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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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Torrance, California
October 10, 1961

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular session at 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, October 10, 1961, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Bramhall were: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Vico, and Mayor Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. (Mayor Isen explained that Mrs. Benstead who was injured recently is progressing nicely). City Manager Peebles and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

This is the fifth annual observance of JUNIOR CITIZENS' DAY and each of the Junior Councilmen introduced himself and told the high school he represents. ROLL CALL of Junior Council was: Councilwomen Harter, Matheny, Palmer, Robinson, Schenk, Councilman Welch and Mayor Bynum.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Junior Mayor Bynum, Junior City Manager Joe Allen led the salute to our Flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend Ponder Gilliland of Torrance Church of the Nazarene opened the meeting with an invocation:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of September 26, 1961 and October 3, 1961, respectively. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and, there being no objection, carried.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved all properly audited bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Bradford 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 Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

Mayor Isen explained the mode of procedure at Council meetings for the benefit of the audience and stated there were certain matters received after the closing time for the agenda. One was a report on Verburg Dairy Problem - Nonconforming Use. Mayor Isen asked this be set for public hearing on October 31, 1961, 5:30 meeting.

Councilman Beasley so moved and there was no objection. Mayor Isen asked that Deputy City Clerk Bramhall see that all interested persons are notified of the time and place of hearing.

8. APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Julian Hirschman of Certi-Bond was present to discuss curbs and gutters, and dedication of property improved under the new ordinance, which includes industrial property. An additional letter had been added, but the Councilmen had not had time to study it. Councilman Drale moved this item be held until the Council's next regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. There were no objections and Councilman Beasley asked for a recommendation from City Manager Peebles. The appointment will be listed first on the agenda for October 17th's 5:30 meeting.

9. REPORT ON NEW STATE TRAILER LAW. Robert K. Dower, Assistant City Attorney, submitting report on new state law governing mobile homes and mobile home parks -- Assembly Bill No. 2126, requested by Council at September 26th meeting.

Councilman Beasley asked if it would not be possible to provide for an additional fee to be paid by the mobile homes and City Attorney Remelmeyer stated, regarding Mr. Cake's request (next on the agenda) he has agreed to comply with both City and State law and specifically with the City fee provision. Assembly Bill No. 2126 is now in effect although some ramifications have not been resolved. Mayor Isen asked Mr. Cake if it would be a serious inconvenience to him if the matter were held until next week and Mr. Cake, although he is anxious to get the matter decided, consented that the item be held until October 17 at 5:30 P.M., when City Attorney Remelmeyer will have an interpretation of the revenue features of the new law. Councilman Drale so moved and, there being no objection Mayor Isen, so ordered.

PLANNING MATTERS:

10. HEARING - Continued. of CASE NO. 734 - Variance, C. N. Cake, Petitioners, and dedication of property improved under the new ordinance, which includes industrial property. An additional letter has been added. This matter will be heard next week as set forth above under Item 9 and City Manager Peebles asked the maps be preserved for use next week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. There were no objections and Councilman Beasley asked for a recommendation. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: The appointment will be listed first on the agenda for October 17th's 5:30 meeting.

11. Claim of Leander Llewellyn Fowler for injuries and damages allegedly resulting from accident at 233rd Street and Walnut, on City August 27, 1961, due to dangerous and defective condition of the street. This item was requested by Council at September 26th meeting.

Councilman Beasley moved to deny the claim and refer it to the Legal Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent). Regarding Mr. Cake's request (next on the agenda) he has agreed to comply with both City and State law and specifically with the City fee provision. 12. Young Men's Christian Association of Torrance, submitting request for permission to use Council Chambers Saturday, December 2, to conduct a "Youth and Government" program. The matter was held until next week and Mr. Cake, although he is anxious to get the matter decided, consented that the item be held until October 17 at 5:30 P.M., when City Attorney Remelmeyer will have an interpretation of the revenue features of the new law. Councilman Drale explained the request and Councilman Drale moved it be granted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and there was no objection. So ordered.

PLANNING MATTERS:

2.

