

I N D E XCity Council - March 10, 1970

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Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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March 10, 1970

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 1970, in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall, for the purpose of the previously announced Executive Session.

Present were Councilmen Johnson, Miller, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Isen. Absent: Councilman Beasley.

The five Tuesdays in March were noted, and the following action resulted: Councilman Sciarrotta MOVED that the Council be dark on March 24th. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:35 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council for the purpose of an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

The Council returned to its deliberations at 7:15 P.M.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council reconvened at 7:15 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 1970, 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, Wilson, and Mayor Isen. Absent: Councilman Beasley. (It was necessary for Councilman Miller to leave the meeting at 8:45 P.M.)

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

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Girl Scout Troops #143 and #772 were introduced by Mayor Isen, and, at his request, both Troops came forward to lead in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Reverend Robert Dehn, Golden Hours Convalescent Hospital, gave the invocation for the meeting.

10. TORRANCE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB - INVITATION.

Mrs. Leon Taylor, on behalf of the Torrance Junior Woman's Club, extended an invitation to attend the annual "Art in Recreation" student exhibit and reception, cosponsored with the Recreation Department, to be held at the Joslyn Center of the Arts, March 30th, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

The gratitude of the Junior Woman's Club for the privilege of working with City departments in efforts such as this was also expressed by Mrs. Taylor.

STANDARD MOTIONS:5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 1970 be approved as recorded. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and there were no objections.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Johnson moved that all properly audited demands be paid. His motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, carried as follows:

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

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 Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS - None.PROCLAMATIONS:13. "Poison Prevention Week" - March 15 through 21, 1970.

So proclaimed by Mayor Isen, and gratefully accepted by Torrance Safety Council Chairman Eva Bisou.

14. "ORT Day" - March 24, 1970.

So proclaimed by Mayor Isen.

NONCONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

15. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

A. BUDGETED.

- 1. \$305.55 to Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club for two containers (approximately 20,000 cartridges) of .38 caliber once fired ammunition brass as requested by the Police Department for use for reloading for target practice range.
- 2. \$625.06 to GMC Truck & Coach of Oakland for repair parts for our City buses as requested by the City Garage.
- 3. \$417.69 to GarWood Truck for two tailgate cylinders for rubbish trucks as requested by the City Garage for repair of Packer Unit #9006.
- 4. \$323.81 to Eastman, Inc. for 12,500 purchase requisition forms as requested by the Finance Department for use in the City purchasing system.
- 5. \$380.05 to Kim Lighting Inc. for one only luminair and standard as requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department for installation at the Los Arboles Park. The original unit was damaged due to vandalism.
- 6. \$311.37 to Industrial Wholesale Electric for 20 connector bodies and caps, 18 6 and 12 volt batteries, and 84 fluorescent lamps as requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department for stock.

B. REIMBURSABLE.

- 7. \$1785.00 to Torrance Sport Shop for 60 dozen softballs as requested by the Recreation Department for use in their summer baseball leagues. The City is reimbursed for this expenditure through the league fees collected from the various team participants. Torrance Sport Shop was low bid on this item from our "Annual Contract" and we are purchasing them at contract prices.
- 8. \$493.50 to Airport Nursery for five boxed trees as requested by the Park Department and paid for by insurance claims.

C. SPECIAL ITEMS:

- 9. \$2947.96 to Campbell & Hall, c/o Harry R. Wilson, for 299 adult and 259 juvenile books.

10. \$541.04 to The New York Times for 16 adult books.
11. \$596.58 to Needham Book Finders for 260 adult books.
16. City Buses (Considered separately).
17. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Crenshaw Boulevard from Sierra Street to Del Amo Boulevard (B68-62) Job #66093.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:

That Council accept the work and that final payment be made to the contractor (Sully-Miller) as outlined in letter of March 5, 1970.

18. Sanitary Sewer in 232nd Street.

This item withdrawn by City Engineer.

19. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Improvement of Gramercy Place from 180th Street north to end (B69-71).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY ENGINEER:

1. That the work be accepted;
2. That the extra work as described herein be approved;
3. That final payment be made to the contractor (Ruggles Construction Corporation), and
4. That an additional \$1400 be appropriated from the General Fund to cover costs.

20. CLAIM of William N. Byhower, claimant for himself and Brian N. Byhower and Kim L. Byhower as guardian ad litem for personal and property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

21. CLAIM of Boon An Chua for personal injuries.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

22. CLAIM of Lanco Engineering Company for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

23. CLAIM of Andrew C. Meyer for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That said claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney.

24. CONSTRUCTION OF 12-INCH WATER MAIN.

RECOMMENDATION OF WATER SYSTEM MANAGER:

That Council approve appropriation of \$50,000 from the Water Revenue Fund to construct approximately 3,000 feet of 12-inch water main along Del Amo Boulevard from Crenshaw Boulevard to Van Ness Avenue.

- 25. Annual Reports of the Independent Auditors and Director of Finance for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1969.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council make a motion acknowledging acceptance of the Annual Reports of the Independent Auditors and Director of Finance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1969.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on items #15,17,19,20,21,22,23,24, and #25. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

COMMENDATIONS:

- 11. RESOLUTION commending the Chamber of Commerce for appointing seven Torrance area professional and business leaders to the Advisory Committee on Government Operations."

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE COMMENDING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR APPOINTING SEVEN TORRANCE AREA PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO THE "ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS."

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-60. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

- 12. RESOLUTION expressing appreciation to Torrance Kiwanis Club for its generous contributions, support of youth programs, and outstanding cooperation with the Torrance Recreation Department, with letter from Recreation Director recommending that the Kiwanis Club be so honored.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE TORRANCE KIWANIS CLUB FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS, SUPPORT OF YOUTH PROGRAMS, AND THEIR OUTSTANDING COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF TORRANCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-61. His motion was seconded by Councilman Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

HEARINGS - PLANNING AND ZONING:

26. ZC 69-4, R.A. WATT COMPANY (A. Douglas Martin, Assistant Vice President). Continued from February 24, 1970 Council meeting. Change of zone from M-1 to R-3 on property located on the west side of Madrona Avenue between Spencer Street and Del Amo Boulevard. PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS DENIAL.

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

Mayor Isen announced that this is the time and place for the continued hearing on this matter, and inquired if anyone wished to be heard.

Mr. Bob Schulman, 16917 South Western Avenue, Gardena, representing the petitioner, stated that they have recently taken over this project, and they are trying to work out a solution and certain concessions to the homeowners, which has not yet been successfully accomplished. Withdrawal is therefore requested at this time, according to Mr. Schulman.

City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that the proponent has the right to withdraw -- he must then, however, wait six months before he may return. Mr. Schulman confirmed their understanding in this regard, and, further, that he is authorized to so request.

Mr. Chris Sorenson, 21150 Hawthorne Boulevard, representing the sellers of the subject property, stated that they concur with the withdrawal.

Mayor Isen then asked if anyone else wished to be heard.

Responding, Mr. Chris Millson, 20335 Madison Street, reviewed the many past meetings with all interested parties on this matter -- a recent homeowners meeting was held, resulting in a petition presented at this time requesting denial of ZC 69-4, with the following action specifically requested:

- (1) Disapprove ZC 69-4;
- (2) Declare a 6-month moratorium on any use of the area in question; and
- (3) To initiate condemnation action for the City of Torrance to acquire the land as soon as possible for the creation of a park.

Discussion was then directed to the above requested moratorium. Mr. Millson pointed out that the land is presently zoned M-1; it does not come under any Civic Center overlay, and could be developed tomorrow as M-1, hence it is very important that the decision be made on the land use now.

Of concern to Mayor Isen is the sign on the subject property - "For Sale for Industrial Development" - which might result in some cracker box type of industry locating there, ruining the area.

It was the opinion of City Attorney Remelmeyer that a moratorium could not be placed on the property merely as a six-month's prohibition of any use prior to the Council later acquiring the property for park purposes; that would not be within the power of the Council. On the other hand, Mr. Remelmeyer continued, if the moratorium were put on the property for the purpose of enabling the Council to restudy the Master Plan of the City or for a restudy for rezoning purposes it would indicate that the status quo is maintained, pending such a study. Mr. Remelmeyer added that this has been done many times in the past, the normal technique being to put on a 90 or 120 day period moratorium, direct the Planning Commission to institute studies to determine what the amendment to the Master Plan should be, if any, on this property; the courts would certainly go along with the Council for preservation of the status quo.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that a 90 day moratorium be placed on the subject property. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, with the comment that within 90 days surely Staff and the Park and Recreation and Planning Commissions would be able to return with a recommendation; otherwise it could be extended if necessary. Mr. Johnson added that both the proponents and the people have a right to ^{be} informed, and urgency is necessary in this case.

City Manager Ferraro inquired if the ~~six-month~~ ^{would} automatic prohibition with withdrawal by the proponent ^{be} in conflict with a 90-day moratorium. City Attorney Remelmeyer responded no; that in the meantime, after that moratorium period had expired, they could build in accordance with the zoning on the property that now exists. At the end of the 90 days, according to Mr. Remelmeyer, the Council, if so desired, could continue the moratorium for good cause shown at that time.

Mr. Millson indicated that a 90-day moratorium would meet with the approval of the homeowners. Mr. Chris Sorenson returned to comment that there should be a special assessment so that the property owners could pay the taxes, as well as the interest on the money lost during this period, then the moratorium would be fine.

Speaking on behalf of the apartment residents, Mr. Jim Faulk stated that they are sometimes overlooked and deemed second class citizens -- the argument being that they are not property owners and do not pay property taxes. Mr. Faulk then inquired as to the results after the expiration of the moratorium and the zoning is still M-1 -- it was explained that the reason for the moratorium is to permit the above described study in order to determine the best manner in which to proceed. The major concern of the people, Mr. Faulk concluded, is that they would like a park there, and would definitely be opposed to industry at this location.

ROLL CALL VOTE on Councilman Sciarrotta's motion for a 90-day moratorium was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

As to the desired park, Mayor Isen noted the Council-suggested Civic Center park, and ^{that} there has been study relative to a 7½-acre park. Director of Recreation Van Bellehem confirmed that this is being pursued, and that they are working on a proposal. The desperate need for money, in many areas, was described by Mayor Isen, as well as past bond issue efforts to obtain land which were unsuccessful. It was the suggestion of the Mayor that this group, and other homeowner groups, desiring park development should take on the leg work of promoting a park bond issue; this would be a source of funds, and would be heartily endorsed by the Council -- this appears to be the only way to effectuate such a matter.

It was the comment of Councilman Miller that the land should be tied up for future use, as was done for the Regional Park in North Torrance, which proved that many things can be accomplished with proper study, admittedly not in all cases.

Mr. Millson further commented that this is not the only time this will happen -- Torrance is a developing town; the price of land will increase, as will taxes, and things are never going to get better. With reference to the utility tax, Mr. Millson noted that there are certain exemptions, and it might be well to put a little more pressure on industry to assume the load -- hopefully, there would be other ways as well. At Councilman Uerkwitz' question as to the support of the Delthorne Homeowners in seeking a park bond issue, Mr. Millson cited their extensive activity with regard to the recent school bond issue. It was the suggestion of Councilman Sciarrotta that the 90-day moratorium period should be dedicated to evolving an answer, along the lines above discussed. Noted by Councilman Johnson was the fact that the City has other acreage which would fit into a bond issue, as a package, and would assist in picking up vestpocket parks, etc.

The absence of any play area in the location was also pointed out by Mr. Millson, who acknowledged the need for small play areas, but felt there is a need for an area for bigger children to play football, baseball, etc. -- the people look to the Council to solve these problems and provide the social services required.

Councilman Miller referred to existing sump areas and inquired of the City Manager if it would be possible to work out a plan whereby the City could exchange some of this valuable land for money to buy other park lands more strategically located, noting that when the storm drains are completed, the sumps will no longer be needed. A vision of money generated all over the City was entertained by Mr. Miller, dealing in futures, true, but if one is to condemn land it must be paid for, and would it not be possible to attempt to work out such a plan? City Manager Ferraro responded that it is very probable that this could be done.

At Councilman Wilson's question as to the proposed Civic Center park meeting the needs of their community, Mr. Millson advised that it would not be the proper location for baseball, football, etc. and one of the major drawbacks to a park area at the Civic Center.

Discussion returned to the value and timeliness of the homeowners undertaking a park bond issue, involving the entire City and resulting in a properly financed park program. Mrs. Louis Lanzer, president, League of Women Voters, assured the Council that the League would support any bond issue for the acquisition of park lands.

The advantage of a bond issue was explained by Mayor Isen -- there would be a period of 20 to 30 years to retire the bond, and the burden of repayment would be extended over that period so that future residents would also be paying it. It is impossible to see where the money is otherwise to come from, in the opinion of Mayor Isen -- he cannot see how sums can be mortgaged to buy park land.

Mr. Millson again referred to the utility users tax and recommended that all deviation be removed, with every user paying the same type of tax. Mayor Isen pointed out that this would necessitate a hearing for all the people involved to express themselves on the matter.

Mayor Isen stated that he would endorse in principle the idea of a park in that area of a proper size to serve the needs, and that an adequate study be made to go along with the suggestions made in the above discussion. He so MOVED. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta.

The tremendous traffic projections for this area were described at this point by Mr. Rosenberg, 3610 Michelle Drive, and the unacceptability of a Civic Center park in view of such traffic. The need for a decorative overpass at the appropriate time was acknowledged by Mayor Isen.

Mr. Andy Meyer urged that the Council pursue small parks, specifically the Civic Center park, in view of park vandalism and the nearby Police Department.

Roll call vote on Mayor Isen's motion was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

Mayor Isen then recommended that action be taken that the Council stimulate interest in getting a bond issue underway, referring the matter back to the Park and Recreation Commission; he so MOVED. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

Questioned by City Manager Ferraro was whether the Council would want to consider making application for other sources of funds in this regard. Councilman Johnson suggested that the bond issue be studied at the moment; if it is possible to supplement funds to reduce the amount of the bond issue, certainly that ought to be a part of the study.

Mr. Millson expressed appreciation for the action taken by the Council at this meeting, stressing that more than restudy is desired -- it hopefully being the intent that other areas of funding will be examined.

It was the request of Mayor Isen (as chairman of the Council Committee on this matter) that Mr. Millson and six other representative residents arrange a meeting with him to effectuate their request.

The utility tax exemptions were reviewed by Mr. Earl Gandrell, 20520 Amie Avenue, who reported the desire of the people that it be made a 100% tax so that it may go into a park or ^{stated} other community needs; it should be equal for everyone. Mayor Isen/^{that} such a request cannot be considered at this time, but will be a consideration at the budget sessions.

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

37. Southwood Riviera-Meadow Park Neighborhood Traffic Committee re: traffic problems in their area.

Mrs. Carol Sussman, 3904 West 234th Place, read aloud a prepared statement (a matter of record) protesting the removal of the 4-way stop signs at 230th and Ocean, and requesting that Council instruct the Staff to cease all present and future efforts to remove the crossing guard at Lomita and Ocean. The intersection of Lomita and Ocean needs special consideration, Mrs. Sussman continued, because of its unique problems: approximately 550 children cross this dangerous intersection at least twice daily during 8 different shifts; the great width of the boulevard; and the dangerous angle at which the boulevard is laid out. Also requested by Mrs. Sussman, on behalf of the concerned residents, was another meeting with Staff to discuss new problems relating to the completion of Anza Avenue to Pacific Coast Highway.

