the property described in Ordinance No. 1958, further noting the feeling of some of the Planning Commissioners that the area should be razed -- he then inquired of Planning Director Shartle if he would recommend that the above ordinance be held until this matter is resolved; Mr. Shartle replied in the negative.

26. ORDINANCE NO. 1959.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1959

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING ARTICLE 26 TO DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS THEREFOR.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1959 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

29. INFORMATION ITEM C: Report on Control of Drug and Narcotic Use.

Mr. Stanley Dunn, Chairman of the Youth Welfare Commission, was present to explain three programs under consideration by his Commission: Project South Bay, Project H.O.W., and an adult education program on the dangers of narcotics.

These efforts were warmly commended by Mayor Isen.

Specifically requested for Council approval by Mr. Dunn was the use of the Recreation Center, with a waiver of fee, for some four or five weeks for seminars for Project South Bay, which will, in effect, be sponsored by the Youth Welfare Commission.

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the request for use of the Recreation Center and that the fee be waived. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

30. City Manager Ferraro called the Council's attention to the publicity in the Los Angeles Times regarding the award presented the Del Amo Financial Center for their creative use of cement, which indirectly reflects favorably on the City's Building Department and its Superintendent, Mr. Jack McKinnon.

31. Interest in the relocation of an oil well line on 234th Street westerly of Eshelman was reported by City Manager Ferraro -- a letter has been received from Standard Oil which matter will be on the agenda for April 8th, with meetings underway to resolve the problems surrounding the Peckham property, etc. and, according to Deputy Attorney Smith, hopefully, to be settled in another two to three weeks.

Wilma Schreiber, 2550 Pacific Coast Highway, was present to report her concern for the lowering of the line, in view of the hazards presently represented, and urged that this matter be expedited.

City Manager Ferraro will furnish a report on April 8th.

32. Some improvement in City Attorney Remelmeyer's health was reported by Mr. Ferraro, and the fact that he is now recuperating at home. This news was welcomed by the Council, and the hope for continued improvement was expressed. Mayor Isen commented too on the fact that Deputy Attorney Smith is doing a most commendable job during Mr. Remelmeyer's absence, and it is known that he is functioning under a shortage of personnel handicap.

The Council now returned to:

23. ORDINANCE providing for procedures for the financing and construction of public works (232nd Street) submitted with cover letter dated March 28, 1969 by City Attorney.

Mrs. Betty Ponsford, 2306 West 231st Street, stated that she represents the proponents of the 232nd Street Improvement Project who wish to protest the continuing delays in this street opening. Mrs. Ponsford then referred specifically to the last sentence of the City Attorney's cover letter dated March 28th: "As directed, proceedings will be initiated pursuant to the terms of this ordinance upon its becoming effective." It is not clear to them why the delay -- Resolution No. 69-39, adopted by the Council on February 25, 1969, under the enabling legislation of Emergency Ordinance No. 1952, ordered that a formal written report concerning the proposed improvement of 232nd Street be prepared by the City Engineer, and it was assumed that its preparation would be given top priority, with the Resolution of Intention to closely follow.

In an effort to expedite this matter, Mrs. Ponsford continued, (even though the 230th Place property owners do not have to pay semi-annual installments) the proponents of the 232nd Street Project will agree to pay assessment levies in semi-annual payments, if not paid immediately upon presentation. In return, it is their request that the Council amend Emergency Ordinance No. 1952 to agree with the one in regular form prepared by the City Attorney for Council action at this meeting, in line with Mayor Isen's directive that this be treated as an urgent matter.

Mrs. Ponsford then referred to a request by letter as to information pertaining to the construction of 232nd Street, written by Mrs. Ethel Thomas, 2314 West 231st Street, on March 12th; Mrs. Thomas is unable to be present at this meeting, but she has requested that the Council be informed that a reply has not yet

been forthcoming.

