

I N D E X

City Council - October 12, 1971

| <u>SUBJECT:</u>  | <u>PAGE</u> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>OPENING CEREMONIES:</u>   |             |
| 1. Call to Order   | 1           |
| 2. Roll Call   | 1           |
| 3. Flag Salute   | 1           |
| 4. Invocation  | 1           |
| <u>STANDARD MOTIONS:</u>   |             |
| 5. Approval of Minutes   | 1           |
| 6. Approval of Demands   | 1           |
| 7. Motion to Waive Further Reading   | 1           |
| 8. Council Cmmittee Meetings   | 2           |
| 9. Interviews for Commission Vacancies   | 2           |
| <u>PRESENTATIONS:</u>  |             |
| 10. Tile Plaque to Harry G. Matthews   | 2           |
| <u>STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:</u>  |             |
| 11. Resolutions No. 71-209 and 71-210 re: Short Form 1911 Act Assessment District (233rd Street) | 3           |
| <u>SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:</u>  |             |
| 12. Resolution No. 71-211 re: Storm Drain Installation, Tract No. 30035 and Los Arboles Park     | 3           |
| <u>LIBRARY OPERATIONS:</u>   |             |
| 13. Library Services with City of Los Angeles  | 4           |
| <u>ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:</u>   |             |
| 14. Resolutions re: low-cost housing   | 4,8-16      |
| <u>COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:</u>  |             |
| 15. Sister City Committee recommendation   | 4           |
| <u>SECOND READING ORDINANCES:</u>  |             |
| 16. Ordinance No. 2284   | 5           |
| <u>NONCONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:</u>   |             |
| 17. Expenditures over \$300  | 6           |
| 18. Final Tract Map No. 20505  | 6           |
| 19. Construction of Curb and Gutter, 182nd Street  | 7           |
| 20. Counsel for Ector v. City of Torrance  | 7           |
| 21. Reciprocal Agreement with Inglewood for Library Services                                     | 7           |
| 22. Claim of Herbert A. Sorg   | 7           |
| <u>ADDENDA ITEM:</u>   |             |
| 23. Request of Ronald Moran for relief from construction tax                                     | 7           |
| <u>ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:</u>  |             |
| 23A. City Manager Ferraro re: deaths of Keith Wheatley and Milo Lamaak                           | 16          |
| 24. Councilman Brewster re: flags, banners and pennants ordinance                                | 16          |
| 25. Councilman Brewster re: USC Downtown Study   | 16          |
| 26. Councilman Johnson re: 1/107 Freeway   | 16-18       |
| 27. Councilman Sciarrotta re: water bills  | 18          |
| 28. Councilman Surber re: Radium Drive-In ordinance  | 18          |
| 29. Councilman Surber re: double-double line   | 18          |
| 30. Councilman Surber re: Bike Ride  | 18          |
| 31. Councilman Surber re: Airport Days   | 18          |
| 32. Councilman Uerkwitz re: Pacific Coast Highway signals  | 18          |
| 33. Councilman Brewster re: motorcycle report  | 18          |

Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

i.

City Council  
October 12, 1971

SUBJECT:

PAGE

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Cont.)

|     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 34. | Councilman Wilson re: billboard, TV and radio<br>publicity       | 19 |
| 35. | Mayor Miller re: Torrance High School reunion                    | 19 |
| 36. | Councilman Surber re: FBI investigation                          | 19 |
| 37. | Mrs. Rachel Meyer re: project resolutions                        | 19 |
| 38. | Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman re: telephone company                      | 19 |
| 39. | Mrs. Barbara Werre re: El Camino concerts                        | 19 |
| 40. | Deputy Attorney Allen re: Victor Precinct hearing                | 19 |
| 41. | Deputy Attorney Allen re: LP zone hearings                       | 19 |
| 42. | Deputy Attorney Allen re: Sunnyglen Construction<br>Company bond | 20 |

Adjourned at 11:08 P.M.

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October 12, 1971

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 1971, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Councilmen Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, Deputy Attorney Allen, City Clerk Coil, and City Treasurer Rupert.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

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

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was provided by Reverend Ron Bolt, Pacific View Baptist Church.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of September 21, 1971 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Johnson moved that all regularly audited demands be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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 was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

1. City Council  
October 12, 1971

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Environmental Committee:

Councilman Uerkwitz reported on the interesting and enlightening tour of Dow Chemical Company made by this committee -- there is rapid progress in regard to environmental problems at this plant. This committee will next meet on October 21st.

9. INTERVIEWS FOR COMMISSION VACANCIES.

The following applicants were present to briefly present their qualifications for the Commissions of their first choice;

Airport Commission: Robert Crigler, John Dunbar, John Kirk, Henry Nowicki, Thomas Reed, John Vickrey, and Jim Clausen.

Planning Commission: Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman, Michael Fiertel, Mrs. Rosalie Woodward, and Mrs. Diane Davis.

Citizens Advisory Committee: Miss Marilyn Harris.