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10. HEARING - Continued. of CASE NO. 734 - Variance, C. N. Cake, Petitioners, and dedication of property improved under the new ordinance, which includes industrial property. An additional letter has been added. This matter will be heard next week as set forth above under Item 9 and City Manager Peebles asked the maps be preserved for use next week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. There were no objections and Councilman Beasley asked for a recommendation. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: The appointment will be listed first on the agenda for October 17th's 5:30 meeting.

13. League of California Cities concerning 25% increase in dues, with comment of City Manager Peebles.

This item is to establish the feeling of the Council prior to the conference in San Francisco on October 25th. Councilman Beasley stated this is the only organization which gives a great deal of help to our City and believes the increase is justified. He moved to approve in principle the increase which it was determined, will be \$500. Councilman Drale thought it should be considered in connection with the next budget. Mr. Beasley's motion was seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Drale moved a substitute to refer the matter to the budget session at the end of this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and failed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Bradford, Drale, Vico.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Mayor Isen.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

Roll call on the original motion to approve the request was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Bradford, Drale, Vico.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

The original motion also failed and no action was taken.

14. Discussion of boundary line change between Torrance and Redondo Beach.

City Manager Peebles explained what negotiations have taken place and stated he does not believe it is in the best interests of Torrance. Councilman Drale moved to hold this discussion next week at the Council meeting and in the meantime, advised the councilmen to view the location in order to make a better decision. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and, there being no objection, it was tabled until next Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BUILDING DIVISION:

15. Superintendent of Building Inspection Schlens, submitting recommendation that a 90 day extension be granted for the temporary sign at 22610 Crenshaw Boulevard advertising proposed construction of a medical center.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation set forth above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and, there being no objection, carried.

16. Councilman Bradford moved that the following ten street easement deeds be accepted for the purposes set forth. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

1. Street easement deed dated January 18, 1961 for the widening of Hickman Drive and to provide a corner radius at the south-westerly corner of Hickman Drive and Prairie Avenue over a portion of Lot 25, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Charles and Hazel Colsch.
2. Dated November 23, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 25, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Luz Calonge.

3. Dated February 22, 1961 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 24, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Roger and Barbara Laws.
4. Dated September 19, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 24, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Francisco and Lucille Villegas.
5. Dated September 19, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 24, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, by Francisco and Lucille Villegas.
6. Dated October 2, 1961 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 23, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Reid and Ellen Gott.
7. Dated September 19, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 23, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Mark and Marilyn Throssel.
8. Dated September 19, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 23, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by T. M. Normann.
9. Dated September 19, 1960, for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 22, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by T. M. Normann.
10. Dated September 21, 1960 for the widening of Hickman Drive over a portion of Lot 22, Resurvey of the R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Gardena Congregation Jehovahs Witnesses.

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

17. Traffic and Lighting Engineer Whitmer, submitting recommendation that work of Sherwin Electric Service for installation of traffic signal and intersection lighting systems at:

1. Calle Mayor at entrance to Calle Mayor Elementary School,
2. Palos Verdes and Sepulveda Boulevards,
3. Anza Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard
4. Cabrillo Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard
5. Yukon Avenue and 182nd St.

be accepted.

Councilman Bradford moved to concur in acceptance of the work listed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

18. Recommendation of participation in installation of street lights at Beryl St. and Flagler Lane, with City of Redondo Beach, concurred by City Manager Peebles. Two poles to be used (approx. cost \$250).

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

19. Recommendations of Traffic Commission, as follows:

- A. That Article II of Resolution No. 61-158 be amended to authorize the installation of a two-way stop at 242nd Street and Neece Avenue.
- B. The installation of a green zone on Arlington Avenue at 230th Street, to alleviate a parking problem for Dinkey Fish Market, with resolution attached.

- C. That Article II of Resolution No. 61-158 be amended to authorize the relocation of stop signs at the intersection of 238th Street and Walnut Avenue.
- D. That a 30 mile per hour zone be established on Walnut Avenue from 235th Street to the southerly city limit.
- E. That the request of Donald H. Shanedling, Inc., for a left-turn opening in the divider strip on Pacific Coast Highway east of Calle Mayor be denied.