A definite target date for the completion of 232nd Street was then requested by Mrs. Ponsford -- the proponents want to know when the hearing will be held on the formal investigation report, what date has been scheduled for passage of the Resolution of Intention, when will the Resolution of Intention hearing be held?

Further reported by Mrs. Ponsford was the status of the Raphael and Pivovaroff property appraisals, it being the opinion of Deputy Attorney Smith that, if necessary, the appraisals could be updated -- the property owners in her block refuse to pay for unnecessary additional work on the part of Mr. Petrofanis. She added that under the provisions of the Improvement Act of 1911 the City of Torrance cannot purchase the Raphael or Pivovaroff properties or go to court for an order of immediate possession in advance of the hearing of any objections to the Resolution of Intention for the street improvement.

In conclusion, Mrs. Ponsford stated that there is a need for clarification about the boundaries and area of the assessment district the Council is setting up for acquisition of properties needed for 232nd Street access to Arlington Avenue -- in accordance with the principal of benefits, all properties abutting 232nd Street between Arlington and Pennsylvania Avenues will benefit from the construction of 232nd Street, and all of them should be included in the District. As previously stated, it is now desirable to extend the opening of 232nd Street westerly of the Killingsworth properties, and they would appreciate the City's latest thinking on this subject.

The proposed ordinance was then discussed. It was pointed out by Councilman Johnson that if the ground rules, represented by this ordinance, do not specify the needed flexibility to defray payments or in accordance with whatever schedule deemed desirable, then the project resolution will not work within these ground rules.

Mayor's

It was the recommendation that the proposed ordinance be worked out as both a regular ordinance and an emergency ordinance -- in his opinion, however, he feels that it has to be defined definitely in words as to the methods of payment and it cannot be made discretionary.

Deputy Attorney Smith was excused from the meeting at this point to prepare an emergency and regular version of the subject ordinance, it being agreed this would best serve the need.

Mrs. Arnold Johnson, 2277 West 233rd Street, reoutlined the long delay in the opening of 232nd Street, and pointed out that in the opening of 230th Place the City did not stick the property owners there with a 112-page 1911 Assessment District Act, as has happened in this case.

Mayor Isen pointed out the Council's need for reliance on the technicians and administration for guidance in this intricate matter. Mayor Isen then requested that City Manager Ferraro furnish the Council all the material on 230th Place, in view of the repeated :

references to this street, and a need to refresh their recollections in this case.

While awaiting Mr. Smith's return with the ordinances, attention was directed to further ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

33. City Treasurer Rupert referred to the traditional policy of the Torrance City Council to seek means of taxation which would be equitable and widespread and which would relieve the homeowner's tax burden -- in fact, the Council has consistently lowered the general property tax over the years by providing other revenue measures. Torrance led California in the adoption of the cigarette tax, Mr. Rupert continued, which now produces \$650,000 in revenue per year; a transit occupancy tax provides \$37,000 per year; a real estate transfer tax produces \$52,000 annually. Knowing this interest, the City Treasurer has been reviewing new taxation methods that would particularly ease the property tax burden, and has observed other jurisdictions, both in the United States and abroad to see what is being done in this field, and City Treasurer Rupert has successfully located a new concept in taxation in Australia, and it was offered at this time for consideration by this honorable body. (The Council Chambers by now completely quiet, all eyes directed toward our City Treasurer, glistening with hope and expectation.) Australia's successful TOILET TAX was described in eloquent detail -- Mayor Isen moved to refer Mr. Rupert's oral for study; his motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and there were no objections. In the meantime, the audience's expressions of hope turned to horror, and if you are still with me, dear reader, we were all the victims of a diabolic APRIL FOOL plot, cleverly concocted by our illustrious City Treasurer and aided by our Council!

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Understandably, a 10-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Isen at this time, the hour being 7:30 P.M.

