

I N D E XCouncil Meeting held June 29, 1965, at 5:30 p.m.

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Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Torrance, California
June 29, 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 at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 29, 1965, in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen: Beasley, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta, Vico and Mayor Isen. It was reported that Councilman Lyman is ill. City Manager Ferraro and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also in attendance.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Isen introduced and welcomed Councilman Meadd Gardiner of Lomita who led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend Leon Holm of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and current Minister of the Month opened the meeting with an invocation. Mayor Isen thanked Reverend Holm for his inspirational invocations during the month of June and he will be the first to receive a scroll which is now being designed for the ministers who serve the Council in this capacity.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Isen lauded the policy by which employees take additional educational training in their particular fields and at his request, City Manager Ferraro presented certificates to K. G. Kirkruff, Frank T. Howe, and Richard Garcia of the Street Department for completion of the I.C.M.A. Municipal Public Works Administration Course. To E. E. Bourbonnais of the Engineering Department and Mr. Albert Kovach of the Traffic and Lighting Department went certificates for a course in Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering from the University Extension of University of California, Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering in Berkeley.

Councilman Gardiner of Lomita presented a plaque to the City of Torrance for its participation in the parade celebrating Lomita's first municipal birthday recently.

Mayor Isen told of the illness which prevented Councilman Lyman from attending this meeting and invited Councilman Gardiner to occupy Councilman Lyman's seat on the Council this evening.

As to the condition of Lt. Swayne Johnson, Mr. Ferraro reported improvement and that a full investigation is being made of his having been assaulted, with concrete results in that several persons have been picked up and turned over to the District Attorney's office.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes secretary noted the following correction to the Minutes of the regular meeting held June 15, 1965:

1.

Council Minutes
June 29, 1965

On page 4, just before the heading BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SIGNS insert:

"Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-123 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried by unanimous roll call vote."

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Councilman Beasley, this correction was accepted and the minutes of the June 22, 1965, meeting approved as written. There was no objection.

7. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Lyman.

8. 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 Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

Mayor Isen noted the presence of several Airport Commissioners in the audience and at his request, Chairman Doss introduced John Blaisdell, Homer Morgan and Bud Blankenship.

Senior Buyer, Bill White, was present and welcomed by Mayor Isen also.

HEARINGS:

9. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1965 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1966, SECOND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Isen announced the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak; there was no response.

On motion of Councilman Sciarrotta, seconded by Councilman Beasley, the hearing was ordered closed, there being unanimous roll call vote in favor of its closing (Councilman Lyman absent).

Mayor Isen announced that the additions and deletions to the budget following several work sessions by the Council, result in a net raise in the estimate of the general budget reserve for contingencies from \$260,000 to \$382,556 and at his request, the City Clerk assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 65-132

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR 1965-66.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-132 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried as follows:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Lyman.

It was noted by Mayor Isen that there will be no water rate increases at this time. It is hoped to establish uniform rates for all residents of Torrance under a consolidated system during this forthcoming year.

Councilman Olson moved deletion of Project ID8 Japanese Garden and Roadways and Id 110 Park Nursery and Storage Area in the amounts of \$19,400 and \$25,000 respectively from the 1964-65 capital improvement projects and that a policy be established on the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus that it be earmarked for major capital improvement projects and directed the City Manager survey and review the capital improvement projects now in the offering and return them to the Council by October 1, 1965, with recommendations for 1965-66. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried as follows:

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

Mayor Isen indicated gratitude for the tremendous business activity which has permitted the maintenance of the City tax rate.

10. CASE NO. 65-4 - CHANGE OF ZONE - DELMAR WRIGHT (Continued from March 16, 1965. Third and final hearing on request for change of zone from R-3 to R-P on property located at 24224 Madison Street. Recommended for denial. Letter from Planning Director asks the hearing be postponed until January 4, 1966.