At the conclusion of the interviews, the hour being 6:40 P.M., Councilman Uerkwitz moved to recess for the purpose of determining Commission appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

The Council returned at 7:20 P.M.

It was announced by Mayor Miller that members of Cub Scout Pack #951-C had meantime arrived at the meeting, and he requested repetition of the FLAG SALUTE led by these boys.

Commission appointments were as follows:

PLANNING COMMISSION:  
Mrs. Rosalie Woodward.

AIRPORT COMMISSION:  
Kenneth Garcelon.

WATER COMMISSION:  
John Dunbar.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:  
Miss Marilyn Harris.

PRESENTATIONS:

10. TILE PLAQUE commending Harry G. Matthews for his contributions to the City of Torrance as Water Commissioner.

Presentation, on behalf of the Council, was made by Mayor Miller to the 83-years-young Mr. Matthews, in sincere recognition of his valuable service to the City of Torrance.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

11. RESOLUTIONS re: Short Form 1911 Act Assessment District.  
(South side 233rd Street between Arlington and Pennsylvania  
Avenues.)

RESOLUTION NO. 71-209

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE DIRECTING THE CITY ENGINEER TO  
GIVE NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTIES  
ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 233RD STREET BETWEEN  
ARLINGTON AVENUE AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE TO  
CONSTRUCT CERTAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND  
SETTING A TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING THEREON.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No.  
71-209. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll  
call vote was unanimously favorable.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-210

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE  
PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE  
ACQUISITION BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE OF THE  
FEE SIMPLE TITLE IN AND TO CERTAIN REAL  
PROPERTY IN SAID CITY FOR ANY PUBLIC USES  
AND PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND FOR USE  
FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC STREET  
PURPOSES; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY  
TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE  
SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.  
(Chapter 27, Short Form 1911 Act - South Side  
of 233rd Street between Arlington and  
Pennsylvania Avenues, #71-4).

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No.  
71-210. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously  
approved by roll call vote.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

12. RESOLUTION re: Agreement for Installation of Storm Drain in  
connection with Tract No. 30035 and Los Arboles Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-211

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 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AND PARADISE COVE LAND COMPANY,  
ANAND HOMES, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
A STORM DRAIN.

3. City Council  
October 12, 1971

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 71-211. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS:

13. LIBRARY SERVICES WITH CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

RECOMMENDATION OF LIBRARY COMMISSION:

That the City of Torrance enter into a formal agreement with the City of Los Angeles for reciprocal library services between the two cities. (This reciprocal agreement will be a no-exchange-of-money agreement, per subject contract.)

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Library Commission. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

- 14. RESOLUTION "A" - Opposing Federal Rent Subsidies for low and moderate income housing in the City
- RESOLUTION "B" - Opposing Rent Supplement Multiple-Family Housing in the City

It was the request of Councilman Surber that this item be held until later in the meeting, and there were no objections.

The fact that there is an amended Resolution "B" was noted by Councilman Johnson.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

- 15. RECOMMENDATION OF THE TACC SISTER-CITY COMMITTEE that the City Council permit the Sister-City Committee to initiate proceedings to accomplish an official affiliation between Torrance and Kashiwa City, Japan.

Messrs. Brian Bell and Jack Eardley were present to elaborate on the merits of such an affiliation.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Sister City Committee and provide Council support, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Discussion was then directed to previous unsuccessful sister city attempts, and the fact that the proposed arrangement appears considerably more satisfactory.

Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman commented that there should be much consideration before accepting a city in Japan as a sister-city project -- there is presently considerable tension in Japan; they are also buying scrap metal from the United States, and history could repeat itself and Torrance could be in a very embarrassing situation.

Roll call vote on Councilman Sciarrotta's motion to concur with the committee was unanimously favorable.

Councilman Surber complimented Mr. Eardley on his very comprehensive report -- he found it very, very interesting reading.

It was announced by Mr. Eardley that a delegation from Kashiwa City will be in Torrance this coming weekend, and that they will be hosted by the Torrance Lions Club.

Councilman Johnson requested that City Manager Ferraro coordinate this visit with the Lions Club in order that the Council might participate in welcoming them to Torrance.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

16. ORDINANCE NO. 2284.

ORDINANCE NO. 2284

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 223.2.2 AND 223.2.3 AND ADDING SECTION 223.2.4 TO THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TAX, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2214 AND REPEALING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2283 RELATING TO THE SAME MATTER.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adaption of Ordinance No. 2284 at its second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

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

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77  
NONCONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

17. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

1. \$1187.34 to Safeway Signs for 112 traffic control signs requested by Traffic and Lighting "for stock" (STOP and NO U TURN signs).
2. \$762.30 to J. Jones Company for 200 only -3/4-inch water pipe angle valves requested by the Water Department for stock.
3. \$446.25 to Brooks Products, Inc. for 100 concrete water boxes requested by the Water Department.
4. \$1183.22 to S & J Chevrolet for rebuilt Allison transmission and transmission cooling parts requested by the City Garage as a replacement transmission.
5. \$945.00 to B.F. Goodrich Company for .16 only 8:25 x 20 bus mileage tires as requested by the City Garage.
6. \$315.31 to Signal Oil for annual contract to supply 7 drums of heavy duty Hancock Motor Oil as requested by the Fire Department for use on their fire trucks. Oil is to be supplied on an "as needed" basis.
7. \$351.64 to Dickson Safety for two sets of fire fighting proximity clothing as requested by the Fire Department for Crash Crew at the Torrance Airport for Unit #426.
8. \$1056.50 to Needham Book Finders for 237 assorted adult and juvenile books.
9. \$325.50 to Pyramid Film for purchase of two educational films.
10. \$530.23 to Doubleday and Company for 177 adult and juvenile books.
11. \$593.21 to Herbert L. Strock Productions, Inc. for three copies of the Torrance leisure film entitled "That's What Living's About" requested by the Recreation Dept.

18. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 20505.

Subdivider: William P. Floyd

Engineer: Denn Engineers

Location: Between 228th and 229th Streets  
W/O Pennsylvania Avenue.

No. of Lots: 6

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER/CITY MANAGER:

That subject final tract map be approved.

19. CONSTRUCTION OF CURB AND GUTTER ON 182ND STREET N/S FROM ST. ANDREWS PLACE to 65 FEET WESTERLY (JOB NO. 72109).  
NOTICE OF COMPLETION.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:

1. That the work be accepted; and
2. That final payment be made to the contractor;  
Nick Vargas.

20. Considered separately.

21. RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH INGLEWOOD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES.

RECOMMENDATION OF LIBRARY COMMISSION:

That the City of Torrance and the City of Inglewood enter into a formal reciprocal agreement.

22. CLAIM of Herbert A. Sorg for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That said claim be DENIED and referred to the City Attorney.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #17, 18, 19, 21, and #22. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

20. COUNSEL FOR ECTOR V. CITY OF TORRANCE.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ATTORNEY:

That the City authorize Mr. Nutter to represent the City on the appeal at a reasonable fee, not to exceed \$2,500.

Councilman Brewster noted the fact that there had been previous approval for \$3,000, and that he would have preferred an indication at that time that there would be additional charges in case of appeal.

It was agreed to hold this item for further clarification. Councilman Surber stated that he would like a breakdown regarding the hours spent and the manner in which they were spent.

ADDENDA ITEM:

23. REQUEST OF RONALD E. MORAN FOR RELIEF FROM 1% COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX.

Mr. Larry Bowman, representing Mr. Moran, presented his request for relief from the construction tax. The circumstances were reviewed by the Council, and a need for legal clarification was acknowledged -- it was, therefore, agreed to hold this item for one week.

\* \* \* \*

The hour being 8:00 P.M Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and approval was unanimous. A 10-minute recess followed at 8:01 P.M.

(The Council now returned to:)  
ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

14. RESOLUTION "A" - Opposing Federal Rent Subsidies for low and moderate income housing in the City.

RESOLUTION "B" - Opposing Rent Supplement Multiple-Family Housing in the City pursuant to Section 236 of the Federal Housing Administration.

It was noted by Councilman Johnson that Resolution "B" has been amended to incorporate an exclusion from the general policy of not approving low cost housing but which would permit low-cost housing as it applies to senior citizens and the maimed and crippled who cannot otherwise work to make a living.

In reference to Resolution "A", it was stated by Councilman Surber that this resolution was prepared at his request, and, further, that this last May 25th, 1971, approximately 800 Torrance residents attended the regular City Council meeting which had on the agenda that evening an informal hearing regarding subsidized housing in general, and the old 202, now called 236, Project, along with the multiple family 236 rental project in particular. The presentations made and the applause from all but a dozen or so in attendance was more than enough to tell him that the citizens of Torrance, constituents of this honorable body, did not, and do not, to this date, desire any form of Federal mortgage or rent subsidy anywhere in this City.

It was further stated by Mr. Surber that he is positive that people expected this Council to take concrete action to deal with this issue once and for all -- they had, and still have, the right to expect this of the duly elected representatives of this City, based on Constitutional grounds.

Councilman Surber then noted the fact that President Nixon stated on June 11, 1971, the following: "This Administration will not attempt to impose Federally-assisted housing upon any community. Local officials are entrusted the initial and often final determination as to how much low and moderate income housing is to be built, how well it is to be built, and where it is to be built." Members of the House Currency and Banking Subcommittee on Housing stated, and HUD Secretary Romney admitted they were right, on March 31st, 1971 that the housing subsidy programs were an absolute fraud on the American taxpayer nationwide. Further, according to Councilman Surber, Mr. Romney also admitted there were 50 or more housing subsidy programs, none of which could be administered properly.

