

I N D E XSpecial MeetingCity Council - October 23, 1970

<u>SUBJECT:</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order	1
2. Roll Call	1
3. Dispensation with Regular Order of Business	1
4. Contract for Consultant for Survey of Park and Recreation Facilities and other areas of City's Capital Improvement Programs	1-4

Resolution No. 70-215

Adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute SecretaryCity Council
October 23, 1970

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a Special Meeting on Friday, October 23, 1970, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilman Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Absent: Councilman Surber (illness).

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Clerk Coil.

3. DISPENSATION WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to dispense with the regular order of business. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Surber absent).

4. PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Mayor Miller announced that this Special Meeting of the City Council has been called for the purpose of expediting a contract between the City and Griffenhagen-Kroeger, Inc. relative to a survey of park and recreation facilities and other areas of the City's Capital Improvement Programs.

City Clerk Coil, at the request of the Mayor, assigned a number and read title to the resolution prepared in this regard:

RESOLUTION NO. 70-215

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND GRIFFENHAGEN-KROEGER, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETAINING GRIFFENHAGEN-KROEGER, INC. AS A CONSULTANT TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND INCLUDING A SURVEY OF OTHER AREAS OF THE CITY'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-215. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson.

1. City Council
October 23, 1970

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, Councilman Uerkwitz noted that the area of the survey has not been specifically outlined -- he would hope that the schools could be included at a later date, for one thing.

It was explained by Administrative Specialist Mike Stetson, at the request of City Attorney Remelmeyer, that there is some debate relative to the scope of the survey -- the Bond Steering Committee decided that this would be primarily a recreation-oriented program and would take into consideration other areas of the City's Capital Improvement Program only insofar as they related to the City's ability to finance future recreation and park improvements.

Roll call vote on Councilman Wilson's motion to adopt Resolution No. 70-215 was unanimously favorable (Councilman Surber absent).

Calls from Bond Steering Committee members indicating a desire for clarification as to their role in this undertaking was reported by Mayor Miller -- the Mayor then stated that an expression from each of the Councilmen in this regard at this time would be of great value to the Bond Steering Committee. Their comments follow:

To start the discussion, Mayor Miller stated his feeling that this "ball of wax" was turned over to the Committee for their recommendations in all areas of the bond issue -- the Committee to return to the Council, with the Council to decide what is desired and what is not desired, reports to be on a periodic basis.

Councilman Wilson inquired as to the part to be played by the Council Parks and Recreation Committee in this endeavor, it being agreed that Steering Committee recommendations would first be presented to the entire Council, with referral to this Council Committee, if necessary.

It was the comment of Councilman Sciarrotta that he feels the Bond Steering Committee is well acquainted with what is being sought, plus the fact that a consultant is being hired to provide proper direction.

Properly the function of the Bond Steering Committee, according to Councilman Uerkwitz, would be to put together the package from a lay point of view; in the process of putting the package together, the Council should be informed -- difficulties befall committees who wander away only to find that they are out of step with policy, etc. Mr. Uerkwitz further stated that he sees the Steering Committee going somewhat further-- at the adoption of the bond policy, the Committee would continue to operate on the basis of selling the bond, since at this point the Bond Steering Committee would be well versed in the location of the best areas to publicize, etc.

The next step, in Councilman Johnson's opinion, would be a meeting between the Bond Steering Committee, Staff and the consultant with general discussion as to what is being sought, with the City Manager carrying the ball in terms of direction. Modification may be necessary from time to time before presentation to Council -- once a generalized conclusion has been reached, Council review would be appropriate in order to obtain a recommendation for an overall course of action.

Once the procedure is adopted, Councilman Johnson continued, certainly the Steering Committee should stay in force to help the plan from a lay point of view for the selling of the bond -- it is a long range program, representing a lot of work, but it can be done with the help represented by the Committee.

Councilman Uerkwitz indicated that it had not been his understanding that the Bond Issue would be limited strictly to recreation, but would be, rather, a Capital Improvement-type Bond Issue. A lengthy discussion ensued on the scope of the proposed Bond Issue, with City Attorney Remelmeyer pointing out that the contract is limited to park and recreation facility study. Mr. Remelmeyer added that were sewers and storm drains to be a part of this, Griffenhagen-Kroeger would not do basic engineering studies -- this would have to be done by registered engineers and other qualified people.

Mr. Dean Cole spoke at this time, recalling the initial meeting of the Bond Steering Committee wherein it was agreed that the Committee would take a real hard look at park and recreation needs, with a look as well at a fire station and the City Yard period. Since that date meetings have been held, with discussion centered on park and recreation needs, or any related needs -- it being understood that this will be the consideration of the consultant, with his findings to be reported to the Council. Limited feedback, according to Mr. Cole, indicates that chances of selling the bond as a park and recreation issue, without including anything else, are much better.

Mr. Lee Weber, Senior Consultant, Griffenhagen-Kroeger, Inc., stated that they will be taking an overall look from a financial standpoint and will be looking at cost estimates provided by the City, the Capital Improvements and other documents to be furnished -- further, they do intend to look at alternate sources of financing, which certainly has a bearing on any bond issue contemplated.

Added by Mr. Weber was their intent to furnish the City with opinions, priorities, and define what is needed as the result of an in-depth survey of recreational facilities -- there will also be a comprehensive financial review of other proposed capital improvements; to furnish priorities, however, would require in-depth study of these areas. Mr. Weber further confirmed that his firm would also look at alternate sources of financing for Capital Improvement Projects which appear to be very pressing inasmuch as the method of financing would affect any proposed bond issue.

City Manager Ferraro inquired of Mr. Weber as to whether or not he had read the contract, and as a representative of the contractor, did he have any reservations regarding same -- Mr. Weber indicated that he had not yet had an opportunity to do so. It was then pointed out by City Attorney Remelmeyer that the contract is not with Mr. Weber, but, rather, with Griffenhagen-Kroeger, Inc., and whatever is written in this contract is what they are going to do -- there has been considerable research as to what this contract is going to be about because of the several theories in existence; the determination has been made and the contract has been written as best it could in line with what the Steering Committee had in mind.

Vernon W. Coil

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

APPROVED:

Ken Miller

Mayor of the City of Torrance