

I N D E X

Council Meeting held at 8:00 p.m., April 13, 1965

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Adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Edith Shaffer  
Minute Secretary

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Council Minutes  
April 13, 1965

Torrance, California  
April 13, 1965

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held on Tuesday, April 13, 1965, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta and Mayor Isen. Councilman Vico arrived a few minutes later. City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Manager Ferraro were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Ben Smith, Vice President of the Torrance Rod and Gun Club, led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Reverend Robert Dehn of First Baptist Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 6, 1965, and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved that all bills regularly audited be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta,  
Mayor Isen

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Vico (had not yet arrived).

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 Lyman and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen introduced Eric McDonald, a student from Redlands University who is the son of Bob McDonald, a trustee of the Joslyn Foundation Trust through whose gift the Joslyn Center was built. Santa Monica was recipient of a similar gift and Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach have applied for matching funds for a like project.

Other students were present from government classes at El Camino and they were also welcomed. Mayor Isen made his preliminary explanation of Council procedure for those in the audience who are not familiar with the meetings.

HEARINGS (PLANNING AND ZONING):

8. **TORRANCE ROD AND GUN CLUB.** Public hearing on Case No. 65-16, variance to permit a club house on the northeast corner of Border and Plaza del Amo. Recommended by the Planning Commission for approval.

Affidavit of Publication was presented by City Clerk Coil and, there being no objection, it was ordered filed.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard on Case No. 65-16 and Mr. Ben Smith, Vice President of Torrance Rod and Gun Club was in the audience; otherwise there was no response.

On motion of Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, the hearing was ordered closed, there being no objection and Mr. Smith of 2504 Cabrillo Avenue stated the club has been in existence for fifteen years and has owned this particular property for six years. It is estimated the cost of curb, gutter and sidewalk will be \$3500 and Mayor Isen suggested rather than waive that requirement for a bond, that there be individual sureties, two in number, to sign an agreement to be approved by the City Attorney. The premium on a corporate bond would be expensive and would constitute a hardship to the Club. City Attorney Remelmeyer said the code requires a corporate surety although the Council may grant an exception equivalent to a variance. The time for installing the improvements would be when requested by the City Engineer.

Councilman Beasley expressed his opinion that no corporate surety would issue a bond to a rod and gun club as it is not sufficiently stable an organization and Mr. Remelmeyer said in that event there would be grounds for the Council's granting an exception. The cost of a bond would be approximately \$70 per year and Mr. Smith stated every dime counts and if the building is going to be placed on this land, it must be done within thirty days.

On Mr. Beasley's statement, Mayor Isen moved that the Council find that there is a sufficient hardship to come within the code section and that subitem 7 requiring the posting of a bond should be deleted from the requirements. In lieu thereof, that a good and sufficient surety signed by two individuals who are each worth \$3500 guarantee that curb, gutter and sidewalks will be installed, be executed. Councilman Beasley seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

There appearing no further problems, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur. Councilman Olson seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

9. PROPOSED SIDEWALK ADJACENT TO CURB ON PASEO DE LA PLAYA AT TORRANCE COUNTY BEACH PARKING LOT. Recommendation from City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that funds in the amount of \$2400 be allocated for the construction of a four foot sidewalk on Paseo de la Playa within the limits shown on sketch prepared for the purpose.

City Manager Ferraro called attention to his recommendation set forth on the second page of the accompanying communication and in accordance therewith, Councilman Beasley moved to refer the matter to the City Manager for inclusion in the 1965-66 budget. Councilman Lyman seconded. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

10. SEWER REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT NO. 60. Recommendation from City Engineer, Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that the subject sewer reimbursement district, with sewer connection fees indicated in letter of transmittal, be established.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to establish the connection fees at \$6.02 per front foot and his motion was seconded by Councilman Lyman. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

11. EXPENDITURE FROM SEWER REVOLVING FUND. Recommendation from City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that \$8,800 be appropriated from the Sewer Revolving Fund for the construction of sewers in Emerald Street from Hawthorne Avenue to Mansel Avenue.

Councilman Miller moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Engineer. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SIGNS:

12. REQUEST TO ERECT A TEMPORARY BILLBOARD. Recommendation of the Superintendent of Building and Safety, with concurrence of City Manager, that the request to erect a temporary billboard at 23201 Hawthorne Avenue be approved.

13. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR TEMPORARY BILLBOARD. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building and Safety, with concurrence of City Manager, that an extension of time for temporary billboard located at 1809 Sepulveda Boulevard be approved.

14. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR TEMPORARY BILLBOARDS. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building and Safety, with concurrence of City Manager that the request for extension of time for temporary billboards by J. S. Bower be approved.

As to all three items, 12, 13 and 14, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and there was no objection.

REAL PROPERTY:

15. WALTERIA LAKE SUMP. Recommendation from City Manager that Council approve and adopt resolution proposed and attached.

Mayor Isen commented that it seems this cannot be used for recreation purposes and at his request, City Clerk Coil assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 65-81

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST A GRANT DEED CONVEYING TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT THE RETENTION BASIN, PUMP STATION, INLET STRUCTURE AND CERTAIN AUXILIARY DRAINAGE STRUCTURES IN WALTERIA LAKE.

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-81 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Lyman, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

FISCAL MATTERS:16. EXPENDITURES OF OVER \$300.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in approval of the following expenditure items:

1. \$323.54 to Bunker Hill Uniforms for 510 Torrance Police shoulder emblems, a budget item.
2. \$728.67 to Carrol-Sager Office Interiors for two sofas, four chairs and six sets of arm caps for Recreation Department at Joslyn Center, a budget item.
3. \$374.40 to Torrance Cycle and Sport Shop for four model 1400S Table Tennis Tables needed for Park Program, Recreation Department, a budget item.
4. \$407.68 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for one 6" Hersey Model Detector Check - L. A. pattern, for Water Department.

Councilman Beasley seconded and roll call vote was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

17. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER WELLS: City Attorney Remelmeyer with concurrence of City Manager submitting resolution.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-82

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, DATED APRIL 14, 1965, WITH JAMES M. MONTGOMERY CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC., FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DRILLING OF THREE NEW WATER WELLS.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-82 and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

18. PROMOTIONAL EXPENSE OF KEEP TORRANCE BEAUTIFUL MONTH. Request for approval of transfer of \$150 and appropriation of \$350 additional for promotional expense.

City Manager Ferraro had commented that no additional appropriation is necessary; that only Council approval is required. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in approval and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

AIRPORT MATTERS:19. AIRPORT HANGAR LEASE - JOHN S. WALLACE. Letter from City Attorney Remelmeyer setting forth status of site and requesting waiving of rent between April 1 and date of delivery of the executed lease.

Councilman Beasley moved to grant the request as explained in Mr. Remelmeyer's letter. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

20. NEEDED PROJECT AT WALTERIA PARK. Request of Park and Recreation Commission, with comments of Recreation Director, Finance Director and concurrence of City Manager for appropriation of \$3,000 to construct shuffleboard sun shelters at Walteria Park.

Councilman Olson asked if this is enough of an emergency to warrant moving it up to April, considering what is needed for other parks. City Manager Ferraro explained the Council promised the Senior Citizens this improvement when they donated a contribution several months ago. This bears no relation to the importance of improving the parks which is planned for July of this coming year and will cost a minimum of \$35,000 to \$40,000. This small improvement concerns a gentlemen's agreement between the Council and the Senior Citizens Club. Councilman Miller moved to grant the request under the conditions set forth and his motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

21. STUDY OF ENTRANCE SIGNS FOR TORRANCE - PRICES AND LOCATIONS.

The recommendations are:

1. That the Council approve in principle the recommendation of the Torrance Beautiful Commission in accordance with their correspondence dated November 9, 1964, copy of which was attached to the agenda.

2. That the Council approve the design of the signs as the standard identification for marking entrance ways into the City and the colors be white on a green background.

3. That the Council approve in principle the locations of the signs and the sizes as listed in sketch dated April 6, 1965.

4. That the Council approve in principle the expenditure of the dollar amount shown in that communication, which cost is to be included in the Traffic and Lighting Department operating budget for the fiscal year 1965-66.

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

ELECTION MATTERS:

22. City Clerk, submitting recommendation relating to April 12, 1966 General Municipal Election, with reference to consolidation of precincts; fees for election officers and polling places; and compensation for personnel at check-in center.