In conclusion, Mr. Surber stated that the above, and more -- not the race issue, as suggested by someone who requested an FBI investigation -- are his reasons for now MOVING that Resolution "A" be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Councilman Johnson stated that Resolution "B" generally concurs with the thoughts of Councilman Surber except that it does indicate specifically that there would be concurrence with senior citizen and physically handicapped housing, such housing to be permitted.

It was the further comment of Councilman Johnson that the passage of Ordinance No. 2284 re: Park and Recreation Facilities Tax (Item #16, considered earlier at this meeting), an exemption was made in that Section 223.2.4 of that ordinance which provides: "There shall be exempted from the tax set forth in Section 223.2.2 the construction of any dwelling unit to be used exclusively for housing for elderly or handicapped persons which is owned and operated by foundations or corporations which, pursuant to the provisions of Section 33396 of the Health and Safety Code, are entitled to the welfare exemption provided for in Section 1-c of Article XIII of the State Constitution."

Councilman Wilson offered the following prepared remarks: "I am appalled with disbelief that such resolutions would be seriously presented to this Council. My immediate reaction to such an idea is that it is being proposed as a political gesture to appease and win support of a few small but vocal fringe groups who believe that such a resolution could, in fact, be passed and implemented by this City government. However, upon closer analysis of the resolution one must necessarily draw the following conclusions: first, it implies that Torrance can literally withdraw into its own City limits, and by some criteria determine who can or cannot qualify as residents. It is evident that the poor are not welcomed, let alone invited. But who are the poor? The majority of the poor at the present time are to be found among the minority groups -- the blacks and the browns. We are, therefore, saying they are different and do not qualify to be residents in Torrance. In my opinion, this is obviously a blatant racist resolution, unconstitutional, discriminatory, and, in my opinion, would cast a shadow on the credibility of Torrance being an All-American City. The basic principles upon which this country was founded are freedoms, political, religious, economic and social -- equal opportunity and unalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. As such, this nation has prospered and truly become one of the greatest nations of all history. Great men from all walks of life, from all nations of the world, have made their contributions for our benefit -- world wars have been fought, men have suffered and died for these principles. Shall we in haste and with ill-conceived judgment rebuke and deny these rights to fellow Americans? Hitler exterminated six million Jews because they were different. How do we plan to accommodate the different in our society -- certainly not by denying them their civil rights which they are entitled to as American citizens."

Two questions were then posed by Councilman Wilson: what effect would passage of the proposed resolutions have on the City's present law suit; and what effect would such passage have on any Federal grant now pending or in the future. It was the response of City Manager Ferraro re: question no. two that the resolutions are "suicidal" -- there simply would not be any grants. Pending grants, according to Mr. Ferraro, would be all but wiped out, which would include Columbia Park.

It was further noted by City Manager Ferraro that there is presently a letter authored by Mr. Dan Butcher in circulation in the community wherein it is indicated that a project is being held up because of Council prejudice.

81

It was added by Mr. Ferraro, in the interest of clarification, that, according to the law, the Council may pass an individual resolution approving each particular program.

Further information was furnished by Deputy Attorney Allen in that Mr. Butcher now had a Writ of Mandate before the Supreme Court; Ogo Associates have reactivated their suit, with a hearing scheduled for October 22nd. From a legal standpoint, according to Mr. Allen, the consideration of the subject resolutions, and passage thereof, could have a serious effect on the City's legal position -- it was his recommendation that they not be considered at this particular time.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Sciarrotta: That Resolution "A" be filed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Councilman Johnson commented that he cannot agree with the earlier remarks of Councilman Wilson, but acknowledged his right to his belief -- Mr. Johnson's motivation has absolutely nothing to do with any racial overtones; what he is going by is the amount of correspondence and telephone calls received by him from residents opposed to low-cost housing projects. It was reiterated by Mr. Johnson that while not agreeing with low-cost housing in general for Torrance, he would certainly advocate relief for senior citizens and the like.

It was the comment of Mayor Miller that in view of the fact that each program must have an individual resolution approved by Council, the subject resolutions appear to serve no purpose -- they simply polarize a community against each other, and, further, only reduce the City's opportunity to develop Torrance with the use of Federal funds for open space, the bus system, Police needs, etc. -- thereby impairing its development. The Mayor will support the substitute motion.

Councilman Uerkwitz failed to understand why every time such a proposal is presented, it has to be associated with racism -- there has been no indication by either President Nixon or Mr. Romney that there would be any penalties for a decision against any particular kind of program. Mr. Uerkwitz has further reservations as to the possibilities of not getting other Federal funds if one of these low-cost housing projects are denied. The racial issue is of no concern to Councilman Uerkwitz -- this will be the hue and cry of the opposition -- Mr. Uerkwitz cannot see where the City of Torrance is in need of these programs in that they are not described for anything in this City. When there is a need, and when Torrance has the requirements, then there should be review, in Mr. Uerkwitz' opinion.