Mr. Wright was not in the audience and Councilman Beasley commented that in that January 4, 1966 is more than six months away there would be no reason not to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny and so moved. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

11. CASE NO. 64-75 - CHANGE OF ZONE - KARL BAUER - (Continued from March 30, 1965). Third and final hearing on request for change from A-1 to R-3 on south side of 186th Street between Amie and Bailey, easterly of Hawthorne Avenue. Recommended for denial. Letter from Planning Director asking continuance per letter from applicant, with concurrence of Planning Department.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the continuance until such time as the study of the entire area has been completed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley, the consent of the applicant being expressed in his letter. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

12. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 23177, GALLARETO, SUBDIVIDER, PEARSON AND ASSOCIATES, ENGINEERS. Held from meeting of June 15, 1965. 12 lots zoned A-1 west of Madison Street, between 227th and 230th Streets. Recommendation of approval, subject to conditions.

Councilman Vico moved to concur in the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval and his motion, seconded by Councilman Olson, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

Mayor Isen commented that the net effect of the motion would be that the extra ten feet not be required.

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SIGNS:

13. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building and Safety, with concurrence of City Manager, that request of B & L Construction Company for permission to erect three temporary billboards for R. A. Watt Construction Company be approved as to locations at 23133 Hawthorne Avenue and 2472 Sepulveda Blvd. and denied as to 1907 Sepulveda Blvd.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommendation as to approval of two and denial of one of the locations. His motion was seconded by Councilman Olson and carried, there being no objection.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING:

14. Acting Traffic and Lighting Engineer, with concurrence of City Engineer/Street Superintendent and City Manager, submitting recommendations of Traffic Commission as follows:

1. Removal of STOP signs on Prairie Avenue at 176th Street, with proposed resolution.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-133

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 206 OF ARTICLE III, RESOLUTION NO. 63-35 WHICH ESTABLISHES THROUGH STREETS.

Councilman Miller moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-133 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

2. Installation of STOP signs on Entradero Avenue at Towers Street, with proposed resolution.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-134

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF RESOLUTION NO. 63-35 WHICH ESTABLISHES THROUGH STREETS BY ADDING A CERTAIN LOCATION THERETO.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-134 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

3. Removal of STOP signs on Carson Street at Fern Avenue, with proposed resolution.

Mayor Isen asked about this particular request, considering the children who cross Carson Street and was told by Acting Traffic Engineer Kovach that the principal of the Fern-Greenwood School and the Board of Education member, Mr. Mackey, the Torrance Safety Council, all concur. There is no plan to remove the crossing guard. It was mentioned that the STOP signs create a false impression of security in the minds of the school children.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 65-135

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF SECTION 81 OF RESOLUTION NO. 63-35 ARTICLE III WHICH ESTABLISHES THROUGH STREETS.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adopt Resolution No. 65-135 and his motion, seconded by Councilman Olson, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

4. Request of First Baptist Church of Walteria for permission to close Park Street for the purpose of holding church picnic, and petition from fourteen residents of Taylor Court, requesting permission to close the 16400 block for a Fourth of July celebration, recommended for approval, subject to customary conditions.

28. Also, considered in this connection was a request listed on the addenda, for permission to close Howard Street from Ruby to Pearl Streets from 3 to 10 p.m., July 4th, with the same conditions imposed.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation to approve each of the above three requests, with the usual conditions and his motion was seconded by Councilman Olson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

As to the location where the STOP sign is to be removed, 176th and Prairie, there is a further recommendation that a crossing guard be assigned to the intersection of Prairie Avenue and 178th Street which will be established as a school crossing. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in that recommendation also and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

29. Out of order, to complete the addenda items, Mayor Isen asked that Item 29 be considered at this time.

COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PLAN WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR GASOLINE.