City Clerk Coil explained each of the items and stated that while League of Women Voters assist in the work, but not for tabulating the votes which requires experienced help. Councilman Beasley moved to concur in approving all three items of the communication and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried unanimously.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

23. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION BONDS IN TRACT NO. 28639. Subdivider: Ocean View Development Co. Bond B-445310, \$4,200; Bond B-417364, \$7,878. Recommendation of City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that subject bonds be released.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur and his motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

24. DEDICATION REQUIREMENT - SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD EASTERLY OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE. City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager submitting dedication requirement for portion of Lot 24, Meadow Park Tract.

This is before the Council because Mr. Griswold asks as a condition to the dedication, that assurance be given that the utility companies will never put their utility poles on the property. If that assurance cannot be given Mr. Griswold wants to keep private ownership of the property and if the land is dedicated, the City cannot guarantee that the Edison Company or the telephone company would never install poles. Councilman Beasley was of the opinion that Mr. Griswold has a right to try to keep them off of his land, especially since there is an extremely large line right across the street. This is only a small part of a large future development for which he will need several more permits and with this in mind, Councilman Beasley moved the permit be issued without dedication and the City Attorney look into some method of protecting Mr. Griswold's property before another permit comes to the City Engineer's office. Councilman Vico seconded.

Mayor Isen thought the Council should grapple with the problem right now. Councilman Miller asked for an explanation of the matching credit on the gasoline tax funds and City Engineer Nollac explained in detail. For example, this particular dedication of \$18,000 worth of property would entitle the City to a matching credit against the Collier-Unruh funds on a 2 to 1 basis. There is no urgent need for the matching funds at this time, but it can be used in the future, except in 1967 the ratio moves to 1 for 1.

Councilman Sciarrotta asked how best Mr. Griswold could be protected against the possibility of having utility poles on the property and City Attorney Remelmeyer said there is no certain way. Councilman Beasley said Edison does not have to ask anyone's permission; they have a franchise with the City and can come in and put poles on this dedicated property.

Councilman Vico said the only assurance to Mr. Griswold is if he does not dedicate it and voiced admiration of his determination not to dedicate. Mayor Isen took issue with Councilman Beasley's statement, and suggested taking a dedication with restrictions and reversionary interests and requirements that it never be used for utility lines on the surface of the ground. He asked City Attorney specifically if the Edison Company would not have to respect such restrictions. Mr. Remelmeyer said he has been asked for an opinion on the subject by the Torrance Beautiful Commission and he has studied it for sometime. However it is a difficult problem and perhaps in a month or two he will be able to outline some methods by which it might be solved.

Councilman Beasley explained the purpose of his motion - to give the City Attorney time to study the matter. Councilman Olson asked if the City actually needs the dedication and was told yes, by City Manager Ferraro, and at no cost to the city. Councilman Olson pointed out there is an income tax advantage to the donor as he can deduct the full retail value of the land as of the time it is dedicated.

In the event the utility company did put in the poles, Mr. Remelmeyer said the City would be liable to Mr. Griswold for the purchase price of his property.

Mr. Griswold said there is still an unresolved question regarding a former permit on this same property.

Mayor Isen said a citizen has a right of deeding property with reversionary rights and the Council would have to respect that obligation and should agree by contract that no poles could go in in this particular case. Edison Company could not violate the principles of real property ownership just because they have a franchise with the City. He suggested a stipulation that the Certificate of Occupancy for the particular premises be withheld until this whole question has been resolved. The construction of the proposed restaurant would take about four months during which the question should be resolved. He said also that he believed all the sidewalks in the City should be owned by the City, not privately.

Councilman Sciarrotta asked how Mr. Griswold's interest might best be protected and City Attorney Remelmeyer said the question should be how best to protect the City's interest. Mr. Griswold's attorney, Mr. Oppenheim, was present and quite capable of protecting the interests of his client. Councilman Sciarrotta said there is a lot of land to be developed and he feels there is always time to get these dedications.

Mr. Griswold reminded the Council that the street was dedicated long ago; all that is in question now is about seven feet of sidewalk. Councilman Olson feared there might be a precedent set which would affect the dedication of land on Sepulveda all the way to Crenshaw.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Griswold to outline his position and he said he has no objection to dedicating seven feet of sidewalk to the City but he wants to be sure there will be no poles placed there in the future. He recounted previous experience some years ago which has made him wary of a promise from a Council which would have to be kept by a future Council.

