

I N D E XCity Council - May 6, 1969 - 5:30 P.M.

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Adjourned at 8:10 P.M. to Tuesday, May 13, 1969, 6:30 P.M.

* * * *

May 6, 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, May 6, 1969, at 5:30 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, Wilson, and Mayor Isen. Absent: None.

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

* * * *

El Camino Political Science students in attendance were introduced by Mayor Isen at this time, and:

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the Mayor's request, student Earl Conview led in the salute to the flag.

* * * *

The passing of former Mayor Hugh Sherfey was regretfully announced by Mayor Isen, and his outstanding civic contributions were enumerated, with the request that an appropriate memorial resolution be prepared.

4. INVOCATION:

Serving as Minister for the Month of May, Reverend Father J.A. O'Gormon, St. James Catholic Church, gave the invocation, followed by one minute of silence to the memory of Hugh Sherfey.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Noted by City Clerk Coil was a needed correction to the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22nd: Page 28, Item 66 should be revised to read: "...but more than that an interest has been expressed by the Pueblo Community Club that a type of fiesta activity be tied in with the PARK-PLAYGROUND dedication..." (instead of street dedication).

1. Council Minutes
May 6, 1969

Councilman Sciarrotta then moved that the minutes of the regular meetings of April 22nd (as corrected) and April 29, 1969, as well as the adjourned regular meeting of April 28, 1969 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, seconded by Councilman Johnson, 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 Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

* * * *

Council procedure was briefly defined by Mayor Isen, followed by the introduction of Mr. Ben Haggott, Director, Metropolitan Water District and Water Commissioners Harry Matthews, Harold Todd, and Lowell O'Brien. Mr. Haggott then extended an invitation to the Council to participate in an inspection trip of the State Water Project on July 11, 12, and 13, and described the interesting and informative aspects of the trip. Mayor Isen, on behalf of the Council, expressed appreciation for the invitation, and asked that it include the Water Commission, which met with the approval of all. Councilman Beasley MOVED that the Council and the Water Commission be authorized to attend the subject inspection trip, with appropriate expenses paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

* * * *

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

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

A. BUDGETED ITEMS:

1. \$359.78 to Moore Business Forms for 44,000 sheets of data processing forms requested by the Finance Department.
2. \$330.75 to Green Thumb Gardens for 80 flats of Gazanias and 60 flats of Ivy requested by the Park Department to replace damaged ground cover on Calle Mayor Parkway due to heavy rains this year.

3. \$547.26 to Pacific States for 28 only 4", 6", and 8" water pipe sleeves and adapters requested by the Water Department for "stock as needed".
4. \$588.00 to Calico Rock Milling Company out of Barstow for 40 tons of mined California Gold Rock (gravel size) to be used on the beautification of Anza Avenue Parkway from Torrance Boulevard to Sepulveda Boulevard.
5. \$1139.29 to T.R.N. for an annual contract to provide air conditioning filter replacement service periodically for the various City building air conditioning units as requested by the Building Maintenance Department.
6. \$422.38 to Blake, Moffitt & Towne for 20,000 sheets of Graphic-weave text paper selected to print copies of the "Parks and Playground Summer Brochure", as requested by the Recreation Department.

B. SPECIAL EXPENDITURES - Library Books:

7. \$2221.81 to Campbell & Hall for 324 adult books.
8. \$501.09 to Western Library Service for 120 juvenile books.
9. \$324.82 to G.P. Putnam's Sons for 55 adult books.
10. \$313.64 to Random House Publishing Company, c/o Mr. Joe Grecik, for 12 juvenile and 42 adult books.
11. \$6055.52 to Campbell & Hall, c/o Harry Wilson, for 20 reference and 815 adult books. (This book requirement previously awarded by Council on February 25, 1969 to the Intermountain Book Company but is now being cancelled due to "non-delivery" and therefore a "default" of contract.)

9. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - OIL WELL ABANDONMENT CONTRACT (B69-2)

RECOMMENDATION OF BUILDING AND SAFETY DIRECTOR:

That Council accept the work as complete and satisfactory to the City of Torrance, approve and authorize final payment to be made to Crane and Utterbach, Inc., in the amount of \$2954.00.

10. RELEASE OF OIL WELL BOND #N2441510.

RECOMMENDATION OF LICENSE SUPERVISOR:

That oil well bond #N2441510 (H.B. Betts Oil Company) be terminated.