Mayor Isen stated if there was no objection, the five items would be acted upon in one motion; there was no objection.

Councilman Bradford moved to concur in the recommendation on the three items listed as A, B and D, of approval, and on E, of denial, and that Item C be held one week, to appear on the agenda for the October 17th meeting with a copy of the resolution proposed to be amended.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Shanedling appeared and in compliance with his request, Item E will be reconsidered next week. A motion for reconsideration by the Council will be necessary.

Councilman Bradford's motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-190

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ESTABLISHING YELLOW, WHITE AND GREEN ZONES
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF THE TRAFFIC
AND MOTOR VEHICLE "CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-190. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

A recess was declared at 8:35 P.M. and the council reconvened at 8:45.

AIRPORT MATTERS:

20. Letter from Airport Manager Egan relative to Federal Aid Airport Program for 1962; and Airport Commission's recommendation with respect to Master Plan improvements as contained in Airport Manager's memo dated September 6, 1961. Phase I of said plan recommended for approval in principle and for Council's study.

Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, the matter would be referred to the Airport Committee for recommendation to the Council next week. In the meantime City Manager Peebles and Airport Manager Egan will work with the Committee. All papers on the items were returned to the City Manager. Mr. Egan asked that the Airport Committee meet with the Airport Commission this Thursday evening and stated it would be appropriate for the Hanover people to attend also.

21. Airport Commission's recommendation of approval relative to Leasair Inc.'s request to add a screen room to the Aero-Care hangar and install a sign on the west side of the hangar.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of approval. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

22. Airport Commission's recommendation of approval in accordance with Airport Manager's letter of September 19, 1961, relative to a business license application by Ralph C. Lewis to operate a business in a portion of Kidwell Hangar No. 4.

Councilman Beasley asked if he had not understood properly that the policy is not to permit a business in a hangar. Airport Manager Egan explained that refers to a T hangar. Councilman Blount moved to grant the business license to Ralph C. Lewis to operate a business in a portion of Kidwell Hangar No. 4. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried, there being no objection.

23. Airport Commission's recommendation of approval in accordance with Airport Manager's letter of September 27, 1961, relative to Earp Catering's request to enter the Airport for purpose of servicing some of the tenants and contractors.

Councilman Blount moved to approve the request as set forth. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried, there being no objection.

RESOLUTIONS:

24. Declaring the seven-day period beginning October 19th each year as a "Patriotic Education Observance", urging the display of the American Flag during said observance and declaring October 20th of each year to be "United States Day".

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-191

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING THE SEVEN DAY PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 19TH OF EACH YEAR AS A "PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OBSERVANCE", URGING THE DISPLAY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG DURING SAID OBSERVANCE AND DECLARING OCTOBER 20TH OF EACH YEAR TO BE "UNITED STATES DAY".

Mrs. Carol Gordon noted that the date should be October 23rd for United States Day and Mayor Isen said in that case October 20th would be considered Patriotic Education Day and October 23rd United States Day. The resolution will be so altered.

Councilman Blount moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-191. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

25. Resubmitting policy concerning removal and replacement of trees. The policy recommended is:

"When in a residential area only the property owner dedicates property to the City for the purpose of street use and has met all other requirements, i.e., agreed to install all curb, gutter and sidewalk or post a bond for same, then if trees exist within that area so dedicated and are in the way of construction for curb, gutter and

sidewalks then the City will agree to remove the trees at no cost to the property owner. However, the property owner must further agree to conform to the present policies of placing one tree per lot in the parkway per the Park Superintendent's recommendation at the property owner's cost."

Councilman Drale moved to concur in approval of the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Mr. Robert A. Fletcher of 205 Paseo de Granada appeared and representing Hollywood Riviera Homeowners, asked concerning the topping of trees. This was not the problem being considered and Mayor Isen asked that it be brought before the Council in the regular manner. City Manager Peebles quoted from the new policy manual an answer to the question Mr. Fletcher presented; but Mr. Fletcher will bring his question before the Council at a later meeting in regular form.

Councilman Bradford did not agree with certain aspects of the recommendation and Councilman Drale asked to amend his motion. Mayor Isen granted permission to Councilman Drale to withdraw his motion. Councilman Drale did so and moved to concur in the recommendation and also include that the City should replace trees in new parkways at City expense. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

26. Recommendation regarding the request of Mrs. Robertson for directional signs on a temporary basis.

Mayor Isen asked that this item be held one week so that more information could be obtained. There was no objection.

27. Recommendation that the City host luncheon to discuss applications for off-shore mining in the Santa Monica Bay area.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the City's hosting a luncheon. There was discussion as to who is calling the meeting and it developed this is the type of matter which should be discussed in a public meeting. Neighboring cities are interested. Councilman Blount asked for a reiteration of the motion and the Minute Secretary read Councilman Beasley's motion which Councilman Blount had seconded. Thereupon, both Councilmen Beasley and Blount withdrew the motion and moved the matter be considered in an open meeting in the Council Chamber with any luncheon to be held in connection therewith to be "no host". The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried, there being no objection. Councilman Blount recommended in the future the City Manager include complete information in his recommendations; the general impression was not that the City of Torrance would be paying for the luncheon for a group of people from several other cities.

28. Removal of tree, as requested by M & W Electric Company.

Councilman Drale moved to approve removal of the tree as requested. In order to get the question before the Council, Mayor Isen seconded the motion although he said he could see no logical reason for removing a beautiful and healthy tree. The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Bradford, Vico,
 Mayor Isen.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

29. Miscellaneous Recommendations:

A. Personnel:

1. That Lieutenant D. E. Nash of the Police Department be authorized to enroll in Police Management Institute at the University of Southern California, Civic Center Division, for the period September 26, 1961, through January 30, 1962, with expenses not to exceed \$192 paid, a budget item.
2. That City Manager Peebles be authorized to attend the International City Managers' Conference to be held in Miami, Florida, November 26th through 30, 1961, with appropriate expenses paid, a budget item.

Councilman Bradford moved to approve the two items listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Bradford, Drale, Vico, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount - on Item 2 only - he asked specifically that his vote be considered to be "Yes" on Item 1 and "No" on Item 2. It is so recorded.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

30. PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of October 8 through 14, 1961 as FIRE PREVENTION WEEK; October 15 to 21 as NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK and November 11 to 17 as TORRANCE - AMERICAN LEGION CIVIL DEFENSE WEEK.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

31. Superintendent of Building Inspection Schlens mentioned a request for a church tent to be erected for use October 13 through 30, 1961, at 182nd and Hawthorne Avenue by Bethel Tabernacle. The staff has approved. The location is the northeast corner of the intersection.

Councilman Drale moved to grant the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Benstead absent).

Mayor Isen thanked the members of the Junior Citizens' Council and other representatives and congratulated them on their performance. They were all invited to remain for the Oral Communications if they wished to do so, this being the end of the regular agenda for the evening.

A short recess was declared during which many of the Junior Citizens left the meeting.

32. Mayor Isen said he realized many of the audience were present because of the controversy over the removal of newsstands for WEEKLY PEOPLE and read from the proclamation of National Newspaper Week. He alleged certain vilifying remarks were made at recess by Harry Klissner, the Los Angeles Times representative, and asked that Mr. Klissner repeat them. Mr. Klissner said only that he had lost respect for Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen outlined the events which have lead to the heated controversy involving removal by persons unknown of the newspapers and vending devices from Torrance Streets and read excerpts from the newspaper. He stated, of course, this Council has no jurisdiction to restrict freedom of the press and does not wish to do so. He said he does not believe any newspaper should have to pay a license tax to sell papers by coin-operated devices and felt our ordinance should be so amended. In that this is such an important issue, Mayor Isen asked for discussion by members of the Council and the audience. He asked also that the City Attorney research the law thoroughly to determine whether on a public street or sidewalk there can be a logical discrimination to get rid of the sort of newspaper represented by WEEKLY PEOPLE.

Councilman Drale said he would like to go on record as being willing, if the WEEKLY PEOPLE is proven to be "what it is supposed to be" that an ordinance be prepared to remove them from the streets of Torrance.