Sergeant Tom Wooldridge, Torrance Police Department, stated that he is responsible for the Crossing Guard program, and described the history of this program -- it being the theory that guards should be removed from signal-controlled intersections, thereby making the children more responsible and safety-conscious. He added that Mrs. Sussman had been advised that removal of the crossing guard was contemplated but not until the signal was installed at Anza and Pacific Coast Highway because the traffic pattern could then be determined, along with a vehicle count, to ascertain whether or not a guard would be needed at the subject intersection; this may not come into reality before another six months.

It was the recommendation of Sergeant Wooldridge that this matter be postponed until the Traffic and Lighting and Police Departments can make the above determination.

The role of the Torrance School Safety Coordinating Committee (a subcommittee of the Torrance Safety Council) in matters pertaining to safety of school children was outlined by Sergeant Wooldridge as well, who noted that the Meadow Park School PTA had not presented their request to this group, and commented that they should meet, which will furnish clarification as to crossing guard needs.

Sergeant Wooldridge added that the crossing guard is still at Lomita and Ocean, the guard would not be removed (and the P-T-A was so advised) until a meeting was held with the P-T-A, and only with their approval.

Mrs. Sussman returned to state that the P-T-A is aware of the position of the Traffic Department with respect to the crossing guard's effect on the acceptance of responsibility by the children -- the parents feel otherwise, deeming the crossing guard a teacher who instructs children in the proper method of crossing a busy street. Mrs. Sussman assured the Council of the desire of the residents to cooperate to the utmost with the Police Department and the Traffic Department in matters involving safety of the children; however, they are adamant in their determination to retain the crossing guard for whom they have worked so diligently to obtain.

It was the suggestion of Mayor Isen that there be no crossing guard removed from this location until such time as so ordered by the Council -- this to take place only after sufficient notice to the residents. Mayor Isen so MOVED. Mrs. Sussman expressed agreement with such action. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Beasley absent).

With reference to the removal of the stop signs at 230th and Ocean, it was recommended by Mayor Isen that the citizens committee meet with Traffic Engineer Horkay in an attempt to resolve this to the satisfaction of all.

39. OCEAN AND SEPULVEDA INTERSECTION.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

1. That the north approach to the intersection of Ocean and Sepulveda be limited to "right turns in and right turns out", as shown on Plan A;
2. That the intersection of Carson and Ocean be designed and constructed to prevent through traffic movement on Ocean as shown on Plan B.

Mr. Wes Kurowski, 22025 Ocean Avenue, referred to the cul-de-sacing ^{of} the north approach to Ocean Avenue off Sepulveda, and the various meetings that have been held in this regard; some technical disadvantages have been recognized in cul-de-sacing that street, and it has subsequently been decided that a compromise position of the north approach to Ocean Avenue closed to westbound traffic on Sepulveda for right hand turns would be preferable. It is further proposed that southbound traffic from Ocean Avenue to Sepulveda be allowed to turn right. In short, according to Mr. Kurowski, prohibit entry of traffic from Sepulveda onto Ocean at that point, permitting "right turn out" traffic.

Emergency type traffic was discussed, and it was the suggestion of Mr. Kurowski that there be architecture which permit entry by such vehicles; it is possible to design for access in such cases, something obvious and self-policing.

MOTION: Councilman Miller moved to concur with the recommendations of the homeowners -- i.e. no right turn into Ocean Avenue off Sepulveda; right turns out to be allowed, the Council concurring with the above presentation on behalf of the homeowners by Mr. Kurowski. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections. (Councilman Beasley absent).

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The hour being 8:45 P.M. a 10-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Isen.

(Councilman Miller left the meeting at this time.)

* * * *

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

- 29. RESOLUTION approving a variance from the provisions of the R-2 zone to permit construction of a three-unit apartment development - V 69-7 (Irwin).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A VARIANCE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE R-2 ZONE TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-UNIT APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT AS APPLIED FOR IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. V69-7.
(William and Mary O. Irwin)

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-62. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

- 16. AWARD OF CONTRACT - Budgeted 4 new City buses. Reference Bid #B70-5.