Director of Finance, with approval of City Manager, submitting Cooperative Purchase Program for gasoline for fiscal year 1965-66.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the plan as submitted and his motion was seconded by Councilman Olson. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

FISCAL MATTERS:

15. Letter from Press-Herald, requesting renewal of contract for legal advertising for one year beginning July 1, 1965, ending June 30, 1966, at same rates as last year, with recommendation of approval by City Clerk and concurrence of City Manager.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the renewal of the contract and his motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

16. Recommendation of Head Custodian that the window washing contract for 1965-66 be awarded to System Building Services, Inc., low bidder, \$1822.

Councilman Vico moved to concur in the recommendation and reject all other bids. His motion was seconded by Councilman Olson and carried by unanimous roll call vote (Councilman Lyman absent).

17. EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$300 FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the following three listed expenditures:

1. \$979 to Trenery Cabinet Company for 32 collapsible chair risers to be used at Joslyn Center and Torrance Recreation Center for social and cultural events, a budget item.

2. \$347.36 to Wardlaw Fire Equipment Company for four 10 ft. lengths of Drafting Suction Hose - 4½ inch diameter, a budget item.

3. \$678.08 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for one only detector, Hersey Model, L.A. Pattern which is a reimbursable item chargeable to Abco Construction Company, for Water Department.

Councilman Vico seconded the motion which carried as follows:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Miller, Olson, Sciarrotta, Vico,
 and Mayor Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Lyman.

AIRPORT MATTERS:

18. Temporary operations pending Council's approval of a lease or an operating permit for aeronautical purposes.

Councilman Miller moved to refer this item to the Airport Committee of the Council and his motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. There was no objection.

At the meeting of the Committee when this matter is discussed, there will be a discussion of all leases in general also.

* * * * *

The hour of six o'clock having arrived, Mayor Isen asked for a motion to recess in order to hold a meeting as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. Councilman Beasley so moved and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller; with no objection.

The Council reconvened as such at 6:05 p.m.

19. This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

20. VEGAS AIR, INC. LEASE.

Recommendation of City Attorney Remelmeyer that the City file suit to determine the validity or invalidity of the "option to renew"; the royalties due the City from sale of petroleum products by Vegas; and the tie-down provisions. Also, that Charles Catterlin, attorney, be hired for his purpose at \$25 per hour, with an initial ceiling of \$2,000 on the fee.

Mayor Isen believed it is necessary to determine these things but with the increase in the Legal Department staff he felt it could and should be done by present personnel. It is a normal condemnation matter, he said, and he would like to see it accomplished without hiring outside help.

Mr. Remelmeyer said there is a tremendous backlog of work in his office; even with the addition of another attorney, it will be extremely difficult to handle this item. He believed it would be better to hire Mr. Catterlin to care for it than let it wait further.

Councilman Miller thought the matter regarding Vegas Air, Inc. lease should be referred to the Airport Committee of the Council.

Councilman Beasley complained of the amount of time and effort which has been expended on the Vegas lease with no appreciable results. He added, however, that this was the first lease on the Airport and no one had any reason to believe the whole Airport would develop to the point it has.

There was no definite formal action, but seemed to be understood this matter would be referred to the Airport Committee of the Council.

PARK AND RECREATION MATTERS:

21. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: Recommendation from Park and Recreation Commission that the Park and Recreation facilities fund and the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers Fund be used for currently authorized or pending park and recreation capital improvement projects.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur in the recommended action and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

INFORMATION ITEM E:

21A. Along this line, Mayor Isen asked for consideration of Information Item E which should have been listed as an action item. It is a letter from the Park and Recreation Commission re action of Citizens' Advisory Committee on Capital Improvements, 1965-66.

There are several recommendations on specific subjects and those listed as 1, 2, 3 and 4 are related to the Park and Recreation functions. Mayor Isen moved to concur in those four recommendations and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. They are:

"1. Because of the rapidly disappearing suitable vacant land in the City, land acquisition should receive top priority before any other capital improvements.

2. Following land acquisition the Council should consider placing initial site development of Hickory Lago Seco and Victoria Knolls Parks ahead of other park and recreation projects. The committee feels that development would provide lawns and shrubs for the residents of these respective areas who otherwise might have no park facilities at all, while other areas would be furnished with not only parks but equipment and other features.

3. Based on an oral presentation by a representative of the Entradero Park group, the organized youth campers area should be given a higher priority than the general night lighting at that park, at a cost not to exceed \$13,000.

4. Based upon a report from the Recreation Director concerning the loss of suitable land for the proposed Magruder Park, it is recommended that the funds budgeted for the acquisition of Magruder Park be applied to the acquisition of the proposed park in South Torrance at 237th and Walnut."

Councilman Miller seconded and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

City Manager Ferraro read a paragraph from the Commission's letter regarding cooperation with the Citizens' Advisory Committee and expressed his approval also.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

22. This item will be heard at 7:00 as scheduled.

23. Chairman of Youth Welfare Commission, submitting recommendation regarding proposed automotive repair center.

The recommendation is to take no further action at this time and Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur. His motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and there was no objection.

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

24. Request of S & C Oil Company for deletion of oil well known as Lomita No. 9 from bond No. S4680253, with recommendation of Acting License Supervisor and concurrence of City Manager and Finance Director.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable. (Councilman Lyman absent).

25. Notice of meeting of Board of Directors of Los Angeles County Division, League of California Cities, to be held at Rodger Young Auditorium at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 1, 1965.

The councilmen took note of the time and the City Manager's office will follow through to see if any plan to attend.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE:

26. No. 1606 amending Appendix I of The Code, reclassifying property described in Planning Commission Case No. 65-14, petitioner Torrance Planning Commission.

At the request of the Mayor, City Clerk Coil presented for its second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1606

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 65-14. (Torrance Planning Commission).

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1606 at its second reading and his motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

27. PROCLAMATION.

Mayor Isen proclaimed July 4th as LET FREEDOM RING DAY.

28. Mayor Isen asked City Manager Ferraro for a report on the ground-breaking for Bullocks and Mr. Ferraro said at 10:30 today there was the formal ceremony attended by council members and administrative people together with officials of Bullocks for the new fashion square at the northeast corner of Carson and Hawthorne. It is estimated that the sales volume will bring to Torrance \$300,000 a year from various tax sources. Directly across the street there will be a ten and one-half acre financial center with three high rise buildings facing Hawthorne. A traffic study is being made by a private traffic engineering firm and those findings will be of benefit to the city. There will also be two banks in the immediate vicinity and another large department store on the west side of Hawthorne. South of Carson Street is not yet planned for development.

The Bullocks store itself will be a four-story structure with 260,000 square feet of retail sales, employing one thousand employees, and will open a year from September. Desmonds will be in operation next Spring. Studies are being made of deck parking at the Del Amo Shopping Center.

29. City Attorney Remelmeyer asked approval of hiring Terry William Kolhoff as a temporary assistant because of the large amount of opinions to be prepared. Councilman Vico did not think it was necessary but there are only two attorneys in the office and Mayor Isen expressed approval, except that the declaratory matter considered earlier in the

meeting should be handled by the present staff.

Councilman Beasley moved to grant the requested permission and his motion was seconded by Councilman Olson. Roll call vote was:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Lyman.

* * * * *

At 6:20 a recess was declared, after which oral communications from the Council were heard and from the audience, pending the 7:00 scheduled hour for the railroad matter.

30. Councilman Beasley mentioned a letter in the Daily Breeze last week concerning stray dogs on the street. The lady who wrote the letter said she had called the Humane Society with less than satisfactory results. He thought the leash law should be enforced more rigidly and asked Management to see if it is not possible to establish a higher level of service from the Humane Society. Mayor Isen said he believed the present contract has been well handled; there have been very few strays to his knowledge.

City Manager Ferraro said his office is equally disturbed by the situation. Assistant City Manager Johnson talked with the Assistant Director of the SPCA and evidently the particular call was handled by an employee who gave a wrong impression of what the facility would do. The citizen is not expected to contain a dog for delivery to the humane society. The situation in Torrance will be closely watched.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager to obtain the name and address of the lady so that a letter may be written to her giving the explanation and assurance necessary.

31. Councilman Miller expressed dismay that there was so little interest shown by citizens in the budget work sessions, and wondered if sufficient publicity was given them. Mr. Ferraro said there had been newspaper articles and the general consensus was that what might appear to be apathy was probably satisfaction on the part of the public that the budget is being well handled. There have been no negative communications.

32. Councilman Olson requested that the Airport Committee of the Council meet at 10 a.m. Friday, July 9th, to discuss the leases in general and specifically and that any members of the Airport Negotiating Team, or Commission, or other interested parties attend also.

33. Councilman Olson also reported that some vehicles have been traveling in Torrance Streets painted black and white in such a fashion as to be confused with police cars. There is no law prohibiting this and the man who owned these private patrol cars gladly complied with the request to correct the false impression. The Police Chief, Mr. Olson said, requests an ordinance which would prevent this type of occurrence and one will be prepared for study by the Council.

34. Councilman Sciarrotta said a Mrs. Rambeau was in the audience and would like to sepak on the drainage problem at her home, 2401 Apple Street. He believed the solution had been reached but Councilman Miller said there was more to the probelm than had been presented and he suggested that Mrs. Rambeau be heard. He had told her it would be proper for her to present the problem to Council in that she had received no relief from the City departments she had contacted many times.

Mrs. Rambeau said she had no drainage problem in 1950 when the home was purchased, but with the advent of the Torrance elementary school in 1963 and the added street and retaining wall, all the water from rain and auto washing flows onto the Rambeau property.

She told of the various attempts to get cooperation from what she believed to be pertinent sources at City Hall with no concrete results.

Councilman Miller also described the location and situation as to this deadend alley where Mrs. Rambeau has two rental units. In the winter the water flows into these units as well as overflowing the yard and lawn area.

Mayor Isen asked that this be on the next council agenda and that a copy of the report which City Manager Ferraro said has been made, be furnished to Mrs. Rambeau. If after conferring with the City Manager, Mrs. Rambeau is not satisfied, she was asked to again come to Council next Tuesday, July 6th, a 5:30 meeting.

35. Councilman Vico asked if the Sheridan Gray lease is transferrable with respect to an item on last week's agenda. Mayor Isen ruled Mr. Vico's communication out of order because it could be considered only with a motion to rescind previous action, made by a councilman who voted against it.

36. Mayor Isen asked City Manager Ferraro how long the confused situation where the signals are being put in at Madrona and Torrance Boulevard will continue. There will be delay occasioned by the lockout of the equipment operators, Mr. Nollac said. Mayor Isen suggested an appropriate sign advising the public of the improvement that is being made, and a Police officer to direct traffic at the heavy traffic hours.

37. Mayor Isen also addressed a request to the Traffic Department for a study of all intersections where it is not necessary to work with the State Highway Division, as to left turns. He referred particularly to the intersection of Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards where a left turn is very difficult and will not improve and stated there are other similar corners in the City.

22. The hour of seven having arrived, Mayor Isen asked that Item 22 be considered: Resubmittal of report of City Manager and City Attorney with opinion No. 65-12 concerning complaints from citizens living in the vicinity of the Santa Fe Railway line along Madrid Avenue.

There were several citizens present on the subject and Mayor Isen asked City Manager Ferraro and City Attorney Remelmeyer to actively participate in the discussion.

