

I N D E XCouncil Meeting held September 24, 1963, 8:00 p.m.

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Edith Shaffer  
Minute Secretary

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Adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Torrance, California  
September 24, 1963

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, September 24, 1963, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Torrance, California.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were:  
COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen. Also present were City Manager Peebles and City Attorney Remelmeyer.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Attorney Fred Benson led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend A. L. Nagel of First Methodist Church opened the meeting with an invocation..

Mayor Isen announced tentative plans for the reciprocal Ministerial Association breakfast. More information will be forthcoming later.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Councilman Beasley, the minutes of the regular meeting held September 17, 1963 were approved as written, there being no objection.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved all bills properly audited be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Sciarrotta 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 Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen stated that Mr. Ted Koletos had asked as a special privilege that his architect, Roy Young be permitted to extend an invitation. Mr. Young said the exciting phase of raising the slabs for the new building will begin Thursday at 8 a.m. and continue into Friday. He invited all City officials and employees to witness this momentous occasion.

Mayor Isen gave a brief explanation of Council procedure for the benefit of the audience and introduced Mrs. Joseph Dock, President of the Local chapter of American Field Service which sponsors exchange students from foreign countries who come to Torrance and live in the homes of citizens and attend High School here as Seniors.

Mrs. Dock introduced the three who have come to Torrance for this year: Hymie Luboff, aged 18, attending Torrance High, whose home is in Johannesburg, South Africa; Clovis Bender, 18, West High, from Brazil; and Anne Horn, 17, South High, from Norway. Each responded graciously to the presentation by Mayor Isen of a key to the City.

Also introduced was Michele Sullivan of Hollywood Riviera who spent three months in Kiel, Germany under the American Abroad Program and who is also a senior at South High School.

#### HEARINGS:

8. WEED ABATEMENT HEARING NO. 6 (1963-1964) Formal hearing on Resolution of Intention No. 63-233 to hear any and all property owners having objections to proposed removal of weeds covered in said resolution.

Affidavit of Posting and Mailing were presented by City Clerk Coil and there being no objection, on motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Miller, it was ordered filed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard.

City Clerk Coil announced two letters had been received: one from a Mrs. Baker, executrix of the Crawford Estate, as to Parcel 13, listed as parcel No. 8, the address being 2929 West Carson. The parcel is covered with ice plant which she would like to have remain for fire protection. The other letter is from the accountant at Rubbercraft Corp. of California advising the property about which they were notified belongs to Pacific Electric and is a part of their right of way; not the property of Rubbercraft.

Mrs. Martha Riggle of 2555 Eldorado, owner of Lot 28, Tract 454 located at 226th and Kent, explained the church next door plans to clear off her land in connection with their own and for that reason hoped to be excepted from the abatement program of the City.

Councilman Benstead moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

City Remelmeyer suggested the City Manager investigate the three alleged exceptions and if found valid the contractor would be instructed not to abate the weeds at those locations. Councilman Beasley so moved; Councilman Sciarrotta seconded and there being no objection, this phase was referred to the City Manager. As of this hearing, therefore, no exceptions were determined to exist.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-237

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES AND EMPLOYEES TO ABATE THE NUISANCE LOCATED ON PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE DESCRIBED IN RESOLUTION NO. 63-233.

Councilman Benstead moved to waive further reading of Resolution No. 63-237 and his motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-237 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9. CASE NO. 63-50 DINWIDDIE, CASE NO. 63-62 RILEY, CHANGE OF ZONE. Third and Final hearing for a change of zone from A-1 to R-3 on property situated westerly of Hawthorne, between Mesa and High Streets. Recommended for denial. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of location sketch, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes of July 21, 1963 and correspondence were attached. Additional correspondence was also appended under an addendum to the agenda.

This being a public hearing, Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to speak on Case No. 63-50 and on case No. 63-62.

Mr. Al Levitt, speaking for himself, Mr. Riley and Mr. Dinwiddie, said while he does not believe the people know exactly what he is planning, in view of the obvious opposition of so many property owners, he thought it would be wise to withdraw his application for change of zone. If, as now seems possible, he and his co-proponents are able to purchase adjacent property, a new application will be processed which he believes will be completely in accordance with the wishes of the people. Thus, he orally asked withdrawal of the two cases.

City Attorney Remelmeyer stated he would have to wait the full six months, as it is not possible legally for the proponents to withdraw at this stage of procedure.

Mr. Baciou of 4201 Paseo De Las Tortugas, representing two service organizations of Walteria and a committee of Riviera home owners presented a petition containing 500 signatures asking denial. It, together with the additional supplementary letters were ordered filed in the case.

Councilman Benstead moved to close the hearing and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the requested changes of zone in the two cases listed and the motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

In order to permit the many people who were present in protest to said cases, to leave the meeting, Mayor Isen declared a recess at 8:30 p.m. and the Council reconvened at 8:40.

10. CASE NO. 63-59 - Change of Zone - Torrance Planning Commission. Third and final hearing on a change of zone R-1 or R-3 on property located on the south side of 230th Street and westerly of Iris Avenue, Lots 44 through 58 and Lots 311 through 337, Tract No. 18657. Recommended for R-1 zoning. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of location sketch, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes dated August 7, 1963, Planning Department recommendations to Planning Commission dated August 21, 1963, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes dated August 21, 1963 and correspondence.

A correction to the excerpts of the Planning Commission minutes had been given to the Council under the addendum items, which stated the protesting correspondence listed therein was a protest to R-1 zoning, not R-3 zoning as indicated previously.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard.

Mr. William E. Foster of 2572 West 230th Street, came forward and distributed copies of a treatise claiming no notice had been given and devaluation of property had resulted. He stated the lots were chosen by their owners specifically because of the financial potential of having something beyond a family shelter and he opposed being prevented from developing the property as planned and hoped. Due to a declination in the terrain, it would be possible to build a two-story unit at the rear of these lots, without changing the building height of the neighboring homes and the general appearance from the street.

Councilman Miller mentioned the possibility of a precise plan to control construction on these 185 foot deep lots, although he said he is normally against R-3 across from R-1 due to traffic problems. There is no way to control R-3 once it is so zoned. It was noted there is a 20 foot easement for a high pressure Standard oil line and south of that easement homes are planned.

Mr. William Johnson of 2608 West 230th Street endorsed what Mr. Foster had said and emphasized that there is unanimity between the property owners on 230th in wishing to retain the R-3 zoning.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said if the property is now R-3 the only way it can be left as such would be to go back to R-1, institute new proceedings for R-3 and put certain conditions on that rezoning. Mr. Remelmeyer expressed the belief that the land is now R-3 because of illegal proceedings involving lack of proper notice.

Mr. Bob Atkins of 22513 Iris Avenue described his situation as being unique in that his property located at the north end of Iris Avenue is not included, but its location bounded by an oil well on one side and R-3 on the other, leaves him on an island of R-1. He asked if he could not be made "one or the other". His lot is No. 43 of Tract 18657.

Mr. Joe Russell of 2633 West 230th represented the other side of the street which he described as rather narrow and congested as to traffic. The people on his side of the street are for leaving it R-1, he said. He had notice of the Planning Commission meetings and attended them. When he bought the property he was told while it was R-3 at that time, it would shortly be rezoned R-1, he said.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said the Council should assume it is R-3 at this time because of the invalid rezoning mentioned.

Mr. Kozo Ohara of 2626 West 230th Street, has a big lot on the south side of 230th which he has owned for about two years and bought from an original owner. He bought on the understanding that the zoning is R-3 and would like to have it remain as he bought it.

Mr. Charles Gaither of 2632 West 230th Street said he probably started all this controversy because he wanted to develop a design and build under the assumption he was in R-3. In his dealings with the Building Department, he discovered he was working under a mistaken assumption. He registered opposition to anything which would rezone his property to R-1. In answer to questions by Mayor Isen, he said he would like to develop nice two-unit apartment for which he has sufficient room, access to the west side of his home, and could meet the code regarding garages.

Dr. James Harrison of 2658 West 230th, a teacher, drew a rough sketch on the blackboard to delineate the type of apartment which could be constructed and which would enhance the neighborhood.

Councilman Miller was inclined to believe, as did Councilmen Drale and Beasley, that something could be worked out under a variance. City Attorney Remelmeyer repeated that there is no way to control what is zoned R-3, except by going back to R-1 under the plan he mentioned before in this hearing, and adopting a precise plan.

Councilman Beasley moved to close the hearing and his motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Drale moved this case remain as R-3, subject to a precise plan limiting the number of units to three on a lot and that the roof height be compatible to the existing structures in the area. Councilman Vico said he would second that motion if it could be made legally and City Attorney Remelmeyer said it could not. The motion and its second were not withdrawn.

Councilman Miller moved a substitute to rezone to R-1 subject to the parties coming in for either a variance or approval of a precise plan with all the conditions Councilman Drale mentioned. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

City Attorney Remelmeyer again outlined what he would recommend as proper procedure; to rezone to R-1 and he would prepare an ordinance to that effect; then instruct the Planning Commission to institute action to rezone to R-3 under which the precise plan could be established. Councilman Miller withdrew his motion.

Mayor Isen said it could go back to the Planning Commission with a recommendation that there be one more hearing with reference to a precise plan and legal notice be given. City Remelmeyer said he did not agree; only by the two-stage maneuver he described could it be done legally; his recommendation was to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission, although this would be a rather lengthy procedure.

With the statement that the Council is trying to protect the rights of the property owners through an orderly process, Mayor Isen moved to concur in the Planning Commission's recommendation to change to R-1 zoning and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,  
Sciarrotta, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

Councilman Beasley moved the Planning Commission be instructed to immediately institute proceedings with respect to the property as soon as the City Attorney legally declares it to be R-1, to rezone to R-3 with a precise plan. Included in his motion are Lots 317 through 337 and "the man on the island on Iris Avenue" Mr. Atkins. His lot is numbered 43. Councilman Sciarrotta seconded the motion which carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,  
Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

A recess was declared at 9:30 and Council reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

11. CASE NO. 63-7 - Change of Zone - Torrance Planning Commission. Third and final hearing on a change of zone from A-1, R-1, R-2 and R-3 on property located southerly of 182nd Street and easterly of Hawthorne Avenue. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of letter to City Manager dated July 9, 1963, petition signed by 31 property owners, four location sketches.

Planning Director Shartle said a number of comments and protests had been received. Mayor Isen asked if anyone present wished to speak and Mr. Robert Hill who lives on Regina Avenue presented a petition with 110 signatures of property owners in Tract 15933 who wished to go to R-2. There being no objection, the petition was ordered filed. Also submitted was a map shaded in to show the people who wanted R-2 and the Council passed this map from one to another for perusal.

City Clerk Coil read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. John B. Otter which was in protest.

Lloyd Prestwich of 2707 West 182nd who was interested from the standpoint of the Church of Latter Day Saints, described the fine type of building the church would plan to build. There seems to be no problem regarding the church, however.

Mr. Duane A. Huffman of 18411 Bailey Drive, also spoke in protest.

Glen Baker of 18305 Rosin Avenue, was very much in favor of R-2.

On motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Mayor Isen, the hearing was ordered closed by unanimous roll call vote.

Planning Director Shartle exhibited a map showing by green and red coloring the location of those in favor and those who protested. The indication is that those who favor R-2 would like it to extend from a point facing on Amie over to the alley east of Hawthorne. The Planning Commission did not so recommend but Mr. Shartle's recommendation was that it extend from the alley to midway between Amie and Bailey Drive.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation made by Planning Director Shartle and Councilman Miller seconded. Mayor Isen noted there was no recommendation from the Planning Commission. Councilman Drale said his motion would be to make the area mentioned R-2. Mayor Isen did not approve of the way this matter was transmitted to the Council, even though the recommendation was set forth, it was on the second page and not on the summary sheet.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said it would be legal to concur in the Planning Director's recommendation if that is the wish of the Council and Councilman Drale remarked that the concurrence would be that the zoning of R-1 should be R-2. Councilman Miller again repeated his second of Councilman Drale's motion and Councilman Sciarrotta called for the question.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

12. CASE NO. 63-66 - Variance - Petitioner, Stanley P. Cooper. Formal hearing on a variance to construct a two-story apartment house and garages on property situated at 239th Street, westerly of Arlington in Land Use Zone A-1. Recommended for approval as a 40 unit apartment building. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of Planning Department recommendations to Planning Commission dated August 21, 1963, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes dated August 21, 1963, exhibits and location sketch.

Affidavits of publication on Items 9, 10, 11 and 12 were presented by the City Clerk and there being no objection, ordered filed.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to speak on this case and there being no response, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and there was no objection.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve as a 40 unit apartment building and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#### PLANNING MATTERS:

13. WAIVER NO. 63-33, Max Webber, requesting exterior side yard waiver of 10 feet to construct garages along the side property line on 227th Street. Property is located at the southwest corner of 226th Street and Ocean Avenue in Zone R-3. Recommended for approval. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of location sketch and two exhibits for council use.

City Manager Peebles described a problem having to do with a narrow strip of land in the middle of the street owned by Carl Quandt and which may have to be condemned. He asked if Dr. Webber would consider bearing half of the expense of that condemnation it being agreed there would be no attorney's fees involved, only actual costs. Dr. Webber said he had not known of the proposed street through here and it conflicts with his plans. City Engineer Nollac said the street was always planned to go through as soon as the School purchased its property.

Some proposal had been made by Mr. Quandt to trade another narrow piece of property for this, but it did not seem to be an equitable swap. It was estimated, based on a \$240 evaluation for tax purposes, that perhaps the strip was worth \$1,000 and under these circumstances, Dr. Webber agreed to bear one-half of the cost of condemnation.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission with the conditions set forth by City Manager Peebles as to condemnation costs. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

14. JEWELL LAND COMPANY FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 28229. 20 lots located on the north side of Torrance Boulevard, approximately 300 feet

east of Anza Avenue in Land Use Zones R-3 and C-3. Recommended for approval. Planning Director Shartle's transmittal of letter for tentative approval of subdivision, letter to Planning Commission from Engineering Department dated April 3, 1963, Planning Department recommendations to Planning Commission dated April 3, 1963, letter of transmittal from Engineering Department dated September 3, 1963, location sketch, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes dated April 10, 1963.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of approval and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15. CASE NO. 63-46 - Variance - Donald G. Hunt.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-238

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2 OF APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23022-32 SAMUEL STREET IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 63-46, DONALD G. HUNT.

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-238 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

16. Claim of Dianne MacKinney for alleged damages sustained on July 21, 1963 at Victor E. Benstead Municipal Plunge, submitted by Attorney Haskell J. Shapiro.

Councilman Drale moved to deny and refer the claim to the Legal Department. His motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and it was so ordered.

17. Guenser Park Homeowners' Association request to close Gramercy Place between 179th and 180th Streets on September 29, 1963 between the hours of 12 noon and 8 p.m., during the Guenser Park dedication and picnic.

There being no objection, the permission was granted and the Councilmen reminded of the invitation to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT:

18. Fire Chief Benner, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, requesting authorization to purchase hard suction hose to replace old suction at all stations.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant Chief Benner's request and his motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

19. Fire Chief Benner, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, requesting authorization to purchase hi-pressure hose to replace worn hose on all engines.

On motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the authorization was granted.

20. Fire Chief Benner, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, requesting authorization to replace the lobby glass with gray plate and allow salvage for old glass as Station No. 1 and recommending that order be awarded Olson Glass Co., for \$380.

On motion of Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried by unanimous roll call, the authorization was granted. The low bid of Olson Glass Company in the amount of \$380 was accepted and all other bids rejected.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

21. AWARD OF CONTRACT - IMPROVEMENT OF 190th STREET FROM HAWTHORNE AVENUE TO CRENSHAW BOULEVARD. Communication from City Engineer Nollac, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, recommending contract be awarded to Hadd Contracting Co. in the amount of \$74,480.10, and all other bids rejected.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation stated and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

22. AWARD OF CONTRACT - IMPROVEMENT OF OCEAN AVENUE FROM WALTERIA RETENTION BASIN TO 228th STREET BY THE INSTALLATION OF STORM DRAIN AND APPURTENANT STRUCTURES. Recommendation from City Engineer Nollac, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, that contract be awarded to K.E.C. COMPANY in the amount of \$99,755.11.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation stated and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

23. INTENTION TO VACATE PORTION OF 235th STREET BETWEEN HAWTHORNE AVENUE AND MADISON STREET.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-239

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF 235th STREET BETWEEN HAWTHORNE AVENUE AND MADISON STREET IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A HEARING THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-239. Motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

24. TRANSMITTAL OF EASEMENT DEED - GRANTOR: SPERRY RAND CORP. City Engineer Nollac, with approval of City Attorney and City Manager, submitting easement deed for acceptance by City Council.

Councilman Benstead moved to accept the easement deed dated August 20, 1963 for the widening of Lomita Boulevard over a portion of B. S. Weston, 1898.4 acre allotment, Rancho Los Palos Verdes, given by Sperry Rand Corporation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and, there being no objection, carried.

## AIRPORT MATTERS:

25. Request from George Ebert, Vice President and General Manager of Aeronca re additional building on leasehold.

The request is for approval of the erection of a metal material storage building approximately 30 x 100 x 19 feet opposite the present material storage buildings to house Government-furnished material for certain subcontracts.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the approval requested and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

26. Airport Manager Egan, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles, requesting release of Mohawk Petroleum faithful performance bond and materials and mechanics lien bond.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in the recommendation to so release and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

27. Airport Manager Egan's memorandum to City Manager Peebles re correction of August 27, 1963 Council minutes regarding Mayflower Trailer lease.

The request is to correct the minutes of the regular meeting held August 27, 1963, by changing sub-item 1 to read:

"That the rental on the property under question here be \$2100.00 per year for the 1.34 acre parcel. This computes to an annual rental figure of approximately \$1565 per acre per year."

Councilman Miller moved to grant the requested correction and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead carried by unanimous roll call vote.

## 28. CONDEMNATION OF AIRPORT CLEAR ZONE PROPERTY:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-240

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 CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN SAID CITY FOR USE FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH RUNWAY AND APPROACH PROTECTION AT THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-240 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR AIRPORT CLEAR ZONE FROM ESTATE OF MARY FRANCES MOORE.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-241

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM ELSIE PHINETA FUNK, ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF MARY FRANCES MOORE, DECEASED; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS THEREFOR; AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO PAY CERTAIN SUMS THEREFOR. (AIRPORT CLEAR ZONE)

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-241 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

30. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR AIRPORT CLEAR ZONE FROM MANUEL TRASK, JR. AND BETTY TRASK.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-242

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM MANUEL TRASK, JR., AND BETTY A. TRASK; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS THEREFOR; AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO PAY CERTAIN SUMS THEREFOR. (AIRPORT CLEAR ZONE)

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-242 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

31. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM - GARRETT CORPORATION.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-243

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND GARRETT CORPORATION, DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1963, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM AT THE ENTRANCE OF GARRETT'S TORRANCE PLANT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-243 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

32. DESTRUCTION OF CITY RECORDS. Authorization of Police Chief to destroy certain City records and documents.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-244

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE POLICE CHIEF TO DESTROY CERTAIN CITY RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS.

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-244 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

33. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CHIEF OF POLICE DEPARTMENT. Submittal of proposed Ordinance repealing Section 3 of Chapter 11 and Sections 3 and 6 of Chapter 22 of the Code which regulate the appointment, removal and reduction in rank of the Chief of the Fire Department and the Chief of the Police Department and establishing new provisions.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved the ordinance be referred to the Civil Service Commission to be considered at its special public meeting to be held September 25, 1963 at 7 p.m. (Later this meeting was postponed to Monday, September 30, 1963, at noon, in Room 21 of City Hall.) Mayor Isen seconded and the motion carried, no objection.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

34. BELVIDERE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY ACQUISITION. City Manager Peebles' recommendation re Belvidere Mutual Water Company acquisition with attached letter from W. E. Ford, Chairman, Torrance Water Commission dated September 3, 1963, letter from Zad Leavy, Counsel for Belvidere, estimate of Torrance Municipal Water Department, letter from City Attorney and Water Superintendent dated May 17, 1963 and letter from Mr. Leavy dated May 7, 1963.

Attorney Fred Benson talked on behalf of Belvidere, and told of the terms of a revised offer. Because of this change in proposal, Councilman Beasley moved the matter be referred to the City Attorney and City Manager to negotiate a precise proposal with a recommendation thereon within the next two weeks. The proposal will be presented to the City Council after being considered by the Water Commission for their recommendation. Councilman Drale seconded Councilman Beasley's motion and there was no objection.

35. TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY - PROPOSED SALE 86A.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation to obtain the following numbered parcels of tax delinquent property: Nos. 356, 357, 548, 549, 550, 978, 990, 1295, 1296, and 1417. Councilman Benstead seconded the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

36. City Manager Peebles' request for permission to attend International City Managers' Conference in Denver on October 13 through 17, 1963 inclusive, with appropriate expenses paid; a budget item.

37. Miscellaneous recommendations: Expenditure: \$458.64 to International Business Machines for one 17" electric typewriter for the Traffic and Lighting Department, a budget item.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the items listed under 36 and 37 above and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

38. RESOLUTION ON WEED ABATEMENT:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 63-245

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING THAT WEEDS GROWING UPON AND IN FRONT OF CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE CITY ARE A PUBLIC NUISANCE, AND DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABATEMENT THEREOF.

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-245 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

FOR INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION:

39. Communication from Aaron Lipton re Police protection for public meetings.

Mayor Isen suggested the City Attorney study this question with possibly a change of policy and Mr. Remelmeyer stated it has been worked out, he believes, satisfactorily by adding another paragraph. It will be back on the agenda when completed and convenient, within a reasonable time.

40. An error, fixing the date of hearing for the last day of October instead of the first day of October, 1963 and to rectify this error, at the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 63-246

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF 228TH STREET BETWEEN SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD AND THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY RIGHT OF WAY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A HEARING THEREON AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Mayor Isen moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-246 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

41. City Manager Peebles stated an item had come in too late for Council agenda inclusion, being a request from the Manager of CMA store on Western Avenue for permission to use 64 parking places on their parking lot September 26 through 30 for the TORRANCE SALUTES THE AIR FORCE in conjunction with the South Torrance Lions Club.

Councilman Drale moved to grant the request and his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta. Roll call vote follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Miller, Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, and Vico.  
and the motion carried.

42. Councilman Benstead reminded the Council of the meeting with Sheriff Pitchess' office and asked concurrence in follow-up on the arrangements there made. Mayor Isen moved a full time man be engaged for an efficiency study of the Police Department, although Councilman Benstead thought less than full time would suffice. Mayor Isen suggested a full time man, on a three-months basis, to be determined weekly. Roll call vote was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Drale, Miller,  
Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

43. Councilman Sciarrotta made the following statement in answer to Council critics:

"A letter sent to the editor of the Torrance Press, and an editorial which appeared in an out of town newspaper introgued me to the extent that I felt an answer was in order to set the record straight.

"Both articleseexpounded on the idea that the Torrance City Council has powers which it is not using and consequently the members are derelict in their duties in solving the police problem.

"Both of these sources are right when they say the Council has the power, but both are wrong when they intimate it has not made use of this power.

"Long before the Assistant District Attorney made his well publicized raids, the City Manager was asked to inquire into firms available for making a comprehensive survey of the Police Department. Arrangements such as these take time and waiting for the right persons to make the investigation also takes time.

"It must be pointed out that if these alarmists feel that the members of the City Council should have personally conducted the investigation, they are asking the impossible. It takes experts, people in the business, to uncover anything which might be out of order in a highly specialized department. This would be like asking the City Council to go into a bank and find out whether or not it is solvent. Tasks such as these are left to experts and even experts sometimes are befuddled. Under the circumstances, the City Council did the wise thing by bringing in the experts and even the experts claim it will be two months before a report may be available.

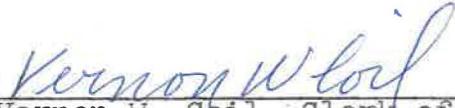
"To date, the City Council has taken all the necessary steps it can take. (1) The Police Department is under study for a possible reorganization program. (2) The Attorney General has been invited to investigage both our Police Department, and the Assistant District Attorney's activities and accusations. (3) The Council is ready to take appropriate action when the facts are made known. (4) The City Council is considering a new ordinance designed to strengthen the Police Department.

"It must also be pointed out that under our Civil Service rules, no public servant can be ousted, demoted or penalized without just cause. Until we get the necessary data we can only bide our time. If, after the facts are in, the Council fails to act, the critics would be justified in howling.

"We all want a clean city, a clean government and honest city officials. It is unfortunate that these things occur. Often, ambitious individuals do a disservice to the community by taking advantage of situations such as this to enhance their political aspirations - create false images to advance their own cause. These tactics are seldom rewarded."

Mayor Isen thought a letter to the newspapers' editors would be sufficient and Councilman Vico criticized the use of police cars and personnel by some of the members of the Council to transport them to various places.

It appearing no one from the audience wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

  
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 Mayor of the City of Torrance