Mayor Miller further stated that he feels the door should be left open for the use of Federal funds where important in a community -- it is the Mayor's further understanding that President Nixon stated that those cities declining to participate would be directly affected, which, in Torrance's case, would affect Columbia Park. Councilman Uerkwitz stated that he has never heard such philosophy expressed,

that to vote against a program be it 231, old age pensions, or civil service, would penalize another program for which the City might be eligible, nor has such a finding been forthcoming from the City Attorney's office.

The absence of any right of self-determination was deplored by Councilman Surber -- as was the fact that he attacks issues, not people, yet he is accused of being prejudiced, per Dr. Wilson's earlier presentation. It further appears, according to Mr. Surber, that there has been an FBI investigation on this matter -- if this is true, it is of considerable interest to him that they saw fit not to interview him. Councilman Surber has not been contacted by anybody -- from the Justice Department or the FBI -- whereas other Councilmen have been contacted by various people -- along with the further information that an attorney with a Victor Precinct client has stated "God is with us; the Federal Government is with us; and the politicians are with us," to the end that they will get the desired zoning.

Continuing, Councilman Surber stated that his concern is that the people of Torrance have a right to determine whether they want Federal housing or not -- there has been enough dallying around; the people should know the exact position of the Council. This community, Mr. Surber added, is made up of hard-working people who do not ask anybody for anything -- the only thing they want is good government, and they do not want to sponsor other people coming into Torrance who cannot pay their own way, be they black, brown, or Indians.

Councilman Surber concluded with the observation that Torrance is picked out for these programs, with property on the Strip costing approximately 1/4 of Torrance property -- they do not go up to Palos Verdes nor Rolling Hills nor Hollywood Riviera. Mr. Surber stated that he is free of prejudice as evidenced by the fact that he has worked 77th Street Police Station for 15 years without one "beef" in his package. Councilman Surber will continue to attack the issues -- he has never attacked a Councilman on a personality basis, and he never will -- he would appreciate like treatment from the other Councilmen.

City Clerk Coil, at the request of Councilman Surber, assigned a number and read Resolution "A" in its entirety, as follows:

RESOLUTION 71-212  
(RESOLUTION "A")

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING FEDERAL RENT  
SUBSIDIES FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME  
HOUSING IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

WHEREAS, there is increased interest and activity in the field of Federal rent subsidies for low and moderate income housing in the City of Torrance; and

11. City Council  
October 12, 1971

WHEREAS, the City Council has been requested to establish a community-wide policy with respect to such programs; and

WHEREAS, such legislation as now constituted does not give priority to families of low and moderate income who are already living in Torrance, and therefore, such a program would attract out-of-the-city and out-of-the-area residents of low income status, and further add to this community's problem of raising the standard of living for resident renters who already reside within Torrance's corporate boundaries; and

WHEREAS, these programs are not designed to create incentive for individuals of low income to upgrade their economic status and furthermore involve the federal government in people's private lives unnecessarily on a permanent basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Council does hereby protest the implementation of those federal programs relating to rent subsidies for low and moderate income housing in the City of Torrance as being unsound in practice and inimical to the well-being of our society and the quality of living in the City of Torrance.

Mayor Miller invited members of the audience to speak at this time.

Mr. R. Powell, a Torrance resident since 1948, expressed agreement with the sentiments expressed by Councilmen Surber and Uerkwitz -- there should be no strings attached to these things; a survey of the people in Torrance would indicate 95% concurrence with these Councilmen.

Mrs. Agatha Berwanger, 5617 Andrus Avenue, stated that she had started out with a no down payment, GI loan, Federally backed, and then indicated her strong sentiments regarding the proposed resolution regarding Federally subsidized housing in that she is revolted by the inference carried by such resolutions -- they are an attempt at class discrimination which has absolutely no place in our society and present serious implications. A city such as Torrance, Mrs. Berwanger added, nurtured in its growth period on federal funding -- defense industries, FHA and GI loans -- taking a stand against federal money is unbelievable. Those who would build a class society, with the rich inside and the poor outside our system, must remember that there are more of them than there are of us -- it appears forgotten that America means equality, opportunity, freedom, and justice for all; is Torrance planning to withdraw from that America?

Next to speak was Mary Sue Rosner, 1328 Amapola, representing the Torrance Human Relations Council, <sup>who</sup> stated that one of the purposes of their organization is to advance human rights through equality of opportunity and housing -- the resolutions before the Council touch

directly upon their goals; they believe that housing should be available that meets the needs of various ages and economic groups. The proposed resolutions would put the Council on record as being opposed to the only practical way of providing housing for the less affluent; the needs of all people must be recognized -- the wealthy and the poor, the young and the old, to live in decent, safe housing. To close the doors of Torrance on the less affluent would make it a walled city, and is not a solution worthy of an All-American city.

Mrs. Yolanda Hall, 4622 Paseo de las Tortugas, expressed her feeling that the City of Torrance should be able to provide decent housing for all citizens who choose Torrance as their place of residence, be they lower income, middle income, or the elderly.

