

I N D E XCity Council - February 25, 1969 - 7:00 P.M.

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Adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

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February 25, 1969

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 1969, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen. Absent: Councilmen Beasley (illness) and Wilson (out of town on University business).

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, City Attorney Remelmeyer, City Treasurer Rupert, and City Clerk Coil.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At Mayor Isen's request, the father of the Irish Day Parade, Mr. Bob O'Neil, led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Concluding his services as Minister of the Month of February, Reverend Milton Sippel, First Christian Church, gave the invocation. The appreciation of the Council for his fine contribution the past month was conveyed to Reverend Sippel by Mayor Isen.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 1969 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that all properly audited demands be paid. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz,
and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Wilson.

1. Council Minutes
February 25, 1969

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, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent.)

NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

(Mayor Isen noted that Item #12 re: Electronic Voting and Signaling Systems for the Council Chambers should have been a separate item. It was agreed that this item should be held for a full Council.)

8. CLAIM of Fromfield, Inc. for flood damage at 2416 Amsler Street, Torrance, on January 20, 1969. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
9. CLAIM of Ohio Casualty Group for their insured, Hyman Nadelberg, for property damages on December 20, 1968 on the Santa Ana Freeway near Indiana Street, Los Angeles, California. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
10. CLAIM of Craig Breedlove for property damages at 2412 and 2414 Amsler Street, Torrance on January 18th and 25th, 1969. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
11. CLAIM of Charles O. Good for flood damage to building on January 20th and 25th, 1969, at 2420 Amsler Street, Torrance. Recommendation of City Clerk that said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.
12. Held.
13. BUDGETED AND SPECIAL EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$300:

A. BUDGETED:

1. \$1035.30 to Kirst Pump and Machine Works to repair (on an emergency basis) a main water system pump.
2. \$325.50 to Brooks Products, Inc. for 100 meter box covers requested by the Water Department for stock "as needed".
3. \$609.95 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for 100 5/8" water meter registers and 25 cap gaskets as requested by the Water Department for stock "as needed".
4. \$537.54 to Kemp York Equipment Company for two rear broom supports needed to repair a mobile street sweeper requested by the City Garage.

B. SPECIAL EXPENDITURES:

5. \$1180.20 to Kenny's Sporting Goods for 43 dozen 12" and 16" softballs requested by the Recreation Dept. The money for this purchase will be reimbursed via team league fees through the Recreation Activities Fund.
6. \$551.46 to Western Bookbinding Company for 364 rebound paperback books.
7. \$347.45 to Certibond Records for 101 record albums.
8. \$1509.13 to Intermountain Book Company for 223 adult books.
9. \$500.98 to Safeway Sign Company for the purchase of 48 traffic control reflectorized speed limit signs requested by the Traffic & Lighting Department.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations of Items 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta,
Uerkwitz, and Mayor Isen.
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Wilson.

* * * *

The need for an executive session of the Council for legal advice from the City Attorney, following the recess later in this meeting, was announced by Mayor Isen -- in addition to members of the Council, Mayor Isen requested the attendance of City Manager Ferraro, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and Building and Safety Director McKinnon.

* * * *

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

14. Communication from Planning Commission and Planning Director re: the improvement of Maricopa Street east of Amie Avenue.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in principle and with the recommendation of the Planning Department that this matter be referred to the administrative and legal staffs for a report as to procedures, costs, and feasibility. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent).

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

15. BOND ISSUE PROJECT 8101 (South Torrance Oil Fields):
 Recommendation of Acting City Engineer that Council grant the necessary variances to the City Code to permit removal and replacement of existing oil tanks within future right-of-way of 235th Place between Walnut and Cabrillo Avenues (1964 Bond Issue Storm Drain).

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer as above stated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, at Councilman Johnson's question as to relocation of the tanks, Building and Safety Director McKinnon clarified that this action will not end the search for a location, but is to expedite the storm drain at this time, and merely cutting the red tape.