11. CLAIM of Sherwood Products, Inc. for property damage due to flood waters on January 18-25, 1969, at 2416 Amsler Avenue. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

12. CLAIM of Benjor Products, Inc. for property damage due to flood waters on January 18-25, 1969, at 2414 Amsler Avenue. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendations on Items #8 through 12. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and carried as follows:

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

HEARINGS:

13. WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM - 1969.

RESOLUTION authorizing and instructing the Contractor to abate the nuisance located on or in front of properties in the City as described in Resolution of Intention No. 69-77.

Mayor Isen announced that this is the time and place for the hearing on the Resolution of Intention declaring parcels described in said Resolution to be a public nuisance, and providing for the abatement thereof, inquiring if there were any exceptions.

Acting City Engineer Weaver advised that several letters have been received, and explained the procedure of maintaining a master list, with a later report to the Council on the disposition thereof.

City Clerk Coil presented the Affidavit of Posting and Affidavit of Mailing. Councilman Sciarrotta moved that they be filed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.

Mayor Isen inquired if anyone wished to be heard.

Responding, Mrs. Etta Abegg, 22931 Hawthorne, (Telephone: 375-4588), stated that she has already done the necessary work, and that there is a need to correct the description of the property. This was referred to Acting City Engineer Weaver for appropriate action.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-89

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND INSTRUCTING THE CONTRACTOR TO ABATE THE NUISANCE LOCATED ON OR IN FRONT OF PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS DESCRIBED IN RESOLUTION NO. 69-77.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-89. His motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

14. ORDINANCE amending Article 1 and Article 2 of Chapter 9 of the Code to provide for reduced filing fees when filing two or more Planning applications.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1977

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1 AND ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR REDUCED FILING FEES WHEN FILING TWO OR MORE PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Councilman Miller moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 1977 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

REAL PROPERTY:

15. RESOLUTION authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest agreement between the City and Peckham et al, for the exchange of property.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND PECKHAM ET AL., FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY.

Prior to taking action on the Resolution, Mrs. Betty Ponsford, 2306 West 231st Street, read her letter of May 6, 1969 wherein it is advised that the proponents of the 232nd Street Improvement Project favor execution of the proposed agreement, but calling the attention of the Council that the estimated assessed value of the property proposed to be deeded to Mr. Peckham is \$5,000 -- when this parcel is recombined with the west half of Lot 15, now owned by Mr. Peckham et al, a building site for six future houses will result. In conclusion, Mrs. Ponsford noted that in giving to the Peckhams and Mrs. Day a land parcel which can only appreciate in value during the remaining years of its life as oil producing property, in return for street dedications, the Council will be

setting a precedent which, it is hoped, will be kept in mind in connection with the improvement of other City streets, including 232nd Street, between Arlington and Pennsylvania Avenues.

It was the comment of Assistant City Manager Scharfman that the City is getting more land from Mr. Peckham than is being given him -- in addition, Lot 15 was acquired by the City because of delinquent taxes, with only Mr. Peckham's oil wells on it and unusable by the City; there was no other way the City could use that land other than by buying the wells and other oil facilities from Mr. Peckham. It is true, Mr. Scharfman continued, that Mr. Peckham is getting a larger parcel, and if he wishes to remove the oil facilities then homes could be built there, but it is without value to the City in that sense; the City is getting sorely needed right-of-way to open streets in that area, and something of value in return.

Councilman Johnson pointed out that this was a unique case and should be treated thusly. In concurrence was Councilman Miller who further stated that flooding has been concentrated in this area, and hopefully the development of the additional street will provide some place for the water to flow other than into the homes. It is imperative that some immediate action be taken, Mr. Miller continued, and this apparently is the only way this can be accomplished.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-90. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

16. RESOLUTION authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest agreement between the City and Jesus and Inez Gassett for the purchase of property for the widening of Del Amo Boulevard.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST
THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY
AND JESUS AND INEZ GASSETT FOR THE
PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE WIDENING
OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-91. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Prior to roll call vote, Councilman Johnson confirmed that substandard lots would be entitled to relief.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Miller reported on information that people desiring to improve their homes in the Pueblo area are handicapped by dedication requirements. City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that the dedications

are virtually all accomplished, and construction will be underway in the not too distant future.