Next to speak was Mr. Alfredo Correa who stated that he took exception to the fact that the matter of low cost housing brings cries of racial bias -- Torrance is not racially biased; he is a Mexican as well as a respected citizen of Torrance -- there has never been any racial bias where he has been concerned nor has he ever pointed a finger at anyone of a different color or a different language. The main opposition to low cost housing in Torrance, according to Mr. Correa, is against federally funded housing because we are "tired of working our tail ends off for someone else's benefit." There is no one in Torrance who would withhold a helping hand for someone in need -- there are poor people in Torrance, but these people are ready and willing to go to work day or night for their needs, Mr. Correa concluded.

Mrs. Eleanor Nowicki, 2535 West 232nd Street, questioned why 86 units is such a threat to the City of Torrance and who are these low income people who would reside in our midst -- not any of her clients on Aid to Families with Dependent Children; they would not qualify. People who would qualify, according to Mrs. Nowicki, would be a recent PhD graduate in physics from USC, presently working as a guard at a shopping center; a newly hired teacher with several children; a LVN at the new Torrance Hospital; a recently laid off electronics engineer now working at a department store -- these people cannot meet the high rents in Torrance so they must move out and drive to work, adding to the traffic congestion and smog. Surely a federally subsidized FHA or GI loan that would upgrade the middle class should also be available to the above people who would qualify for the 236 Project; let them be upgraded in their economic status.

There is not equal opportunity for everyone in this country, according to Mrs. Diane Freeze, 3531 Cricklewood; some people, though they may try their entire life, cannot afford a retirement income -- it would be very wrong for Torrance to pass any kind of resolution which would exclude such people.

Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman, 4806 Carmelynn, stated that her objection to subsidized housing is the dangers presented to local controls in Torrance -- there appears a continual willingness on the part of certain Councilmen to give more of that local control away through federal funds and subsidies. Mrs. Cushman added that this Council was elected to govern this City as "do-it-yourself" officials --

to bring in the Federal government, and the attached strings, it is evident that the Council is willing to "let Uncle Sam do it for me". Mrs. Cushman expects the Council to do the job locally for which they were elected.

The president of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Vickie Birdsall, expressed their obvious opposition to the proposed resolutions in view of their deep commitment to the ideals of being an American -- it is felt that they are citizens of the United States first, of the State of California second, and members of the Torrance community third. Torrance is not a walled community, Mrs. Birdsall added, standing alone, but a nation facing life as it is, not as one would wish it to be -- the old and poor cannot be locked in a closet and wish them away. Torrance cannot divorce itself from the Constitution of the United States or its ideals.

It was the further comment of Mrs. Birdsall that decent housing for all citizens is the crying need in the country -- it is a need in Torrance, with \$30,000 being the average cost of a home in Torrance and family rentals over \$200, where do Torrance families, half of whom earn under \$10,000 per year, find decent housing? To say that there not be housing built for low or moderate income groups is closing the door to the 4,000 families in Torrance who make less than \$7,000 per year -- Federal housing programs at least give equal chance to those already in the community. The people using these Programs are not limited to people who find poverty and welfare a way of life -- unemployment has put many people in a different income bracket.

Mrs. Birdsall concluded, noting that tax dollars paid to the Federal government help schools, hospitals, police departments, etc. -- the subject resolutions would simply say to the Federal government that money should not be granted to Torrance for any purpose. The sorely needed General Plan for the City was then discussed by Mrs. Birdsall, as were State Code housing requirements -- the passage of the resolution would close the door to one way of implementing the required housing element of the General Plan. The League supports measures to supply safe, decent, adequate housing for all Californians -- <sup>the</sup> proposed resolutions not only do nothing but they say to the world that Torrance is not willing to face the realities of the world today, or are unwilling to share in the needs of all Americans.

Mrs. Eunice Hargrove, 705 Calle Miramar, representing the American Association of University Women, stated that they favor, at both the national and the state level, development of solutions to housing problems for all segments of our society -- the vast current interest in urban problems was pointed out by Mrs. Hargrove; this Council has an opportunity to look forward rather than backward, and to plan now for all levels of society.

On behalf of school children in her area, Mrs. Philip C. Hughes, 5006 Deelane Street, who stated that she is opposed to the proposed housing for the reason that there is no place to put it -- any property used would only further deprive the children of needed land for stables and open space.

Mrs. Cushman returned to request that the earlier comments recorded for the League of Women Voters be stricken from the minutes of this meeting, for the reason that the League is a lobbyist, and this Council should not take advice from lobbyists. No such direction was forthcoming from the Council.

Mrs. Estella Billings, 4129 West 178th Street, first noted that police departments receive Federal money under the Law Enforcement Act, and then alluded to her favorite peeve - the Armed Forces Day Parade when the City is willing to bring in people from anywhere, any state in the Union; it is not necessary to know where the GIs come from or what they earn, or whether they have been to VietNam or have not. Therefore, the Council does not have the right to build a shell -- further, in her opinion, the Redevelopment money earned by the Council is illegal in that this is not an integrated Council nor is there a highly integrated Citizens Advisory Committee. But, Mrs. Billings concluded, there is no compunction about saying that sons, black and white, can go in uniform and fight in any corner of the world. It was her recommendation that two additional resolutions be prepared -- one to be sent to the Selective Service that no minorities be drafted; and one that the John Birch Society should be outlawed.