City Manager Ferraro asked if Mr. Griswold could not pay to have the line put underground as other developers have done and Mr. Griswold stated he has an easement around the entire back of his property and all the buildings will be served from the back of the property. The necessity of any underground utilities will be those of someone else, not his. He said he has no faith in what the Edison Company would do, nor in what a future Torrance City Council would do; and he reminded the Council of how much property he has given to the City. He does not plan to give this dedication without a guarantee of no poles.

Mr. Arnold Oppenheim, 9601 Wilshire Boulevard, Mr. Griswold's attorney came forward and said he and Mr. Remelmeyer could undoubtedly explore and reach some manner of handling the conveyance. Mayor Isen agreed there must be an iron clad way of granting this easement so that the City can take advantage of the \$36,000 in gas tax funds.

Mayor Isen boiled the question down to whether Mr. Griswold would have any objection to granting this either by deed or easement so long as there are restrictions and reversions that there can never be power poles. Mr. Griswold agreed, stating they could go underground if they leave sufficient room for a surface elevator in case he decides to go high rise.

Mayor Isen acknowledged that Mr. Griswold's protection should come first in consideration of his worthwhile contributions of these handsome buildings to the community. If Mr. Griswold agrees, Mayor Isen said he would have no objection to issuing a building permit providing the question must be resolved in one way or another by the time of the Certificate of Occupancy. If mutual protection does not appear to be present at that time

Mr. Griswold asked if occupancy would be permitted and received no clear answer.

City Manager Ferraro outlined the provisions of Section 25.32 of the City Code under which rights of way are obtained.

It was proposed to hold this a week and Mr. Griswold said he is anxious to get the building permit for the restaurant which wants to go in. Mayor Isen said surely the law question could be determined in a week, if not the preparation of the documents.

There is a total of 100,000 square feet of property in this parcel; 41,000 has been developed; this piece now under discussion is 3600 feet, a small segment of the entire four acres which will take about four years to complete. Mr. Griswold called attention to the tax revenue which accrues from his property and stated again, he is entitled to his building permit. He said there is a precise plan granted six or seven years ago but the Planning Director said precise plans were not in existence before his advent into the city.

Mayor Isen moved to table the item until next week's meeting for resolution of the legal problem; there was no second.

Councilman Sciarrotta asked for the question on the first motion, that of Councilman Beasley. Councilman Miller asked if there could be an addition to Mr. Beasley's motion that the City Attorney bring in his opinion within a certain time.

Mr. Beasley restated his motion to the effect that the City would grant the permit but that before Mr. Griswold reapplied for an additional permit, which he will have to do with the development, that the attorneys get together - Mayor Isen asked rather that the motion authorize that a building permit issue for this sector of the development consisting of 3600 square feet. Councilman Beasley accepted this as his motion and it was seconded by Councilman Vico. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

A second motion by Councilman Miller required the City Attorney to bring in his legal opinion or brief within ninety days and that this matter be on the agenda at that time with the methods by which the City might acquire a dedication or easement of sidewalk areas and still protect the restrictions and reservations that Mr. Griswold has indicated. Added to that motion by the City Manager's suggestion was that it be retroactive to pick up the eleven feet so the City does not have to wait until the next building is built. Councilman Olson seconded the entire motion and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

The Council recessed for the purpose of holding the Redevelopment Agency meeting and reconvened some ten minutes later, 9:20 p.m.

25. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION BOND - TRACT NO. 24369, Subdivider, Norris Construction Co. Bond B-108290 \$16,000. Recommendation of City Engineer/Street Superintendent, with concurrence of City Manager that subject be released.

Councilman Miller moved to concur and his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable, with the exception of Councilman Vico who had not yet returned to the room.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE:

26. ORDINANCE NO. 1596 amending Section 6X-A of Appendix I of the "Code" to prohibit only R-1 uses in RR-3 zone.

At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Coil presented for second reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1596

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 6X-A OF APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

City Clerk Coil remarked that the changes in A-1 had inadvertently been overlooked, but they will be made. With those corrections, Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1596 at its second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

27. TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST - POLICE DEPARTMENT.

A written communication had been distributed just prior to this meeting and Chief Koenig orally gave the information it contained. A request is being made for two officers, Lieutenant Wilson and Sgt. Ashman, to the City of Oakland for eight days, April 18 to 25 inclusive, for training in their respective specialties, with appropriate living expenses and registration fees to be paid from police department budget. Transportation will be by City vehicle.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve and grant the request. His motion was seconded by Councilman Olson and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta, Vico, and Mayor Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

28. City Manager Ferraro called attention to the report of the Planning Director of statistical breakdown of acres in each zone and percentage of the entire city area within each zone.