Mr. Elmo H. Scherer of 1616 Madrid Avenue spoke first after City Attorney Remelmeyer had briefly outlined his conclusion that the matter has been pre-empted by the State and there is nothing the City can do to cause relocation or rerouting of the railway traffic. Mr. Scherer said he is aware of the fact that there is nothing the City can do, except through the Public Utilities Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission, but he does think the City should take the responsibility of making whatever application is necessary, on behalf of the citizens affected. Something must be done, he said, about the noise and vibration which have resulted from the installation of new rails. There are now ten or fifteen trains a day, contrasted with the one that was to have been permitted. He felt there is something wrong with granting a further franchise to Santa Fe under these conditions. Mayor Isen reminded him that the industrial economy of the whole area depends on this track. Mr. Scherer felt the railroad company could use other rails to distribute goods from the east to the harbor, and vice versa. He stated there had been some misrepresentation by real estate people that the rails were going to be moved.

In a recent conference with Santa Fe officials on this and other matters, City Manager Ferraro stated they had said it would not be in the best interests of their company to relocate the tracks. This is the main harbor line.

Mayor Isen expressed sympathy in the problems of these citizens and suggested a neighborhood committee and members of the council and administration talk with Santa Fe officials on some particular points before going to the Public Utilities Commission, or the Interstate Commerce Commission, if either or both are found to be necessary.

Councilman Miller thought it might be well to declare the City's position right now; he feared any remedies through Santa Fe had been exhausted. Mr. Remelmeyer thought the City would be well advised to continue negotiations as suggested by Mayor Isen; sometime must be allowed for ideas to permeate the official Santa Fe minds and organization; he would favor another meeting.

Councilman Sciarrotta repeated the context of a suggested motion by Mayor Isen, to do everything within a reasonable possibility; that a committee of not to exceed five of the affected residents, the City Manager, the City Attorney and two council members and see what can be done toward agreement, without delay. The Council acknowledges that some aspects of the matter will of necessity go to the PUC, but Santa Fe might be requested to be a good neighbor as to their tracks and some particular points. Councilman Vico thought a more direct approach should be taken and asked if it was the opinion of either Mr. Ferraro or Mr. Scharfman who had met with the railroad company men, that they intended to do anything and Mr. Ferraro said the general tone did not so indicate. Councilman Miller suggested that if the Committee gets no results that they proceed to draft procedures by which the problem could be taken to the PUC without the necessity of the citizens again appearing before the Council. Councilman Vico seconded the motion made by Mr. Sciarrotta which was understood to contain the matters set forth in this paragraph and in Mayor Isen's remarks.

Councilman Olson's thought was that to move the railroad or the traffic thereon to another part of the City, would only transfer the problems of the one neighborhood to another. This is a far reaching dilemma and not one easily solved. It would not be realistic to consider removing these industrial railroad spurs.

Mrs. Young who has spoken before the Council before on this problem related what occurred at the meeting with the Santa Fe officials. Her conclusion was that all they promised was some landscaping and that at the expense of the City; maybe an overpass at Carson Street and maybe some electrical arms, but this would not remove the danger to downtown Torrance in case of fire when the fire equipment could not get across the tracks. She, too, feels it is up to the Council to do something about Santa Fe's franchise within the City. There is no revenue to the City from Santa Fe. She thought they should be told to relocate the tracks, possibly on Madrona Avenue. Mayor Isen said all the people here tonight would be long gone before that would ever be accomplished. He asked that a list of items be prepared for use before the PUC when and if that becomes necessary. He asked for the names of five persons who would work on this tough, time-consuming assignment; and for the choice of two persons from the Council membership, the seven to work with the City Attorney, City Manager and City Engineer to try to reach some amicable stipulations and set forth a number of rules to apply in connection with making a case before the PUC. These remarks he asked be considered in connection with Mr. Sciarrotta's motion and assured the people that the Council is not deaf to their pleas.

Councilman Miller added that the Santa Fe has in effect forced a showdown by so greatly increasing the traffic on this line and at his request, Mayor Isen stated the net effect of the motion in capsule form for quick clarification.