The last speaker was Mr. Ollie Harrison, 5115 Scott Street, who stated that if a person wants to work, work can be found -- as to low-cost housing projects, it will be found that such units have an extremely high crime rate in the surrounding areas. In Mr. Harrison's opinion, these tenants are looking for a cheap hand-out, as opposed to the ordinary person who obtains an FHA or VA loan in order to better his lot. Mr. Harrison further stated that he is with Councilman Surber 100% in this issue.

Mayor Miller called for the vote on Councilman Sciarrotta's substitute motion that Resolution "A" be filed. The substitute motion carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Wilson,  
and Mayor Miller.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber; Uerkwitz (for reasons previously  
stated).

It was stated by Councilman Sciarrotta, at the time of his "yes" vote, that his substitute motion to file Resolution "A" was based on the fact that in his ten years of service on this Council the orderly growth of this well balanced community has been guided to what it is today -- a wonderful city, of much pride to Mr. Sciarrotta -- and all accomplished without resolutions such as presented this evening.

It was the request of Councilman Johnson that Resolution "B" be read by City Clerk Coil, (the title and the 5th WHEREAS).

RESOLUTION NO. 71-213  
(RESOLUTION "B")

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING FEDERAL RENT  
SUBSIDIES FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME  
HOUSING IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

"WHEREAS, said programs do, however, have value insofar as they aid the aged and the handicapped in obtaining the decent housing they otherwise couldn't afford; and..."

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 71-213; the motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Councilman Sciarrotta: That Resolution No. 71-213 be filed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Wilson,  
and Mayor Miller.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Uerkwitz.

Further action was taken:

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved that this whole proposition be put on the ballot to let the citizens of Torrance vote on this issue as to whether we should have subsidized housing. The motion died for lack of a second.

It was agreed that the City Attorney should prepare an Opinion as to whether or not there can be legal compliance with Mr. Surber's recommendation above.

# # #

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

23A. The deaths of two Street Department employees - Keith Wheatley and Milo Lamaak - were regretfully announced by City Manager Ferraro.

24. Councilman Brewster requested information as to the status of the ordinance pertaining to flags, banners, and pennants.

25. It was Councilman Brewster's understanding that the USC Downtown Study is now available, and it was his request that copies be furnished the Council. It was noted by Planning Director Shartle that this is only a preliminary report, hence the limited distribution.

26. A prepared statement regarding the 1/107 Freeway by Councilman Johnson follows:

"I was public on the 1/107 Freeway proposal before, so it is only right that I make a public statement now, in answer to a recent communication about the 1/107 Freeway.

"You will recall that on July 6, 1971, we passed Resolution #71-152, which requested the State Division of Highways to study a State Division of Highways' proposal, which includes a modified version of the old "Red" Route for the 1/107 Freeway. This new proposal was labeled "Dash-Brown" Route.

"I voted in favor of the resolution only after first expressing the idea that I have not been (nor am I now) of the opinion that any loop system freeway is needed or desired in the South Bay area.

"I further expressed the idea that if, and when, the State Division of Highways is able to prove to the City Councils of Torrance, and the beach cities to the west, and the Palos Verdes Hills communities to the south, that such a freeway is indeed really necessary, I would consider a proposal for a route which would, generally, take from each of our contiguous communities an equal share of the land for the freeway; thus causing each of us to share in whatever benefits may be derived, but also pay for the adversities that removal of the land from our tax rolls, and the upsetting of our respective people would cause.

"Correspondence dated August 26, 1971, from the State Division of Highways to our City Manager, Mr. Ferraro, acknowledged the receipt of the Torrance Resolution #71-152, and indicated their willingness to study certain routes which they had previously proposed under the revised plan. The communication also stated that, 'The Division of Highways will give further consideration to Councilman Johnson's proposed alternate if the City of Torrance passes a resolution requesting us to do so and there is demonstrated support for the proposal from the other communities affected.'

"Gentlemen, I fear that the State Division of Highways has misinterpreted my suggestion. They apparently wish either me, or this City Council, to do their leg work for them. They apparently expect either me, or this Council, to 'sell' their freeway for them by promoting a path along the route which would generally split the boundaries of our contiguous cities to the west and south, instead of the one they propose.

"I wish to, once more, make it very clear that:

1. I do not believe that the State Division of Highways has shown conclusively that a loop system freeway through the South Bay area is absolutely necessary;
2. Until such time that it is shown that the freeway is necessary, I shall oppose any loop system freeway through this area;
3. I shall vigorously oppose any loop system freeway which is placed wholly in the City of Torrance;
4. So long as the State Division of Highways is unwilling to look at all possibilities which would provide equity among cities and peoples of our communities, they are not doing the job for which they are charged to do by the State Legislature;
5. So long as the State Division of Highways is so rigid in their concept as to not consider alternatives as a means of finding a compromise solution among our communities, they should stop spending the taxpayers' money by studying the same old routes to death.