17. RESOLUTION authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest agreement between the City and Jose and Jennie Olloque for the purchase of property for the widening of Del Amo Boulevard.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND JOSE AND JENNIE OLLOQUE FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE WIDENING OF DEL AMO BLVD.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-92. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

* * * *

Mayor Isen's Spanish-speaking talents at Guatemala some time ago were noted, which prompted City Treasurer Rupert to advise the Council of the Sister City Tour to Guatemala scheduled for May 29th, and the desire of the Sister City Committee to know if any Councilmen would be taking this trip to serve as official liaison between the cities. The Council was polled as to whom might be able to attend, with Councilman Sciarrotta being the only one able to do so. The matter of funds was next reviewed, with it being generally agreed that this trip should be considered as any other trip and a regular travel expense. No formal action was taken.

* * * *

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

18. RESOLUTION requesting allocation of funds from the Public Utilities Commission to reimburse the City for one-half of its actual cost of upgrading crossing protection at Crenshaw Boulevard, north of Del Amo Boulevard.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-93

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DIRECTING THAT A REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO REIMBURSE THE CITY FROM THE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND FOR ONE-HALF OF ITS ACTUAL COST OF UPGRADING CROSSING PROTECTION AT THE CRENSHAW BOULEVARD CROSSING

OF THE SANTA FE TRACK DESIGNATED AS
CROSSING NO. 2H-20.7-C.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-93. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

19. NOTICE OF COMPLETION-HAWTHORNE BLVD. & BLUFF STREET (B68-36)

RECOMMENDATION OF ASSOCIATE TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

1. That Council accept the project;
2. That Council assess the liquidated damages;
3. That final payment be made to the contractor; and
4. That refund be made to William Harris per agreement of May 27, 1968.

Mayor Isen inquired if anyone was present on this matter; there was no response.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above recommendations of the Associate Traffic Engineer, and that a refund in the amount of \$345.49 be made Mr. Harris. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

20. Allowance for County Service in the calculation of Longevity and vacation benefits for employees who transferred to the City during the Library takeover.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director that the City Council approve a policy that will allow credit for years of county service in the calculation of City longevity and vacation benefits for those county employees who qualified and transferred to City service during the period of the takeover of the library system. Such policy would be retroactive to the date of employment with the City. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Introduced at this time was Sr. Librarian Lois Borman, a County transferee now serving the City Library System.

FISCAL MATTERS:

21. City Attorney submitting letter dated April 24, 1969 recommending approval of payment to Standard Oil Company of California the sum of \$14,500 as the cost of relocating certain pipelines adjacent to 190th Street and as a settlement of the lawsuit titled Standard Oil Company of California vs. the City of Torrance, SWC 9167.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney, as above outlined, such amount a properly reimbursable sum from the Gas Tax Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

PARK AND RECREATION MATTERS:

22. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of Amendment Number I to Agreement for Grant of Money, Columbia Park.

Councilman Uerkwitz questioned the ability of the City to replace lost land with other lands in the immediate vicinity of the project.

Reported by Director of Recreation Van Bellehem was the fact that he contacted HUD in San Francisco and learned that the application is in process for final review and that it will be forwarded to Washington before June 1st, with final action in Washington accomplished within 30 days.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-94

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO AGREEMENT FOR GRANT OF MONEY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1690 STATUTES OF 1963 BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-94. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

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

Relative to their "no" votes it was the comment of Councilman Johnson that he is not in agreement with what is being done with Columbia Park; Councilman Uerkwitz does not believe it is legal.

Mayor Isen commented on his "yes" vote, stating that he voted for the application for the State, and feels he is consistent on this matter because the whole concept now is a County Regional Park, maintained by the County, per his suggestion and which he is firmly in favor of because it affects three or four cities other than Torrance.

The evidence of outstanding cooperation by all agencies, at all levels, was commended by Councilman Miller. Reviewed at this time was Councilman Miller's recommended Barnyard Zoo and its potential asset to the community.

* * * *

At 6:20 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and approval was unanimous. A 10-minute general recess followed at 6:24 P.M.

* * * *

Considered by the Council at this time, out of order:

35. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to General Omar N. Bradley for serving as Grand Marshal of the Tenth Annual Armed Forces Day Parade.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-95

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO GENERAL OF THE ARMY OMAR NELSON BRADLEY FOR SERVING AS GRAND MARSHAL OF THE TENTH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-95. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

36. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to Johnny Grant for his contribution as Master of Ceremonies for the Tenth Annual Armed Forces Day Parade.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-96

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO JOHNNY GRANT FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES AT THE TENTH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-96. His motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

BUS SYSTEM:

23. Progress Report #7, Torrance Transit System.

At the request of City Manager Ferraro, consideration of Item #2, bottom of Page 1, regarding VIP program, was eliminated.