29. City Attorney Remelmeyer reported on the negotiations leading to a permanent injunction by which the Pussy Cat A Go Go will close its doors within thirty days and the name not be used thereafter within the City. In return, the City agreed to request a continuance of the Alcoholic Beverage Control hearing scheduled for Friday and that hearing has been continued for 45 days. The City will also ask the Municipal Court to continue the criminal cases for 45 days to give an opportunity to insure compliance. On behalf of the Council, Mayor Isen complimented the Police Department, the Legal Staff and others who participated in the fine solution. Letters have been coming in from citizens of the City and elsewhere and Mayor Isen read one from the Church of Latter Day Saints thanking the Council for its prompt action.

City Manager Ferraro remarked that the Pussy Cat A Go Go situation demonstrates what is happening to the home rule policy in the State of California. The State Legislature is constantly eating away the authority of local government to solve its own problems. Until the Cities are allowed to pass home rule provisions to deal with such things as alcohol control, prostitution and regulation of bars, this will become a larger problem. He asked that the Council continue to endorse the very firm stand it previously took on the Carol Lane case.

Councilman Lyman pointed out what he believes to be the reason the legislature went into these fields, and that is local option under which some cities permitted gambling, prostitution, etc. There must be a compromise somewhere between complete control by the State, or by the local agency.

Another notice is up in downtown Torrance of intention to sell alcoholic beverages and Councilman Lyman cautioned against filling all the empty store buildings with these places. Councilman Beasley asked why the Council is not informed of these applications. City Clerk Coil said his office and the License Department receive notices and in the future the information will be passed on to the councilmen either as Information Only items on the agenda, or by memo to be placed in their mail boxes.

30. City Clerk Coil mentioned that three councilmen will be absent from the April 27th meeting because of the Guatemala trip. Mayor Isen said if there is a quorum present the meeting should be held and those present can choose a Mayor pro tem. Any controversial matters can be continued for a full council.

31. City Clerk Coil explained the picture of the cake on the front of the agenda is a reminder that Mayor Isen's tenth anniversary as Mayor of Torrance has arrived.

Reverend Hugh Percy of St. Andrews Episcopal Church presented to Mayor Isen a gift, with appropriate and eloquent words of praise for the efforts and loyalty to the best interests of the City of Torrance which have never swerved despite many adverse incidents.

32. Councilman Beasley remarked that he had planned to make an oral communication about the Alcoholic Beverage Control, but that has been covered. He asked the City Manager and Mr. Irwin for a briefing on the Urban Renewal matter and Mr. Ferraro said that would be arranged.

33. Councilman Lyman reported on a meeting last week in the Inglewood Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing plans to protect the municipalities against reapportionment of the Senate, Assembly and the Congress. There is pending in Congress legislation which would require all districts to be brought within 5% of each other in population and to be made as compact as possible in geographic size. He gave statistics as to population and registered voters. From all the activity taking place in this field, Mr. Lyman said it would seem to be time for Torrance and all other communities to speak up and be sure when these divisions are made that this community is not split up as it has been in the past.

34. Councilman Miller referred to a problem on Michelle Drive in West Torrance which he had previously mentioned and asked if the City Manager had studied and made a recommendation as to solving it. City Manager Ferraro said there would be an item on the agenda next Tuesday which will recommend appropriation of sufficient funds to pave the unpaved portions of the alley north and south of Michelle Drive to control the dust problem and the water. There is no way to block the street off or deny access to the alley. Sometime in the future when the alley is extended to Spencer and Del Amo Boulevard, it could be considered to close Michelle Drive off from the alley, but by that time the problem will have been solved. Trash trucks cannot be required not to traverse the street, as it is the only way except by coming off of Anza through driveways. The report which will be coming to Council will also suggest the Council study the whole alley problem because of the oil wells and the historical background.

Mr. Ferraro said copies of the report will be mailed to the two ladies who were present this evening on this item.

35. Councilman Sciarrotta said he had received several telephone calls and a personal call regarding the pigeons. Complaints continue to come regarding the nuisance caused and he asked just what was resolved at the hearing and what consideration was given to twenty-two people who were dissatisfied.