The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

16. SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION ON CIVIC CENTER:
 Recommendation of Acting City Engineer that \$10,000 be appropriated from the Sewer Revolving Fund for sanitary sewer construction on the Civic Center, per sketch submitted.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer that \$10,000 be appropriated from the Sewer Revolving Fund for sanitary sewer construction on the Civic Center. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent).

Concern for the effect of such construction on Armed Forces Day was expressed by Councilman Johnson. Building and Safety Director McKinnon confirmed that all safeguards will be taken. It was the request of Mayor Isen that there be sufficient publicity regarding the Library basement construction so that there will be no misconception as to its role on Armed Forces Day.

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND SIGNS:

17. FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION FOR PROPOSED TORRANCE MAIN LIBRARY: Recommendation of the Building and Safety Director and the City Librarian, with the concurrence of the City Manager, that the firm of T.L. Evans, Inc., Foundation Engineers, be hired to perform the service.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendations, that the firm of T.L. Evans, Inc. foundation engineers, be hired by the City of Torrance to perform the soils investigation that will determine the physical characteristics of the soils beneath the site, for the sum of \$2,250. Money for this work being available from the bond monies for the proposed construction and development of City libraries.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

18. RESOLUTION recommending approval of establishing 25 MPH prima facie speed limit for TRUCKS from Pacific Coast Highway to the southerly City limits.

Many complaints regarding the debris scattered by trucks along Crenshaw Boulevard were reported by Councilman Uerkwitz -- it was noted by Councilman Miller that there are violations of the present speed limit of 35 MPH. Discussion followed, it being agreed that enforcement is the problem. City Manager Ferraro reported that the County has a road project that goes from Palos Verdes Blvd. northerly past Rolling Hills Road, and it is hoped they will agree to bring that project all the way to Crenshaw Blvd. which will provide complete widening and make for more lanes on that section of Crenshaw Blvd.

City Traffic Engineer Horkay advised the Council of the Truck Inspection Station being instituted by the Police Department, which will have portable scales and permit weighing of the trucks.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 61-157 WHICH ESTABLISHES PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS BY ADDING ARTICLE VI THERETO.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-38. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

FISCAL MATTERS:

19. PURCHASE OF TAPE RECORDERS FOR USE OF MINUTE SECRETARIES: Recommendation of City Clerk: (a) That Council authorize purchase of three Model 1520 AV Wollensak Portable Tape Recorders from Newark Electronics, Inc. for a total cost of \$606.85, plus tax; and (b) That Council authorize the transfer of funds from Account 2410 to Account 6100 of the City Clerk's current budget for this purpose.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Clerk as stated above, and authorizing the transfer of funds from Account 2410 to Account 6100. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

20. Report and request for Public Hearing on proposed Underground Utility District. Submitted by City Manager for approval.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the recommendation of Sr. Administrative Assistant Jackson that the date of March 25, 1969 at 7 P.M. be set as the date and time for a public hearing on this matter; that the area encompass Torrance Boulevard, from Madrona Avenue to Anza Avenue; and that the City Clerk is hereby directed to notify all property owners in the affected area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

21. OPINION NO. 69-15: Re: Zone Change, subject to precise plan and written stipulation that no use be made of the property without specific Council approval.

The Opinion was ordered filed, and there were no objections.

It was the recommendation of Mayor Isen that material of this nature not appear on the agenda, but, rather, come to the Council as correspondence, with the decision as to action left up to the Council. There were no objections, and City Attorney Remelmeyer indicated that he would comply with the request as pertains to legal opinions.

22. Report re: Guide Lines for Airport Planning, submitted by Councilman Johnson.

Preference for a full Council was expressed by Councilman Johnson who requested that this matter be held for one week.

ADDENDA:

23. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE: Establishing procedure for creation of special assessment district without the issuance of bonds.
REGULAR ORDINANCE: Same as above.
RESOLUTION: Authorizing City Engineer to prepare plans, etc. 232nd Street Assessment District - Assessment District No. 69-1.

City Attorney Remelmeyer distributed a revised Section 78.1.12 DUE DATE OF PAYMENT for the subject ordinance.

In order to permit interested parties in attendance to read the revision, Mayor Isen took the next item on the agenda, returning later to Item #23.

24. AWARD OF CONTRACT - WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM FOR SPRING AND FALL, 1969 (B68-66): Recommendation of Acting City Engineer that contract be awarded to C.E. Keltz and all other bids be rejected.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer as above stated. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

26. Request of Mr. George Hopper for relief from condition of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.

Acting City Engineer Weaver stated that Mr. Hopper has purchased two lots which were involved in a lot split application located on the south side of Eldorado Street, between Maple and Madrona, and that Mr. Hopper would like relief from the condition that curb, gutter, and sidewalk be placed along the frontage of the property, feeling that it is a hardship to require him to do this when none are existing on the south side of the street. It was the recommendation of Mr. Weaver that Mr. Hopper be allowed to bond until such time as these improvements are put in.

Discussion followed on the area in general -- Councilman Miller outlined the historically curbless, etc. nature of the area, and the unlikelihood of a change of feeling by the residents. Mayor Isen could not see the practicality of a bonding arrangement. City Manager Ferraro described efforts the last few years to obtain as many sidewalks as possible throughout the City; the subject case affords leverage to this end. Disagreement with the fact that any leverage would result was expressed by both Mayor Isen and Councilman Miller.

The proponent, Mr. George Hopper, 3720 (C-1) Emerald Street, commented on the inequities of the requirement, requesting relief therefrom.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that relief from the requirement of curb, gutter, and sidewalk be given Mr. Hopper. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Prior to roll call vote, it was the comment of Mayor Isen that he will vote in favor of the motion but as far as precedent is concerned, each problem will have to be considered singly as it comes up -- in a situation like this where there is a long area with no sidewalks to speak of, a "yes" vote is in order, in his opinion.

Councilman Miller added that were the situation one where the bonds had been gained for the major portion of the block, and were down to the last two or three lots, then it would be necessary to go to an assessment district, because these improvements are going to be put in -- in this case, bonds could sit idle for ten years, there being absolutely no immediate prospect for such improvements. Councilman Sciarrotta concurred in Mr. Miller's remarks.

At Councilman Uerkwitz' question as to whether or not this requirement for Mr. Hopper would in any way speed up the sidewalks, etc., City Manager Ferraro replied in the negative.

Mayor Isen then inquired of Mr. Hopper that in the event the people on the street decide they want curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, would he join in this effort? Mr. Hopper responded that if everybody did it, he would do it.

Roll call vote on Councilman Sciarrotta's motion was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

* * * *

At 7:45 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council, and reconvene as Redevelopment Agency; his motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. A 5-minute recess followed at 7:46 P.M., after which the Council was in executive session for legal advice until the hour of 8:50 P.M.

* * * *

On resumption of the meeting, the Council returned to:

23. EMERGENCY AND REGULAR ORDINANCE establishing procedure for creation of special assessment district without issuance of bonds. RESOLUTION authorizing City Engineer to prepare plans, etc. 232nd Street Assessment District.

Coming forward to speak on this matter was Mrs. Betty Ponsford, 2306 West 231st Street, who referred to her communication of February 21st and the means of financing outlined therein:

"The section of the RESOLUTION OF INTENTION devoted to the means of financing shall:

1. State that an interest free loan from the City's General Fund shall be made to the district for the acquisition of right-of-way access to the subject street from Arlington Avenue, and it shall specify allocable costs that will be incidental to this acquisition.
2. Specify that assessments levied against benefiting properties shall not include costs for grading and surfacing; costs for sidewalks, curbs, gutters or driveways; costs for the relocation of public utility or private conduits, etc.
3. Clearly state that the cost of following the detailed procedural steps required by the Improvement Act 1911, shall not be allocated to the district."

City Manager Ferraro advised that the above is not incorporated in the ordinance, and referred to the above reference to an "interest free loan", adding that while it is not in the ordinance Staff is recommending that if the bonds are not issued, payments should be made semi-annually over a ten year period with interest of not less than 6%, which is approximately the amount the City can earn if these funds are deposited. Further, the installment provision should be accompanied by the right to place a lien on the property which is assessed.

For the purpose of clarification, Councilman Johnson advised that Mrs. Ponsford and Mrs. Johnson would like a stipulation as a part of their agreeing with the enabling ordinance, adding that it is largely the result of their very long effort on the basis of promises made -- Councilman Johnson feels it a special case and worthy of consideration. It would seem to him that the Council, in order to move this project along, should stipulate to the Items 1,2, and 3 (above) in this instance.

Further recommended by Councilman Johnson was the inclusion or expansion of the assessment district to take 232nd Street completely through. Should such extension involve additional cost to the people already involved, then that should be set aside and it should be stipulated that it will cost them no more than what they were going to pay under past agreements made with Council.

Councilman Johnson thereupon MOVED that the Council stipulate to Items 1, 2, and 3 of Mrs. Ponsford's letter of February 21st prior to enactment of the ordinance; further, that the assessment district be expanded to run 232nd Street through to Pennsylvania, at the same time adding no more cost to this group than they would have had to pay under the prior agreement.

Prior to a second on Councilman Johnson's motion, discussion ensued on an "interest free loan", with considerable concern as to such an arrangement being expressed by Mayor Isen.

Mrs. Arnold Johnson, 2277 West 233rd Street, spoke on the matter of interest, stating that in connection with the 230 Place improvement project, it has been learned from the Engineering Department that the City is getting its money back as the street is developing. They have also been given to understand that there is a building boom in sight in their area; the people in their neighborhood anticipate lot splitting, building, selling, etc. so there will not be much delay in the City getting its money back. Stipulations in writing by the Ponsfords, the Rogers, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will be furnished, stating that they will pay the assessment levy upon presentation. It is the opinion of Mrs. Johnson that the above chief proponents of the street do not care about the interest, but the people who do not wish to develop and who dedicated voluntarily right-of-way for the street and who do not wish to develop right away should not have to pay interest if the people on 230th Place did not. Mrs. Johnson added that Mrs. Ponsford had obtained dedications from the people involved with the understanding that 232nd Street would be developed in a similar manner.

Discussion returned to the "interest free loan" and the circumstances of 230th Place Opening. Councilman Sciarrotta stated that he feels that there are two reasons why these people should be given relief: (1) An opening has occurred in their neighborhood previously; and (2) the tremendous work and effort put forth by these people; it seems only logical to him that these factors be recognized, and their request has merit without it necessarily having to apply in other areas.

Of concern to Councilman Uerkwitz is not what has happened in the past, but the fact that somewhere along the line the Council has led these people to believe that their efforts were acceptable to the Council. In future cases, Mr. Uerkwitz added, there would be no question about the application of interest.

Councilman Miller elaborated on the oversight of information relative to the 230th Place Opening, it being quite unlikely that Council would have agreed to an interest-free setup.

City Manager Ferraro commented that were it simply a matter of superimposing district #1 and #2, then it would not have been necessary to create the new ordinance before the Council -- a defect is therefore obvious. Mr. Ferraro further stated that in the conditions proposed by these people, they are asking basically that they only pay for right-of-way -- that the cost of the improvement itself, the gutters, curbs, driveways, sidewalks, relocation of utility lines, etc. be paid for by the City. It is suggested by the City Manager that some of these things are things which best serve the people who are being served by the streets, and should not be paid by the City. At this point Mrs. Ponsford clarified that the streets in South Torrance go in piecemeal, and as each property develops the property is improved; the sidewalks would be put in when those lots have houses, and such a requirement should not have been included in the package.

Councilman Johnson thereupon restated his MOTION: That the Project Resolution of Intention be written to include Items 1, 2, and 3 of Mrs. Ponsford's letter dated February 21, 1969, except that in Item 2 it is understood that no curbs, gutters, or sidewalks are to be constructed at this time, but that the paving of the street and the driveways are to be included. It is further understood that this action is taken because this is considered a special set of circumstances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta,
and Uerkwitz.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Mayor Isen.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Wilson.

Relative to his "no" vote, Mayor Isen stated that he does not think this is a special case despite the thinking along this line. The "no" vote is here to indicate that he is not in favor of any precedents as a result of this case, and there seemed to be an honest difference of opinion as to whether or not this is a special situation; the majority of the Council seemed to think so and that will be the ruling -- his "no" vote will serve in the future to point to his action; the other members of the Council can explain what they did.

Further action was taken by Councilman Johnson who MOVED that the 232nd Street Resolution of Intention also include the continuation of the same street through to Pennsylvania under the same set of ground rules.

Prior to a second on the motion, there was discussion regarding taking such action, and, again, the "interest free" aspect.

The motion died for lack of a second.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1952

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1911 AS SET FORTH IN THE STATE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND FURTHER PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COLLECTING ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPERTY ACQUIRED AND WORK PERFORMED UNDER SAID IMPROVEMENT ACT; AND DECLARING THE PRESENCE OF AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Emergency Ordinance No. 1952, which will include the revised Section 78.1.12. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, City Treasurer Rupert referred to the semi-annual payment to retire the debt, noting that without this type of provision in the ordinance as now drawn would mean that this money is not due back to the City until the end of ten years, which means that the money will be out for ten years in total because there really would not be any reason for anyone to want to pay the debt. It was the recommendation of Mr. Rupert that Section 78.1.12 include a provision for a prorating the amount owed, with annual payments to reduce that debt, so that it will be paid up at the end of ten years. City Attorney Remelmeyer deemed this a major modification, highly technical in nature, and requested that he be permitted to return next week with such a provision, recommending that the Council proceed with the passage of the Emergency Ordinance and he will return with the amendment.

Roll call vote on Councilman Johnson's motion was unanimously favorable.

It was agreed that action on the regular ordinance would be held until the revisions have been made.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 69-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE CONSTRUCTION PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, A DETAILED COST ESTIMATE OF THE IMPROVEMENTS AND ALL INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT MAP IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMATION OF A PROPOSED

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.

(232ND STREET ASSESSMENT DISTRICT)

(ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 69-1).

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 69-39. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

Further action, by way of policy, was taken by Mayor Isen:

MOTION: Mayor Isen moved that inasmuch as a majority of the Council has felt that there were special circumstances involved in the subject case, and finding it impossible to so reconcile in his own mind, and in order not to encourage anyone else, that from now on out that there be NO ADVANCES OF CITY FUNDS by any assessment district by whatever mode taken without a proper, legal rate of interest. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councilman Miller expressed his reservations about taking such action; he is not in complete disagreement but feels that the Council should look at each case on its own merit.

The motion failed to carry, with a 3-2 vote, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Sciarrotta; Mayor Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Miller, Uerkwitz.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Wilson.

It was the comment of Councilman Johnson, in regard to his "no" vote, that such action is too broad. Councilman Miller stated his "no" vote was for the same reason.

In reference to his "yes" vote, Councilman Sciarrotta stated that it was his intention not to encourage any further requests, but feels there was a legitimate reason in the subject case.

Councilman Uerkwitz is in agreement with Councilman Miller -- hence "no".

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

25. Purchase of Two Only 4" Water Pumps re: Flood Control.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director for the purchase of two 4-inch centrifugal water pumps requested by the Street Maintenance Superintendent for use in combating flood waters within the City, and that the necessary funds be appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent).

26. Mr. Hopper (heard earlier in the meeting).

27. Los Angeles County Association of Planning Officials.

City Manager Ferraro reported that the above Association has one voting delegate per City, it being the recommendation of the

Planning Commission that Commissioner Uyeda be authorized to exercise that vote. Councilman Sciarrotta so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

28. City Manager Ferraro requested permission to be absent from the City on February 27th and 28th to attend a meeting of the City Managers' Association in Monterey -- permission to use a City car was also requested. Councilman Uerkwitz MOVED to concur with the request. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent).

29. The services of Special Counsel Walter Anderson, and the monies due therefor, were reviewed by City Attorney Remelmeyer, along with his recommendation that \$6000.00 be appropriated. Councilman Johnson MOVED to concur with the City Attorney's request; his motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

30. A resolution opposing Senate Bill #6 which establishes, at the State level, airport height zone restrictions was recommended by Councilman Johnson for the reason that he strongly feels each individual city or county jurisdiction ought to be free to establish the height limits. Mr. Johnson then asked that the City Attorney prepare such a resolution opposing Senate Bill #6, and there were no objections.

31. Councilman Johnson referred to Information Item E re: a Cultural Arts Commission, and recommended that this be returned to the City Manager for further study and be returned to the agenda in due course. Mr. Johnson so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and there were no objections.

32. Further noted by Councilman Johnson was the information item pertaining to the resignation of Mr. James Becker from the Torrance Safety Council, and would, with regret, recommend that it be accepted, with the appropriate resolution and permaplaque. Councilman Johnson so moved, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Wilson).

33. Information Item D re: the attendance of Airport Commissioner Chairman Blaisdell at an out-of-state conference was pointed out by Councilman Johnson. City Manager Ferraro noted the policy conflict represented by the request, hence the "information" treatment of the item. Councilman Johnson MOVED that the Council concur with the recommendation of the Airport Manager and permit the Chairman of the Airport Commission to travel out of state with appropriate expenses paid, not to exceed \$500. The motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Uerkwitz recommended that this item be returned to the agenda next week, inasmuch as it is a matter of policy and in need of a full Council. There were no objections.

34. Councilman Johnson referred to the package received from District Attorney Younger regarding bills going before the Legislature -- with specific reference to gun control laws -- and requested review of same by the City Attorney with a recommendation on the individual bills. City Attorney Remelmeyer advised that such a study is already underway, and will be on next week's agenda.

35. Councilman Miller's oral communication was directed to oral communications, and the need for some sophistication in these presentations. If newspaper publicity is the aim, it was Mr. Miller's recommendation that the reporters be contacted after the meeting, thereby expediting these lengthy sessions for all. It was the comment of Mayor Isen that much benefit has been derived from the oral communications, and he would challenge Mr. Miller's comments.

36. Oil at Torrance Beach was reported by Councilman Uerkwitz, and he requested that the City Manager arrange for the clean-up. Mr. Ferraro advised that he will so notify the County.

37. Councilman Uerkwitz volunteered for the 190th Street project, the redesigning of that intersection. Mayor Isen volunteered as well, adding that the entire Council would assist in whatever capacity needed.

38. Approval of the requested narcotics legislation by the Board of Supervisors was reported by Councilman Uerkwitz -- the increase in staff, the placing of extra personnel and equipment in the Sheriff's existing laboratories, but they did not preclude at a later date the Regional Laboratory requests. Mr. Uerkwitz added that regional studies will be made to determine the feasibility of regional laboratories in the South Bay in the near future.

39. The status of the Anza Avenue escrow was asked of City Attorney Remelmeyer by Mayor Isen. Mr. Remelmeyer advised that the escrow had not yet been opened, and reported that an appeal involving this property will be forthcoming. Mayor Isen deemed there was no relationship between any appeal and the escrow; he reiterated "please open the escrow" and advise the Council when this is accomplished.

40. Escrow charges on Alta Loma Park, totalling \$2,357.00, were discussed by Mayor Isen, with a refund in the amount of \$1127.84 the balance of the fiscal year taxes available. Mayor Isen thereupon MOVED that the legal machinery be taken and the proper application to the County Tax Collector for a refund of \$1127.84. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Wilson absent). Mayor Isen also requested that the Council be advised when the refund is made.

Further recommended by Mayor Isen, in view of the fact that City property is exempt from taxes, was the payment of taxes by Mr. Chandler, as of the date of the close of escrow until June 30th of this year. City Attorney Remelmeyer will check this out.

41. Mayor Isen next reported on a communication from Chairman Ernest Debs, Board of Supervisors, relative to a White House Conference slated for 1970 focusing upon the welfare of youth, requesting that a contact person be selected for the City of Torrance. Mayor Isen nominated Mr. Stanley Dunn, Chairman of the Youth Welfare Commission, to work on this project, and there were no objections. City Clerk Coil was directed to so notify Mr. Dunn.

42. In reference to the Crime Lab, Mayor Isen offered the following comments: Sheriff Pitchess has presented arguments for a central facility, with which Mayor Isen is in agreement. On the proposition that the equipment is so extremely expensive, with action directed in various different directions (there being

a resolution from the City of Manhattan Beach requesting the Board of Supervisors to provide for the expansion of the services of the Sheriff's Crime Laboratory so that the Manhattan Beach Police Department can avidly combat crime without the regional setup; the City of Redondo Beach seeking a lab independent of what the Supervisors may do, etc.).

Mayor Isen then referred to a communication by the City Manager, at the request of Councilman Uerkwitz, to the Board of Supervisors requesting serious consideration to the establishment, as a pilot project of the Sheriff's Crime Laboratory, of such facility in the South Bay area. Mayor Isen stated that he cannot go along with this type of thinking -- it being his feeling that there should be a central Crime Lab, and, per Sheriff Pitchess, if it is a matter of having messengers to work this deal out between the various courts, this would be much more economical than the setting up of sub-facilities in each Superior Court district. At any rate, Mayor Isen continued, some sort of agreement should be sought, with the only differences of opinion being as to method of operation and whether there should be sub-facilities or whether or not the Board of Supervisors should expand the present facility as rapidly as possible.

Mayor Isen reiterated his previous feeling that it is necessary to pay for this, and it cannot be accomplished by going against the contract cities, with the long haul to get equalization there.

It would be his proposal to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor Isen continued, that here is truly a regional activity -- a separate regional activity which could be successful in exactly the same manner as the sanitation districts. Further, by prorating the taxes being paid now and making the necessary adjustment, it could be equalized on all of the cities, both contract and so called independent cities, in that there could be a crime lab, identification bureau, and various other facilities which all Police Departments have to depend upon in a central headquarters, with a very, very small tax. For example, if the Board could see fit to equalize 5¢ in taxes on the real property tax rate as it exists, that 5¢ would raise so many millions of dollars throughout the County that a tremendous centralized facility would be possible.

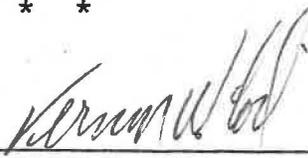
The fact that this is a long range project was acknowledged by Mayor Isen -- it is his further intent to discuss it with the Board of Supervisors, knowing that it would require State laws to set up a central County facility, but to him the long range answer is cooperating with Sheriff Pitchess, rather than any sub-facilities.

Mayor Isen concluded that his remarks are for the purpose of making his position and thinking clear on a subject matter that is of much concern to all.

43. The amazing fact that many people are unaware that Council meetings are open to the public was noted by Mayor Isen, and in an attempt to alleviate the apparent lack of communication with the citizens, he offered the following MOTION: That commencing with the 4th Tuesday in March that this Council invite a particular Homeowners' Association from an alphabetical list to the City Council meeting as that Association's particular night at Council, that they be allowed time on the agenda to introduce officers and to explore any problems they may have in their particular area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and there were no objections.
44. The airport lease procedure was questioned by Mayor Isen; the routing via Staff, ANTS, and the Airport Commission was related by City Attorney Remelmeyer. It was requested by Mayor Isen that major considerations and exceptions be noted in a memorandum to the Council when such negotiations are underway.
45. Mr. Fremont Robertson, Del Prado Apartments on Garnett Street, was present to report on what he deemed unsatisfactory conditions at the Torrance jail. The Council policy of reporting such matters to the Chief and City Manager was pointed out to Mr. Robertson; he agreed to so comply.
46. Lieutenant Douglas Cook, president of the Torrance Irish Club, requested financial relief, through the Chamber of Commerce, for their annual parade. Discussion followed on the request; Assistant City Manager Scharfman advised that the License Review Board had ruled that the Torrance Irish Club qualified to be granted a free license for their parade, a \$500 savings. It was recommended that Lieutenant Cook contact the Chamber of Commerce directly.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

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 VERNON W. COIL, Clerk of the
 City of Torrance, California

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
 Minute Secretary

16.

Council Minutes
 February 25, 1969