MOTION: Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager and authorize the leasing of four 51-passenger buses at the rate specified from the Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

WATER SYSTEM:

24. Recommendation of Water System Manager that Council defer consideration of Water Commission's recommendation concerning moratorium on contributions to General Fund.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved that this matter be referred to budget study. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS:

25. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of contract for appraisal services for Southeast Torrance Branch Library between the City and Christy J. Petrofanis.

A correction was noted, first paragraph, line three: "...between 231st and 232nd Streets on the west side of Arlington..." (instead of east).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-97

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

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-97. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

26. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to George Morehart, Civil Service Commissioner.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-87

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION TO GEORGE G. MOREHART FOR HIS FAITHFUL AND DILIGENT SERVICE TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-87, to be permaplaqued. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

27. Recommendation of Youth Welfare Commission to continue South Bay Project Quest at Recreation Center through the summer months.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the Youth Welfare Commission. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and there were no objections.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

28. Council Committee report regarding reestablishment of Standing Committee system.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the Committee. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was agreed that committee assignments be considered on Tuesday, May 13th, at 6:30 P.M.

29. Request of Torrance Heights Civic Association for cleaning of area known as "Madrona Swamp".

City Manager Ferraro reported on the preliminary work on this matter, with the County Health Officer, there being no evidence of mosquitoes, although there were a number of similar appearing insects which are not harmful.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that this matter be referred to management for recommendation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and there were no objections.

Mayor Isen requested that Mr. Owen Silverman likewise be advised.

30. RESOLUTION authorizing Attorney General of California to conduct legal proceedings on behalf of the City against certain suppliers of asphaltic petroleum products.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-98

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA TO CONDUCT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AGAINST CERTAIN SUPPLIERS OF ASPHALTIC PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

Councilman Beasley moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-98. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

* * * *

Newly elected School Board member, Mr. Stanley Dunn, arrived at the meeting at this time, and was introduced by Mayor Isen. Discussed at this time was the date for the joint meeting with the Council and the School Board -- May 14th and June 4th having now been suggested. June 5th was the next tentative suggestion; it being agreed that another attempt be made to work out such a joint meeting.

* * * *

PROCLAMATIONS:

31. REALTOR WEEK - May 18-24, 1969.
32. NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - May 11-17, 1969.
(Deemed a Proclamation, rather than Resolution).

Mayor Isen so proclaimed.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

33. ORDINANCE NO. 1974.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1974

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ARTICLE 38 OF CHAPTER 4 OF DIVISION 1, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD ARTICLE 8 WHICH CONSISTS OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND REPEALING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1973.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1974 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

34. ORDINANCE NO. 1976.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1976

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 61.9.2 RELATING TO ESTABLISHED TRUCK ROUTES AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION 61.9.2 THEREFOR.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1976 at its second and final reading. His motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

37. City Manager Ferraro distributed copies of a telegram from Mr. Pete Lacombe requesting that the City Council act as a committee of the whole to review the oil code as it affects Chanslor Western et al, the hardship created thereby, as well as a request to allow more time for compliance if necessary.

At Mayor Isen's question, City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that complaints will be issued starting June 1st, against those owners of wells who do not have fences. Mayor Isen added that action should be taken against the most flagrant violations; he is of the opinion that Mr. Lacombe's clients are more conforming than the others.

Councilman Miller stated that he does not feel another delay is justified -- it is time for action or forget it. In agreement was Councilman Sciarrotta.

City Attorney Remelmeyer stated that he had advised Mr. Lacombe relief from the Council would be necessary -- adding that Mr. Lacombe believes that the fence ordinance should be rewritten; the specifications according to the administrators for the various oil companies they represent believe that the fence ordinance is too severe, that the same results can be obtained with a modified set of specifications in that they would have substantial compliance with them.

Noted by Councilman Uerkwitz was the fact that it is possible to request a variance to make this modification, and it is imperative with the approach of summer and children playing near the oil wells that action be taken.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the subject request be DENIED and proceed with the enforcement of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

Prior to taking action on the motion, discussion resumed. Councilman Miller referred to the many meetings held and the negotiations made on the very thing that is now objected to; now it has become a hardship. Added by Councilman Sciarrotta was the comment that this situation has existed for years, something has now been started, and it should be completed -- the worst offenders will be cited first.

Building and Safety Director McKinnon advised that the list of violators is being compiled at this time and the information is en route to the Prosecutor's office. Councilman Johnson urged that the information be fed the Attorney's office as rapidly as possible; he can see no reason for delay, with the most flagrant violators reported first, which will also furnish a relief pattern for those in substantial compliance. Mr. McKinnon stated that he will not be responsible for a selection of priorities.

Questioned by Councilman Beasley was his understanding that most of the attorneys for clients in this area have advised their clients that the City of Torrance cannot enforce this law except

where a definite safety factor is concerned, and they are, in effect, thumbing their noses because they know it's not enforceable. City Attorney Remelmeyer responded that there is no question about the enforcement of the fence provisions; the only question has related to the landscaping.

Mayor Isen recalled pending discussion on a barrel tax, and was advised by Mr. Remelmeyer that this matter will be before the Council next week.

It was the comment of Councilman Miller that Mr. Lacombe's clients are probably adhering as close to what is desired as anyone, but still not in complete adherence, because they produce the most oil. The people who are doing nothing about this and who are producing hardly any oil, are laughing about the barrel tax -- since it happens that the non-producers are the ones primarily violating the law; the nearly-conforming, producing people are the ones who will be hardest hit.

The variance procedure was next discussed - City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that he had suggested to Mr. Lacombe that he seek a variance, because many of the wells are well fenced but which do not meet fence specifications and which Mr. McKinnon cannot say are in substantial compliance.

Mayor Isen stated that much can be accomplished -- treating everyone equally, in the interest of safety and public health -- and was of the opinion that the courts would extend this to beautification, particularly if it were all tied together -- and suggested that there be an ordinance similar to an involuntary assessment act, perhaps in lieu of a barrel tax, which would give notice of specific things to be done. Failing therein, the City would then do what is necessary, according to certain specifications. There could be relief along this line, Mayor Isen continued, recognizing that it would have to be supplemental to the prosecution, but were it known that there is a different type of procedure in the offing there might be more voluntary compliance.

Reiterated by Councilman Uerkwitz was the variance procedure, as in other cases. Councilman Johnson felt there was great merit in the Mayor's suggestion regarding the suggested ordinance.

A tax in reverse was suggested by Councilman Sciarrotta, which would require a second thought for non-producing wells. Noted by Councilman Beasley was the tax write-off afforded by these wells.

Councilman Uerkwitz' motion to DENY THE REQUEST was unanimously approved.

38. Copies of the sign ordinance were distributed by City Attorney Remelmeyer for study by the Council.

39. Chief Koenig referred to an Opinion just prepared by the City Attorney in reference to Safety Employees' Retirement and his reaction thereto, as well as outlining pending legislation in this regard.

City Manager Ferraro called to the attention of the Council the newly enacted ordinance which requires meeting with management and appropriate employee organization (in this case, TPOA, of which Chief Koenig is a member) where consideration is necessary of any ordinance, rules, regulations, or proposals.

Mayor Isen stated that all that can be done at this time is to refer the matter to City Manager Ferraro and Staff, as per the new ordinance. Mayor Isen further instructed that it be made an agenda item at the earliest possible time.

40. Councilman Johnson reported on the difficulties encountered by Mr. Robert Dunn in recording his tract map on Tentative Tract 30596, outlining the circumstances of the approval and Mr. Dunn's stipulation that he would participate in the 232nd Street Opening. It now develops that it would be necessary to jump over Mr. Killingsworth's property to get to Mr. Dunn, and he cannot participate in the Assessment District because it does not reach him.

Mr. Dunn was also present and reiterated his desire to participate in the Act, and requested the necessary relief so that he may record his tract map.

Discussion followed on the manner of providing such relief. Deputy Attorney Smith stated it has been determined that since the street would not reach his property that he would be required, as a condition of approval of the subdivision map, to bond for the future improvement of the street in front of his property which would, in effect, be participating; it would be necessary to delete the condition and that the bonding, etc. be settled through Staff.

Mrs. Arnold Johnson, 2277 West 233rd Street, referred to Resolution No. 69-75 wherein the boundaries of the District were defined - 231st Street on the north, Arlington Avenue to the east, 233rd Street on the south, and Pennsylvania Avenue on the west; therefore, Mr. Dunn's property is included in said District. This was corrected by Councilman Johnson who pointed out that the final action by the Council defined the District as stopping short of Mr. Killingsworth's property; the rest of 232nd Street is not a part of the District.