17. City Council  
October 12, 1971

"Gentlemen, I submit that the State Division of Highways should stop studying this area until such time as they have shown justification for a route. I hereby withdraw my 'AYE' vote in favor of a 'NO' vote against Resolution #71-152. Would the Minute Secretary and the Clerk please record this change."

27. A feasibility study by Management and the Water System Manager as to the merits of having the employee who reads the water meters deliver the water bill, was requested by Councilman Sciarrotta -- were it feasible, it would represent a saving of approximately \$25,000 per year.

28. Councilman Surber asked that the City Attorney's office contact Mr. Leroy Eide relative to the drafting of an ordinance controlling pedestrian traffic at the Radium Drive-In.

29. A complaint regarding the double-double line at 2660-2652 Torrance Boulevard was reported by Councilman Surber who recommended, at City Traffic Engineer Horkay's suggestion, that it be removed by sand-blasting at a cost of approximately \$75.00.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved that the requested relief be granted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

(A unanimous vote on a motion made by him was deemed worthy of special historical note by Councilman Surber!)

It was agreed that the Traffic Commission should review the present policy for such removal of lines as it applies to industrial and commercial uses.

30. Praise for the Recreation Department's recent Bike Ride was expressed by Councilman Surber -- there was an outstanding turnout in support of bike paths in Torrance.

31. There was further praise by Councilman Surber for Airport Days, and all who contributed were commended by him.

32. Councilman Uerkwitz inquired as to the status of signals on Pacific Coast Highway at Calle Mayor and Crenshaw; the background history was recited by City Traffic Engineer Horkay, with the present situation being that an appeal has been sent to the State Division of Highways asking them to reconsider and honor their previous agreement re: Crenshaw, with the City of Torrance meanwhile holding up payment on the Calle Mayor signal.

It was the recommendation of Councilman Uerkwitz that Mr. Rupert follow through on this matter at Sacramento, and, if necessary, send a delegation to pursue a satisfactory settlement.

33. Information Item A - a report from Police Chief Nash regarding the motorcycles on Madison Street and the gravel pit area - was considered a most excellent report by Councilman Brewster, with his recommendations specifically noted.

34. Free sign, TV/ and radio publicity afforded events in the City of Torrance was noted by Councilman Wilson, with the following MOTION: That a proper resolution of appreciation be forwarded Foster & Kleiser and Pacific Outdoor Advertising for their contribution to the City's welfare. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

35. Mayor Miller announced the Torrance High School reunion on October 23rd, and requested that City Treasurer Rupert provide bronze coins for this occasion -- further, that the recent resolution adopted in this regard be permaplaqued for presentation on that night. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

36. Councilman Surber requested that the City Manager advise the FBI, in writing, that he would personally like the finding on their investigation. In Mr. Surber's opinion, it is only fitting that the Council be advised, and that it be publicized -- he does not like the innuendos in this matter, and desires it made a public statement as to whether or not they found any prejudice amongst any of the City officials.

37. Mrs. Rachel Meyer, 21233 Kent Avenue, inquired as to when the resolution for the 14-story senior citizen complex was passed, per newspaper information. There was clarification by City Manager Ferraro as to the resolution procedure for individual projects, with particular clarification regarding the church senior citizen complex. Mr. Ferraro indicated that he would obtain further specific information for Mrs. Meyer.

38. Mrs. Mary Lou Cushman pointed out the money saving aspect of the telephone company, a monopoly, refraining from spending millions of dollars in advertising on television and the newspapers -- advertising and PR men are for free enterprise in competition.

39. The October 12th communication from the Cultural Heritage and Arts Committee regarding the El Camino concerts was read aloud for Mrs. Barbara Werre, 23805 Arlington Avenue, in their request for Council support.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above request for Council support. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

40. Deputy Attorney Allen, on behalf of the Victor Precinct Ad Hoc Committee, requested that a date be set for the public hearing in this matter -- the date selected was October 26th, a 7 PM meeting.

41. It was reported by Deputy Attorney Allen that the temporary permit given Mr. Laurie Belger has expired -- meanwhile the Planning Commission has set hearings on the new LP zone, and it is requested that a public hearing in this regard be set for November 9th; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

42. Deputy Attorney Allen advised that Sunnyglen Construction Company has an \$85,000 bond out since 1967, and it is requested that the bond be reduced to \$3,000 which should cover the outstanding items.

It was the consensus of the Council that a request of this nature should be presented to them in writing, and it was so ordered.

\* \* \* \* \*

At 10:00 P.M. Councilman Uerkwitz moved to recess for the purpose of an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and approval was unanimous. Mayor Miller announced that the Council would return to formally adjourn, but that no further business would be conducted.

Formal adjournment was at 11:08 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Ken Miller*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

*Vernon W. Coil*

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