It was noted by City Manager Ferraro that the City will not be able to obtain any Federal money in the immediate future relative to the buses, and there is a pressing, immediate need for these buses. It has been the further reconsideration by the Finance Department that all of the money originally budgeted (\$119,295) be used and that only \$35,248 be borrowed, which will keep the cost of borrowing at a minimum on this project.

Further suggested by City Treasurer Rupert was further consideration of the short term renewable note arrangement, it being his feeling that a tax anticipation note might be the better way to go. It was Mr. Rupert's recommendation as well that the lesser amount be borrowed.

Councilman Wilson questioned whether or not new buses should be purchased at all, in view of the unlikelihood of recouping any of the money and the financial difficulties faced by the bus lines.

It was the comment of Mayor Isen that this Council, in line with Staff recommendation, agreed to an enlargement of the bus system -- hindsight is simple, and it now appears that the Council should have said "let's get smaller"; there is a need for reexamination.

Councilman Uerkwitz could see no need to rush headlong into purchasing more buses when it has been agreed to revamp the system anyhow -- there is a need for further explanation as to why it is necessary to purchase the buses, in view of the current deficit.

Next to speak was Mr. Leo Salisbury, 25804 Matfield, who first inquired as to the annual loss on the bus system -- the figure quoted was approximately \$240,000; he was also advised that approximately 1,111 people ride the buses. It seemed to Mr. Salisbury that there would be merit to paying the cab fare for these people, and have money left over! He then elaborated on the annual loss rate, a loss that is continually rising, and has nothing to do with old or new buses. The City is now reaping the harvest of short term thinking relative to the bus system, in Mr. Salisbury's opinion, and it is now time for long term thinking, suggesting (1) that this matter be tabled for two weeks; (2) direct the City Manager to provide the rationale for the bus system as it exists and/or with the additional expenditures, and the City Manager's projections as to what the economics will be following the expenditure over the next five years; and (3) permit him the opportunity to galvanize what he feels should be strong community consensus on this issue.

Discussion followed on a pending Council Committee report on the bus matter, the RTD distribution of money which has now become law, the critical current situation of the old equipment, and the "service" aspect of a bus system.

Mr. Richard Warren, parttime City employee, in public relations for the transit system, described the study conducted by the Daily Breeze relative to the community, and pointed out as well the extensive efforts to date, and the cost thereof, by the Bus Department Staff -- he urged that the Council support these efforts for the sake of the people of Torrance.

The rental arrangement with the City of Santa Monica was reviewed as well, and the possibilities of retaining such a rental basis for another year.

The need for further information was reiterated by Councilman Uerkwitz, with the further comment that one day this bus system will be a very valuable asset to the City of Torrance in connection with future Rapid Transit-type operations, just as will the airport. There are no money-making bus systems, Mr. Uerkwitz continued, but if it can be maintained at a reasonable level it will eventually prove extremely profitable to the City.

It was agreed that City Manager Ferraro would prepare a report for the March 17th agenda, in line with the above discussion. Councilman Johnson so MOVED, and there were no objections.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

- 27. Planning Commission's motion recommending an emergency moratorium prohibiting the occupancy of a vacant building on the northeast corner of Maple and Carson.

It was the recommendation of City Attorney Remelmeyer that a 90-day moratorium would be appropriate in the subject case, pending

a zoning study. Councilman Johnson so MOVED. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller.)

28. ORDINANCE of the City Council reclassifying property which is located on the east side of Crenshaw Boulevard south of Dalemead Street (ZC 69-26), and repealing Ordinance No. 2058 relating to the same matter.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2064

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF CRENSHAW BOULEVARD SOUTH OF DALEMEAD STREET, DESCRIBED IN ZONE CHANGE CASE 69-26, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2058.
(Torrance Planning Commission)

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to waive further reading of Ordinance No. 2064. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

Councilman Johnson moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2064 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Prior to roll call vote on the motion, Mr. Bill Hollingsworth, representing Mr. Jack Daugherty, asked that the Council reconsider their action in this matter. Mr. Hollingsworth reviewed the past history of this property, starting with R-3 zoning in 1953; to rezone the property R-1 will result in a substantial loss to Mr. Daugherty.