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Consideration of Item #23 (232nd Street) resumed:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy Attorney Smith read title and assigned a number to an Emergency Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1960

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1911 AS SET FORTH IN THE STATE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND FURTHER PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COLLECTING ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPERTY ACQUIRED AND WORK PERFORMED UNDER SAID IMPROVEMENT ACT, AND DECLARING THE PRESENCE OF AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Emergency Ordinance No. 1960 at its first and only reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy Attorney Smith assigned a number and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1961

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1911 AS SET FORTH IN THE STATE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND FURTHER PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COLLECTING ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPERTY ACQUIRED AND WORK PERFORMED UNDER SAID IMPROVEMENT ACT AND REPEALING EMERGENCY ORDINANCES NO. 1952 AND NO. 1960 RELATING TO THE SAME MATTER.

Councilman Miller moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 1961 at its first reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

Deputy Attorney Smith then requested authorization to employ an assessment engineer for the purpose of establishing the assessment rolls. Councilman Miller MOVED to concur with the request; his motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

It was then stated by Deputy Attorney Smith that in order to present the Resolution of Intention and to hold the hearing thereunder, the limits and the scope of the work to be done will have to be defined. At the present time, the Council's directions are to open the street as far westerly as the Killingsworth property; it is anticipated, from some of the discussions, that the opening may include more than that. Mr. Smith would like to submit to the Council certain additional provisions for the opening of the street, to be approved, so that they may be incorporated in the notice and Resolution of Intention at the public hearing. There were no objections, and this information will be provided next week. As to the Resolution of Intention, Mr. Smith stated this could be available for the April 22nd meeting.

At Mrs. Johnson's question, Deputy Attorney Smith explained the function of the assessment engineer, one who is qualified to go into court and answer in the event there are any taxpayer suits as to which property is benefitting and by how much. It was the suggestion of Mayor Isen that when the engineer has been obtained that an informal conference be called for the benefit of the interested parties.

34. Mr. Jerry Tarlow, Torrance Jaycee's, extended an invitation to the Council to attend the Miss Torrance Pageant on April 5th at Torrance High School.

27. Re: Assembly Bill 240.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-64

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION REDUCING MUNICIPAL REVENUE SOURCES BY INCREASING CITY CARRIER TAX EXEMPTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE AS ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 240.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-64. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

35. Councilman Johnson referred to the Oil Code Progress Report furnished by Building Superintendent McKinnon, and stated that he feels it extremely important that this Council serve notice on the oil operators that it is intended to enforce the ordinance that has been devised, with a deadline of May 1st for citing those not in compliance with the safety aspects of the ordinance. Mr. Johnson has noted that virtually all the work has stopped, with very little cooperation in evidence.

It was the comment of Mayor Isen that he was somewhat shocked by the reference by the City Attorney to the effect that the beautification and landscaping part of the ordinance was unconstitutional and unenforceable, and that results could only be expected on a voluntary basis. Mayor Isen was of the opinion that it is completely constitutional, and, in any event, such comment does not lend itself to compliance.

Councilman Miller commented that it appears necessary that a firm deadline be set and adhered to -- this situation has been in existence for some 25 years.

It was the further comment of Mayor Isen that the barrel tax, previously considered by the Council, be put on -- adding that compliance is imperative, the beautification is sorely needed and the present situation is disgraceful; if there is not a favorable response by the May 1st date, the City Attorney should be instructed to put in a proper barrel tax.

Councilman Uerkwitz was in agreement that every effort had been made to cooperate with the oil people, and that the need for pressure in order to obtain results is apparent. Councilman Beasley was also in agreement, adding that results can be obtained only by a barrel tax or similar action.

It was Councilman Johnson's recommendation that with the May 1st deadline the area should be reviewed by Staff as rapidly as possible after that date to determine which of the sites are unsafe, with an order of priority and citations to follow accordingly -- the barrel tax should be a matter of separate consideration.

Requested by Mayor Isen was an agenda item at the appropriate time for consideration of the barrel tax, with each of the operators so notified. The Council was in agreement with this suggestion.