At Mayor Isen's question, in despair over the monumental red tape, Mr. Dunn agreed to be bound if he is in the District; if he is not, it doesn't make any difference. Mayor Isen asked that everyone take notice and bring this matter to a finish.

Councilman Johnson reiterated that Mr. Dunn's map be recorded.

41. Relocation of a tennis court -- which will be heard by the Park and Recreation Commission on May 14th - was noted by Councilman Sciarrotta, with a recommendation of Director of Recreation Van Bellehem to follow, so that action may be taken one way or the other.

42. Councilman Uerkwitz referred to Information Item B, the resignation of Mr. Stanley Dunn as Chairman of the Youth Welfare Commission because of his recent election as a trustee of the Torrance Unified School District.

Mr. Uerkwitz then MOVED that the Council acknowledge, regretfully, his resignation, provide the appropriate permaplaque resolution, along with sincere congratulations. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and approval was unanimous.

43. Reporting on the Pueblo Community Homeowners meeting on May 4th, Councilman Wilson stated that it was a most successful meeting, with some 50 very much interested citizens in attendance, with plans underway for a fiesta sometime in the Fall.

Councilman Wilson further commented on the uniqueness of the Pueblo area, both culturally and historically, and requested that Staff investigate the possibility of, perhaps through the Los Angeles County Historical Commission, having this area set aside during the fiesta with a historical landmark.

A MOTION was then made by Councilman Wilson that this be a Council project; the motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and there were no objections.

In disagreement as to the "historical landmark" aspect of the Pueblo area was Mayor Isen, who outlined the early history of Torrance, starting with its formation in 1912, and recalling that the Pueblo did not come into existence until around 1920, followed by financial struggles to hold it together, representing very low cost housing which the people involved wanted. Its qualification as a historical landmark was questioned by Mayor Isen -- as compared with Olvera Street. Nor is it tied in any way, Mayor Isen continued, with Jared Sydney Torrance, adding that his favorite project would be a statue of Mr. Torrance.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved that Staff investigate the historical background of the Pueblo area. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

44. Noted by Mayor Isen was the matter of reporting Commissioner's absences to the Council -- which he labelled further red tape -- and requested that this be discontinued (City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that the ordinance provides that the Commission itself can approve such absences) and that the Commissions be so advised.

45. The lack of a regular inspection program for City-owned traffic signals reported by City Traffic Engineer Horkay, presently relying on the public and Police Department to report malfunctions, was noted by Mayor Isen. Mayor Isen then stated that the time has come for a regular inspection program for all traffic signals. He also alluded to the lack of control of maintenance on 34 traffic signals on State highways, and the fact that to alleviate the situation Mr. Horkay has budgeted an additional Electrician and truck (\$13,538) which the Mayor feels should be in the budget and there won't be any argument over it.

Continuing, Mayor Isen referred to Mr. Horkay's statement that the City could take over the maintenance of all traffic signals on State highways and that by doing this local control would be obtained and be reimbursed by the State for 50% of the cost of the maintenance (\$14,000 per year). Mayor Isen then referred this matter back to the City Manager for review and a report.

46. Mr. Clint Cook, 2724 - 234th Street, chairman of the Manufacturer's Council of the Chamber of Commerce, requested a postponement of the second reading of Ordinance No. 1971 until May 27th, to permit further study.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the request of Mr. Cook and grant the time extension. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections.

With the formation of the Finance Committee of the Council anticipated next Tuesday, Mayor Isen requested that the City Manager arrange a date for mutual discussion with this Committee and Mr. Cook's organization.

47. Mr. Lew Sismondo, 1974 West 235th Street, representing the Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, expressed appreciation for the discussion and action taken at this meeting on the oil well ordinance; it has been a long time coming, and they will be grateful for anything that can be done.

* * * *

At 7:55 P.M. the Council recessed to a personnel session requested by the City Attorney for the purpose of legal advice, on a motion by Councilman Sciarrotta, which was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and approved unanimously. Mayor Isen announced that on reconvening no business would be transacted, only that of formally adjourning.

Reconvening at 8:10 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta then moved to adjourn to Tuesday, May 13, 1969, at 6:30 P.M. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, and approval was unanimous.

* * * *

Vernon W. Coil

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

Albert J. Jans

Mayor of the City of Torrance