A motion for reconsideration was not forthcoming.

Roll call vote on Councilman Johnson's motion for approval of Ordinance No. 2064 was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller).

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

30. TIME DEPOSIT OPEN ACCOUNTS for excess insurance monies.

RECOMMENDATION OF PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:

That the City Council approve the T.D.O.A. program in lieu of the U.S. Savings Bond program.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Personnel Director. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley and Miller absent).

REAL PROPERTY:

31. ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR MADISON (MADRONA) STREET BETWEEN LOMITA BOULEVARD AND SKYPARK DRIVE (JOB NO. 70015).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY MANAGER:

1. That the proper City officials be authorized and directed to open an escrow with the United California Bank and execute all necessary documents.
2. That the sum of \$59,000 be appropriated from the special gas tax street improvement fund.
3. That the City Manager be authorized to dispose of, in the manner prescribed by law, all excess land above that needed for public right-of-way with the proceeds thereof being returned to the gas tax fund.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendations of the City Manager. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller.)

It was noted by City Manager Ferraro that the above action will make it necessary to start an amendment to the Master Plan of Streets.

32. RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of a license agreement for use of a portion of City right-of-way located on the south side of Lomita Boulevard west of Madison Street. (Kahan, Kahan, and Oehlbaum).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-63

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 LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND IRWIN KAHAN, MARTIN KAHAN AND FRANK OEHLBAUM.
(Inter-Pebco)

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-63. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller).

33. Contract for appraisal services, Christy J. Petrofanis.

Withdrawn.

34. RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of an agreement for the purchase of Parcel No. 13 required for the widening of Del Amo Boulevard (Newton Street and Helen E. Kimes).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-64

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PARCEL NO. 13 REQUIRED FOR THE WIDENING OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD.

(Newton S. and Helen E. Kimes).

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-64. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller).

35. RESOLUTION directing the City Attorney to bring an action in Superior Court for the condemnation of property for the extension of 235th Street at Maple.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-65

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE OF THE FEE SIMPLE TITLE IN AND TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN SAID CITY FOR ANY PUBLIC USES AND PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND FOR USE FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC STREET PURPOSES; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

(235th Street at Maple)

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-65. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley and Miller absent).

36. RESOLUTION authorizing execution of an agreement to purchase Parcel No. 4 required for the widening of Del Amo Boulevard (Solis).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-66

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PARCEL NO. 4 REQUIRED FOR THE WIDENING OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD.

(Solis)

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-66. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

- 38. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND RAILROAD CROSSING PROTECTION.

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the City Traffic Engineer be instructed to proceed with the design and installation of a traffic signal and railroad crossing protection at the intersection of Plaza del Amo and Carson Street at the A.T.&S.F. R.R. mainline crossing.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Council Finance Committee, and to approve an appropriation of \$5,000 from the special gas tax street improvement fund for preliminary engineering. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

- 40. ORDINANCE adding Article 13 to Chapter 3, Division 1 of the Torrance Municipal Code creating a Streets and Highways Commission.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2065

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING ARTICLE 13 TO CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE CREATING A STREETS AND HIGHWAYS COMMISSION.

Councilman Johnson moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2065 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

- 41. RESOLUTION authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with Torrance Jaycees for budgeted funds for Miss Torrance Pageant.

With the comment that the Miss Torrance Pageant is one of the most successful of all City events, Councilman Uerkwitz MOVED to approve the \$750 payment, with an appropriation of \$400 from the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-67

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE TORRANCE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATING TO THE 1970 MISS TORRANCE PAGEANT.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-67. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

ITEMS NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED:

42. ORDINANCE amending the provisions of Table 15.202 of the Uniform Fire Code, 1961 Edition, and Table 9-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, 1967 Edition, governing the location of tanks for the storage of crude petroleum and other flammable liquids.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2066

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF TABLE 15.202 OF THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE, 1961 EDITION, AND TABLE 9-1-B OF THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE, 1967 EDITION, GOVERNING THE LOCATION OF TANKS FOR THE STORAGE OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND OTHER FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to waive further reading of Ordinance No. 2066. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller).