Councilman Bradford expressed the opinion that newspapers in general should clean their own house and get behind this movement. He advised all citizens to write their legislative representatives on the subject.

To some extent, Councilman Beasley said he agrees with what Mayor Isen said. However, the sidewalk safety problem is not what was referred to two weeks ago. He expressed great faith in the American people and their ability to eliminate something which endangers their security.

Councilman Blount did not believe Mayor Isen was right in deciding the papers should be confiscated. He defended the rights of the individual and in support thereof read from the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. He called attention to the fact that this paper has a second class postal permit and has passed through the FBI examination. Also, it has been in existence since 1890. Councilman Blount disapproved of exhibiting the marked newspapers to the Junior Citizens at this meeting and labeled the controversy "much ado about nothing". There is an ordinance prohibiting putting newspapers on public property but the Council has seen fit to ignore it. The Legal Department has given the opinion that the Council cannot keep newsstands off public property. In closing, Councilman Blount reiterated the Council does not have the right to abridge those very things which the Constitution stands for: the right to be heard, to assemble freely, and the right of the free press.

Mr. Roger West, a Torrance resident, said he feels Mayor Isen has set a bad example by his actions. He did not believe in the policy set forth in the paper, but defended their right to present it.

Mr. Jack Sachs of Palos Verdes, supported Mayor Isen's views and actions and urged the people to learn the difference between Liberty and license. He called the WEEKLY PEOPLE and others like it nothing but trash.

Mr. Garth Belknap, a Torrance resident, stated because Mayor Isen labels something as garbage, it is not necessarily illegal. He upheld the basic freedom to express a minority opinion and contended the job of the Council and Mayor Isen is to enforce the law. He said the majority of the people are not in approval of the professional flag waver, and advocated equal treatment of not only all newspapers, but all citizens. He quoted Samuel Johnson's statement that patriotism is the last resort of scoundrels.

Mrs Robert Demarest of 21015 Amie Avenue thought this might be the time for a sane and logical interpretation of the law. She read from replies to two letters of inquiry regarding the paper, neither of which supported its expressed views. She also read from the WEEKLY PEOPLE, especially its statement of ownership. She strongly disapproves of the paper and all it represents.

Mrs. Madge Thorington, a Torrance resident, complimented those of the Council who still remember this is a country of law and what America represents. She did not agree that capitalism is our form of government - rather it is our economic system.

Mr. Jim Rea upheld patriotism. He commended Mayor Isen and advocated advising our representatives in Federal government of our wishes in this dangerous era. Mr. Rea categorized the Weekly people newspaper with pornography and fears subversion of our people as was done in Czechoslovakia.

Mrs. Helen Long, of the Socialistic party which publishes the paper, said there is a vast difference between Socialism and Communism. Her party is not affiliated with the Communist party, she said, and pointed out the despotic nature of the Soviet system. Mrs. Long invited Mayor Isen to debate the program, principle for principle. She read a protest on the disappearance of the news vending devices and stated at least one would be reinstalled on this Saturday. She held Mayor Isen responsible for the unlawful removal and called his action a contemptuous disregard of freedom of the press and the Constitution.

The statement from which she read requested the Council to take the following action: 1. Instruct Mayor Isen that it is not within his jurisdiction to deny freedom of the press to anyone and insist that he abide by those principles expressed in the United States Constitution. 2. Institute an immediate and thorough investigation through the proper departments to ascertain the whereabouts of the removed stands, papers and money; have the same returned to "us" and prosecute the one responsible for the theft. 3. When "we" reinstall our stands in Torrance, instruct the police to give reasonable protection to insure the stands from being stolen again. She stated the stand in front of 2125 Torrance Boulevard will be reinstalled October 14th at 11 A.M. and the other stand at their convenience, and requested police officers be sent to that location at the stated time to see that no interference is encountered while installing the newsstand.

Mayor Isen said when he was elected to office he took a loyalty oath and asked if Mrs. Long would do likewise. Her answer was "Any time, sir."