Councilman Johnson advised that the League of California Cities is again pursuing the paying quantities for oil wells matter, which would also prove helpful in resolving this problem.

36. Councilman Uerkwitz stated that he would like to refer to the Airport Commission communications received from the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the League of Women Voters recommending a study as to the feasibility of an observation area for interested citizens around the Airport, along perhaps with an obsolete airplane which could be used for educational purposes. Mr. Uerkwitz so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 6:

28. In reference to Senate Bill No. 6, referred back to the Airport Commission for study, Councilman Uerkwitz requested a report from Airport Manager Egan. Mr. Egan stated that the Commission had adopted the Council's resolution in its entirety in opposition of this legislation.

To expedite this matter, it was agreed that the subject resolution be presented at this time, and, at Mayor Isen's request, City Clerk Coil assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 69-65

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 6, AIRPORT HEIGHT ZONE RESTRICTIONS.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-65. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

37. Councilman Wilson commented that it would be wise to look into what is happening in terms of regional planning, particularly in the area of transportation, and asked that administration make a study in terms of all the agencies involved and the representatives from the City to those agencies to determine what effect the City is having on the regional studies, particularly as it relates to RTD. Councilman Wilson further commented on TASC, which the City would have to join if it is to participate in the proposed further refunding to the City of the cost of the buses, as well as the Los Angeles Regional Transportation Study. Such a study by Staff, in Dr. Wilson's opinion, of these various agencies, the representatives thereto, hopefully to effect a coordinated effort and give the City greater voice in determining where the bus routes will be placed, etc.

Concurrence with this suggestion was expressed by Mayor Isen, so long as it remains on the ground. Councilman Wilson added that

comments above encompass total planning in terms of transportation, which would include the ten County airports, and would make the City of Torrance aware and effective in determining, among other things, the bus routes needed; hence the requested Staff study.

Mayor Isen then stated that he is in favor of regional transportation as it applies to bus systems, but he is not in favor of it as pertains to the air -- no "flying buses".

38. The tenth annual Armed Forces Day on May 17th was noted by Mayor Isen, who stated that each year Torrance has been an example to the entire country in a display of patriotism and love of country, and it is his suggestion that this year a further step be taken: That a resolution be passed by this Council, in addition to the proclamation, that this 10th annual observance of Armed Forces Day in Torrance be dedicated to the memory of our late President, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Further, that in connection with the parade on that day, that there be a memorial service on Civic Center at 9:00 A.M., with the public invited as well as the other guests present for this occasion; that General Omar Bradley, the Grand Marshal of the parade and the only remaining Five-Star General in this country, be invited to deliver an eulogy in memory of General Eisenhower. Mayor Isen also recommended that clergy representatives be invited to participate in what could be called a "Prayer for Peace", with the hopeful thought that before the 1970 Armed Forces Day in Torrance this country would have achieved an honorable peace.

MOTION: Mayor Isen moved that this City Council pass a Resolution referring to the observance of the 10th Annual Armed Forces Day in Torrance, and that that day be dedicated to the memory of General Eisenhower. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta.)

39. The new president of the Riviera Homeowners' Association, Mr. James "Scotty" Finlay, 325 Camino de las Colinas, reported that the Executive Committee of the Association had taken action as follows, by way of a motion, duly made and seconded: "Recognizing the invaluable service that Police Chief Walter Koenig has rendered to the City of Torrance, we, the Riviera Homeowners' Association, wholeheartedly urge of the Torrance City Council to make every effort to retain the services of Police Chief Walter Koenig until he reaches the age of 65 years." This action followed lengthy consideration of retirement plans proposed for Safety employees.

Mr. John Haidinger, 4607 Via Corona, further advised that the State Legislature has been contacted in this regard, and reiterated the high regard of Riviera residents for Chief Koenig and the fine job he has done.

Chief Koenig expressed his gratitude for the kind thoughts of the Riviera Homeowners' Association.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

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

APPROVED:

Albert J. ...
Mayor of the City of Torrance