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the approval of Ordinance No. 2066 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Absent: Councilmen Beasley, Miller).

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

43. ORDINANCE NO. 2063.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2063

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 5, DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO POLICE RESERVE CORPS AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW ARTICLE 2, ESTABLISHING A "POLICE RESERVE CORPS" FOR SAID CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF SAID CORPS AND OF THE MEMBERS THEREOF.

Councilman Johnson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2063 at its second and final reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

ADDENDUM ITEM:

44. WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM FOR 1970.

City Attorney Remelmeyer noted that a change of date for the hearing is necessary, in view of the fact that Council will be dark on March 24th. Councilman Johnson MOVED that the subject date be changed to March 31, 1970, 5:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 70-68

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

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 70-68. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

* * * *

The hour being 9:40 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and there were no objections. The Council returned to its agenda at 9:42 P.M.

* * * *

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

45. City Attorney Remelmeyer advised the Council that the requested report on the authority of the Council to censure Mr. Donovan will be available in approximately two weeks.

46. Councilman Johnson referred to the previously introduced matter relative to the cost of law enforcement for independent cities and their paying the difference between what is paid by the contract cities and the actual cost to the County -- Mr. Johnson has ascertained that of the \$10 million subsidy referred to by Los Angeles Councilman Bernardi in this regard, Torrance is paying approximately \$240,000, noting that Torrance has 2.4% of the total assessed value in the County. Further noted by Councilman Johnson was the fact that the above \$240,000 is the equivalent of 6¢ on the City property tax rate or \$1.71 per capita based on the City's 140,000 population.

The March 17th meeting of the Board of Supervisors where this matter will be considered was pointed out by Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Sciarrotta suggested that a note of thanks be sent to Councilman Bernardi for the homework in this case would be appropriate -- it is a fight valiantly pursued by Mr. Bernardi, and, if successful, he is certainly deserving of much credit.

47. Problems along Ocean Avenue brought to light at a recent homeowners meeting attended by Councilman Johnson were noted by him, with the comment that two major problems on this street have been reviewed at this meeting -- Mr. Johnson feels it of sufficient importance to ask the Traffic Department, in conjunction with the City Manager, the Planning Department, and the Planning Commission, to study Ocean Avenue from Torrance south to 101 Highway, with a view to how the problems can be improved -- such problems being traffic congestion, elimination of the use of Ocean as a bypass, and like problems.

Councilman Johnson so MOVED that such a study be made. His motion was seconded by Mayor Isen, and there were no objections.

It was further clarified by Councilman Johnson that it is his intent that the Planning Commission hold public hearings, as necessary, with notification to all interested parties.

Mayor Isen noted that there are many facets to the Ocean Avenue problems, and suggested that all concerned homeowners unite in the resolution of these problems for all.

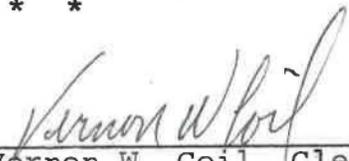
48. The gratifying progress being made on Crenshaw Boulevard was noted by Mayor Isen, who expressed the hope that the median would be attractively landscaped. City Manager Ferraro advised that the plans are not yet fully completed; he will report back.

49. Mr. Ben Cooper, 22908 Anza Avenue, requested clarification regarding certain City ordinances pertaining to real estate signs. Mayor Isen asked that Mr. Cooper get with City Attorney Remelmeyer to further define his questions, with the answers thereto being made an agenda item, with a copy to Mr. Cooper, which will permit further more informed discussion at a later date.

50. Mr. Bill Roberts, 3937 West 188th Street, commended the Council recommendation a few weeks ago relative to a fixed amount of money for the budget, and inquired as to its status. Councilman Sciarrotta advised that the Council Finance Committee has this under consideration.

At 10:00 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to adjourn to 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 17, 1970 for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilmen Beasley, Miller absent).

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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

21. Council Minutes
 March 10, 1970