Mr. John Barton of Torrance praised Councilman Blount for having the courage to state his beliefs in the face of a hostile audience. He said actions similar to those of Mayor Isen in this matter tend to denigrate American democracy. By allowing freedoms, our democracy is strengthened. Mayor Isen's action has advertised the paper to the extent that now everyone is reading it, whereas before, no attention was given it, and likened it to book burning and the banning of "Tropic of Cancer".

Mr. Bill Wilbur of Halison Street, felt Mr. Barton had done an about-face from his previous views at the time of the showing of Operation Abolition some months ago. He commended Mayor Isen on his views, as well as those of the Council who have upheld him.

A five minute recess was declared.

Mr. John Popovich, a resident of Torrance, agreed with John Barton that this publicity has greatly enhanced the sale of Weekly People. He said this is a time for toughness, but he doubted it is a time for total insanity. He resented those who post as patriots and by implication deny that privilege to those who do not agree with them. He told of the newspaper which he started in Torrance which was not financially successful, but which had the right to exist under freedom of the press. Mr. Popovich said he believes Mayor Isen is sincere, but thoughtfulness and a sense of history and the future are essential to leadership in this country.

Richard Seebode, a resident of Torrance, said Thomas Jefferson had similar problems with the press of his day and yet said something to the effect that if he had to choose, he would choose a free press. He thought a debate such as suggested by Mrs. Long, would be the logical way to combat the illogical ideas that are propounded in this paper. Rather than banning the paper, its arguments should be refuted in free and open encounter. Mr. Seebode stated he is delighted to be counted in this issue, on the side of Willys Blount and Jay Beasley. The issue and the idea are the important factors.

Mr. George Heaton, owner of the Pro Blue Book store, brought out that the speaker before him, Mr. Seebode is minister of the Unitarian Church and Mr. Heaton criticized a speaker, Robert Williams, who spoke at that church some time ago and is now an enthusiastic pro-Castro Cuban, although he has maintained there is no communism in Cuba.

Mrs. Marjorie Redford of Cathann Street, suggested one way to cure the problem would be ban all coin operated newspapers as public menaces; let the papers be sold in stores only.

Mr. Richard Oliver, 2743 Portobello, said he was proud to be counted with the Reverend Seebode, pastor of his church, on the issue of freedom of speech and of the press. He cited instances of lack of such freedoms throughout the world back to the time of John Milton. Mr. Oliver questioned that Mayor Isen should impose his personal opinion upon the City of Torrance.

Mr. Richard Anderson, formerly of Torrance, and now living in Manhattan Beach, stated he is a member of a socialist party, but not the one represented here tonight. The Socialist Labor Party, he said, according to Norman Thomas, is a militantly anti-communist party and is not on the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations. His party also has a newspaper and he said perhaps "New America" will soon be on the stands in Torrance.

Reverend Seebode again spoke, explaining that he had not identified himself as the minister of the Unitarian Church because his church has taken no action and made no decision in the matter; the opinions expressed were his own personal and individual opinions. He too had heard the talk by Robert Williams and later, in offering the pulpit of his church to a John Birch Society member, had met difficulties. However, he said his church believes in free speech.

Mr. Earl Sumpter, Commander of the American Legion Post, called attention to the number of people who have taken refuge in the Fifth Amendment. The American Legion is fighting and will continue to fight to find out who and what publications are subversive and if they are, to stamp them out.

Councilman Drale asked if any members of the John Birch Society would please so indicate - and about nine men rose to their feet.

Mr. John Mulvihill of Torrance said the discussion here tonight has proved one thing to him: We don't want a dictator in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Beasley said he thought the Council has been very patient in allowing everyone who so wished to state their respective positions, realizing the Council has no authority in the situation. At this time and for that reason, Mr. Beasley moved to adjourn. The meeting was seconded by Councilman Dralé and there was no objection.

Mayor Isen accepted the motion to adjourn, but disagreed on the point of authority. He said he thinks there should be no licenses for coin-operated newspaper devices. Each newspaper should stand on its own.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 P.M.

NOTE BY MINUTE SECRETARY:

The tapes on which the proceedings of this meeting are recorded will be preserved.



City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

12.

Council Meeting
October 10, 1961