

I N D E XCity Council - June 24, 1971

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Adjourned at 5:20 P.M. to June 29, 1971, 5:30 P.M.

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 24, 1971, in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Councilman Brewster, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Surber arrived at 4:15 P.M.; Councilman Wilson at 4:20 P.M. Absent: Councilman Johnson.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Miller, Mr. Hansen led in the salute to the flag.

4. DISPENSATION WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Councilman Brewster moved to dispense with the regular order of business. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

FISCAL MATTERS:

- 5. RESOLUTION requesting that Public Employees' Retirement System defer City's rate increase under 1/50 retirement formula to July 1, 1972.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE INCREASED EMPLOYER RATE UNDER THE RETIREMENT PLAN AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL 249 BE DEFERRED TO JULY 1, 1972.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 71-139, and his motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster.

There was clarification by Assistant City Manager Scharfman re: the subject resolution, and by the City's insurance broker, Mr. William Brady, pertaining to the City's liability insurance policy.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Johnson).

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PERSONNEL MATTERS:6. BUDGET CHANGES.RECOMMENDATION OF ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER:

That the Council concur in budget changes for the abolishment of certain unfilled positions and the establishment in lieu thereof of positions of lower classifications. (Per communication of June 24, 1971).

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the above recommendation of the Assistant to the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Johnson absent).

7. ORDINANCE AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - Torrance City Employees Association.

Assistant to the City Manager Jackson advised that the following revisions have been made: Added the words "to work" to the last sentence on Page 6; added the class of Sr. Zoning Enforcement Officer; deleted two classes erroneously indicated.

ORDINANCE NO. 2241

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING PART VI OF CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AND ADDING A NEW PART VI TO CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE SAME SUBJECT.

Councilman Wilson moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2241, as above revised, at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Johnson absent).

8. 1971-72 BUDGET:

Mayor Miller invited those desiring to speak to do so at this time.

The first matter reviewed was the proposed 10% entertainment tax. The dire straits of the motion picture industry, and the adverse economic impact to motion picture theatres by such a tax, were extensively discussed by Mr. Bruce Corwin, President, National Association of Theatre Owners of Southern California; Mr. Matt Appleman, Rolling Hills Theatre; and Mr. Robert Selig, Torrance Drive-In Theatre.

Considered by the Council were the merits of an increased license fee per employee, rather than the suggested tax; the discriminatory aspect of the proposed entertainment tax; and the financial effect of the elimination of two unfilled positions.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to eliminate the 10% entertainment tax, with the understanding that the license fee would be along the lines of \$65 and \$13. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilman Johnson).

Excavation Tax - Quarry Operations:

Mr. John Robertson, vice president, Chandler's Sand and Gravel, reported that this industry in cities with a similar tax have a tax of 1¢ per ton -- the proposed 2¢ tax would place his company in an unfair competitive position. There was consideration of this request by the Council, and the request was deemed reasonable and workable. Mayor Miller thereupon MOVED that the Excavation Tax be reduced to 1¢ per ton. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Johnson absent).

9. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2239:

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to reconsider Emergency Ordinance No. 2239. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Mr. Surber added that further review of this ordinance stressed the importance of "reading before voting", and urged that this action be rescinded and that there be more study of this matter before adopting any kind of ordinance. There was general concurrence that the action had been taken in haste, with Mayor Miller reiterating his feeling that the \$500 was excessive.

Roll call vote on Councilman Surber's motion was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved that the Council rescind Emergency Ordinance No. 2239, and refer same back to the Council Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, and
Mayor Miller.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Wilson.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Johnson.

It was the comment of Mayor Miller that he would favor raising the amount of money from what is derived from the bedroom tax but not such a dramatic increase as this. Councilman Sciarrotta indicated concurrence with the Mayor's remarks; further, if at all possible, that there be two classifications, with apartments scaled higher than individual residences.

Councilman Wilson stated that the reason for the emergency was based on the fact that there is a meeting of the Committee on July 7th regarding the Quimby Bill, and this amount would be somewhat commensurate with what is presently being discussed -- further, a considerable amount of money could be lost between now and July 7th.

It was noted by Councilman Surber that the subject ordinance was very similar in wording to that used in the recent bond issue, with the reference to \$18,825,000 -- the bond issue was defeated by an overwhelming majority of the people which would seem to be a mandate from the people.

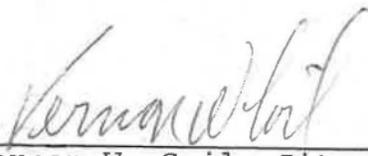
A need for clarification regarding the expenditure for the Delthorne property was indicated by Councilman Surber -- such clarification was made by Assistant City Manager Scharfman in that the money is to be appropriated from the Park and Recreation Facilities Fund (such money expected during the coming year from the bedroom tax), with an advance from the General Fund at this time.

Mayor Miller stated that the bond issue, in his opinion, stated that the public does not want to pay increased taxes for parks and recreation; they want "pay as you go" -- the first attempt now will be with the Delthorne project. The Mayor also noted that the bedroom tax is earmarked for park and recreation, and cannot be spent in any other manner -- and this interpretation is being applied in this case.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:20 P.M. Councilman Wilson moved to adjourn to the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 1971, at 5:30 P.M. The motion, seconded by Mayor Miller, was unanimously approved. (Councilman Johnson absent).

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

 Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
 Minute Secretary

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