Councilman Olson repeated his feeling that the Santa Fe is not going to give up anything, considering that this is one of the busiest tracks they have; he hoped the Council is not leading the residents down a path which would end in disappointment and stalemate. The Council is certainly

more than sympathetic but it can brew no panacea. There may be some small alleviation but Councilman Olson did not want the people to rest on any false hopes.

Dolores Hicks of 3650 Emerald Street complimented the City Attorney on the report and mentioned the hazard to about 200 children who cross the track at the Catholic School on Carson.

Councilman Sciarrotta asked for the question and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Lyman absent).

Mayor Isen told the residents that the speed with which this matter progresses will depend on the speed with which they proceed to appoint committee members. Extra copies of the opinion are available to anyone who wishes them.

38. Mr. P. O. Pullen of 22611 Juniper Avenue, representing the Torrance Exchange Club, said they had operated a fireworks stand at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Highway for eight years and have a City license for this year. They applied to the State Fire Marshal for a renewal of license and somehow it cannot be found. They have now stocked their stand and cannot operate. However, there is a stand which the Native Sons of the Golden West does not plan to operate this year; they have a State license and Mr. Pullen wondered if he could somehow arrange for the Exchange Club to operate with, or in their stead. Mayor Isen recalled that the ordinance prescribes that the organizations must be strictly local and the Sons of the Golden West is a Lynwood organization; this would violate a basic term of the ordinance. Mr. Pullen said their license is being transferred into the name of the Exchange Club. Fire Chief J. J. Benner said the State license is not transferrable, but the Fire Marshal (State) has agreed that the Exchange Club may use the State license in conjunction with the original licensee if the Council approves such use. Someone from the Native Sons of the Golden West will work in the stand also.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to grant the required permission and Councilman Beasley seconded, conditioned that all revenue derived from the sale of fireworks at the stand be used for the City of Torrance Exchange Club. Mayor Isen was not completely convinced, but roll call vote was unanimously favorable after he asked that the record show that there be no precedent established by so voting.

39. J. Walker Owens, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce, said his organization has considerable interest in the safety of the people and asked that some one of the Chamber be named on the Madrid railroad problem committee. Mayor Isen told him to see that a delegate is selected.

39. Mr. Owens also recalled that Walter Nollac about a year ago, indicated an interest in the construction of a huge cross at Christmas time on the hill south of Pacific Coast Highway. It is not too early to begin planning this and he asked direction as to whether or not Council has any interest in determining if this is feasible, practical and desirable. Mayor Isen moved it be referred to management and mentioned a magazine article about a city in Oregon which did something like this and suffered many lawsuits, which he thought should be studied. There was no objection.

40. Councilman Olson mentioned a remark Councilman Vico had made about an airport lease and hopes this will be a part of the leasing meeting to be held on July 9th. It will be discussed then.

41. Mr. Wm. Deuel of 20335 South Anza, complained that the temporary NO PARKING signs on Anza from Del Amo to Torrance have caused him to receive a citation. The particular city ordinance which it is claimed he violated is for emergency traffic conditions and he does not believe it is applicable to a construction project which has now been under way for at least three months. He received his ticket for alleged illegal parking during a time when there was no construction going on, nor had there been

for over a month nor for 48 hours subsequent. He lives in a thirty-unit apartment house and it is a wide street. About eight residents of the apartment house have received citations. Section 1718.4 refers to an unusual traffic hazard and Mr. Deuel does not think one exists; it is construction. There are not adequate parking facilities; cars park right under the NO PARKING signs. He felt the Police are assuming legislative authority in issuing these citations.

Mayor Isen thanked Mr. Deuel for presenting his problem and referred it to the City Manager to take up with the Traffic Commission, and prepare a full report as soon as possible. Mr. Ferraro said the City Attorney would have a report or opinion in two weeks, copy of which will go to Mr. Deuel.

42. City Engineer Nollac announced, so the Press could take notice, that there will be rubbish collection according to regular schedule on July 5th - Monday - otherwise a holiday for City employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



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

APPROVED:



 Mayor of the City of Torrance