City Manager Ferraro gave a detailed outline of the matter dating back to early 1964 and the action of the Council and proposed legislation. By Ordinance No. 1544 it was provided that an owner could keep up to sixty pigeons if he complied with certain health regulations and did not unreasonably interfere with the peaceable and quiet enjoyment of the neighboring area. This was to be determined at an administrative hearing, with only the applicant having the right of appeal therefrom. In other words, first there were to be no pigeons; then four; then finally up to sixty, with a permit required for those over four through administrative hearing and appeal therefrom to the City Council. That hearing has been held as to Richard Russell and there are 12 or 16 others to be scheduled.

Councilman Sciarrotta said he is raising the issue because there were 22 protests which were not mentioned in the report. Assistant City Manager acknowledged that there were about 12 persons who spoke in protest in addition to the 22 written objections; perhaps 30 in all within a 2,000 ft. radius. The decision from the hearing was that 40 pigeons would not be unreasonable in the case of Mr. Russell.

Mrs. Otto Willett of 221 Via Los Altos, presented a petition signed by 175 residents of the Hollywood Riviera protesting the decision of the Assistant City Manager to grant a permit to Mr. Russell to keep 40 pigeons. She lives two houses from Mr. Russell's home and most of the 175 live within two blocks.

She asked that the Council consider an amendment to the present ordinance to the effect that there will be no pigeons allowed in Torrance, and recounted the changes in the population and development of the area since the time when the earlier residents could keep any kind of pet or livestock.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Mr. John Haidinger, representing the Riviera Homeowners Association, spoke along the same lines and added his opinion as an expert in property values in Hollywood Riviera. The presence of flocks of pigeons in a neighborhood depresses property values. He thought also the City would be spending an inordinate amount of time discussing pigeons if similar hearings are held on all of these 12 to 16 applications.

Councilman Sciarrotta upheld Mr. Scharfman's opinion as an interpretation of the ordinance as written. Mr. Haidinger maintains also that by trading pigeons within the fanciers' clubs, there is what amounts to a business venture operating in an R-1 zone.

Councilman Miller said he was not sure "no pigeons" is the answer but he does feel it was the spirit of the council's action that the concept of a conditional use permit would control. The right and opinion of the particular neighborhood under discussion would be respected. He expressed the belief that the provision of no appeal except by the proponent is a loophole in the ordinance.

Councilman Olson's recollection of the Council's intent paralleled that of Councilman Miller. He agreed with an objection to more than what would constitute family pets.

Councilman Beasley also agreed, stating keeping pigeons in the Riviera is as incompatible as a hog farm near City Hall would be. He moved that the decision in the Russell case be changed to permit not more than four. Mayor Isen rejected the motion because of lack of jurisdiction by the Council, under the ordinance as it exists.

Councilman Lyman told of his feeling at the time the ordinance was passed that it was not good legislation, although he voted for it, and that he does not believe any area within Torrance is suitable for the keeping of 40 pigeons. He moved that the keeping of pigeons within the City of Torrance be restricted to four in number.

Mayor Isen seconded Councilman Lyman's motion and added his agreement as to the feeling of the Council regarding compatibility of a particular neighborhood. All the Council can do at this time is arrange to amend the ordinance. He did not feel administrative hearings would be suitable for this type of subject. If this motion carries, the City Attorney would consider himself instructed to prepare an amendment which would restrict the keeping of pigeons to four and there would be two readings of the ordinance before it becomes law - hopefully the first at the next Council meeting.

City Manager Ferraro confirmed through the City Attorney that there would be no problem to haunt Administration because of the Russell hearing and decision.

The City Attorney was instructed to furnish Mrs. Willett with a copy of the ordinance.

Councilman Lyman recalled that when the ordinance was passed, it was with the thought that if it did not work out satisfactorily, further steps could be taken.

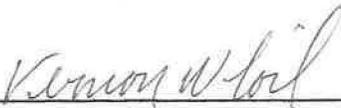
Roll call vote was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Lyman, Miller, Olson,  
Sciarrotta, Mayor Isen.

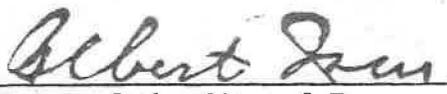
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Vico - had left the meeting a little earlier.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance