

I N D E XCity Council - June 20, 1970

<u>SUBJECT:</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order	1
2. Roll Call	1
3. Dispensation with Regular Order of Business	1
4. Budget Workshop Session	1-10

Adjourned at 4:25 P.M. to Monday, June 22, 1970,

6:00 P.M.

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
June 20, 1970

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING - TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Saturday, June 20, 1970, at 9:00 A.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Responding to roll call by City Clerk Coil were: Councilmen Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Councilman Johnson arrived at 9:25 A.M.

3. DISPENSATION WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to dispense with the regular order of business. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote (Councilman Johnson absent).

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Councilman Sciarrotta advised that the presentation re: the utility tax exemption by the Chamber of Commerce representatives before the Council Finance Committee had much merit, and was one that should be made to the full Council inasmuch as their figures and reasoning would be more emphatic were it presented by them rather than the Finance Committee.

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4. BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION:

It was agreed by the Council that the first order of business should be a report from the Chamber on their observations during the many preceding hours of budget sessions.

Representing the Chamber, Mr. Clint Cooke advised the Council of the Chamber's findings relative to the 1970-71 Budget pertaining to various possible economies, such as new employees, equipment, etc. and the recommendation that the City's economy should be kept in line with the general "belt-tightening" now apparent in the country.

Clarification was provided by both City Manager Ferraro and Finance Director Dundore in response to the above, with thorough review of each item by the Council.

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1. City Council  
June 20, 1970

A five-minute recess was ordered by Mayor Miller at 11:05 A.M.

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On resumption of the meeting, a presentation was made by Mr. J. Walker Owens, Executive Vice President, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, relative to the community contributions of this organization, particularly as they relate to the financial support from the City.

Considered next was the matter of the Utility Tax Exemption, with a prepared statement on behalf of the Manufacturers Council of the Chamber of Commerce, (a matter of record) read by Mr. Jack Schmidt, 4521 Via Corona, urging that the Utility Tax Exemption not be eliminated and outlining the reasons for their position.

Attention was then directed to the several Tables of Information furnished by the Chamber Committee regarding this tax in other areas.

Pointed out by Councilman Sciarrotta was his understanding that some of the organizations located in Torrance are not only competing with manufacturing of different companies but are also competing with other factories in their own organization. Mr. Nelson Rucker, 635 Paseo de la Playa, confirmed the correctness of this statement, adding that his company is particularly vulnerable in the Gulf Coast area who can manufacture the product cheaper than can be done in Torrance, and accounts for the lack of company growth in Torrance.

The same is true for Armco, according to Mr. Cooke, who stated that at least 50% of their products are manufactured at their Gainesville, Texas plant.

Mr. Bill Reasonner, 2545 West 233rd Street, reported that, following the Manufacturers Council presentation to the Council Finance Committee a few days ago, it was determined that the budget might be balanced, with the exemption retained. He then described the computations involving the billing cycles of the utility companies, and the absence of a true year's experience on the utility tax.

Pointed out by Mr. Ted Baciu, 4201 Paseo de las Tortugas, was the fact that future revenues for utility rate increases are not predicted, there having been recent increases, along with the proposed water rate increase by the City.

The merits of the above comments were acknowledged by Finance Director Dundore. Mr. Dundore, however, took certain exceptions to the statements relative to "paying their fair share".

It was agreed by the Council that there should be further review between the Manufacturers Council and the Finance Director, with a report back this afternoon.

Finance Director Dundore then reviewed the estimated sources of revenue, as illustrated on various wall charts.

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At 12:55 P.M. Councilman Uerkwitz moved to recess into an Executive Session. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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The Council reconvened at 2:35 P.M.

The report of the Council Finance Committee was given by Councilman Sciarrotta: it is the unanimous opinion of the Finance Committee that the exemption remain as it has been for the last nine months.

Finance Director Dundore then reported the results of the interim meeting with the Manufacturers Council: That the Chamber's estimate and findings proved quite realistic, and the figure now required to balance the budget has been considerably reduced.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the exemption on the utility tax for industry remain as it has been for the last nine months. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson.

The further findings of the Council Committee were reported by Councilman Sciarrotta: it being recommended that there be an entertainment tax for all but nonprofit enterprises, with a tax only in cases where it represents making a living and where admission is charged for profit. Mayor Miller indicated his strong objection to looking for more taxation, no matter what type, until final determinations have been made on the budget.

Another recommendation by the Finance Committee was that there be a \$1.00 per stall charge for each business for which rent space is given at a Swap Meet.

Next recommended by the Finance Committee was that the apartment house business license be equalled to any other business in the City.

A further consideration of the Committee, according to Mr. Sciarrotta, was that there be a determination as to how many cities would be willing to send several representatives to Washington, D.C. to meet with the respective Congressmen to see if something cannot be done relative to "revenue sharing", per his earlier proposal in this regard.

There was roll call vote on Councilman Sciarrotta's motion to retain the utility tax exemption; it carried, as follows:

3. City Council  
June 20, 1970

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber,  
Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.

It was the comment of Councilman Wilson that, in his opinion, the City is not in a position at this time to give the exemption; he feels that there are perhaps groups who should be represented to speak for not having the exemption. Further, the City is faced with capital improvements for which funding is undetermined; the City is losing the Tipplers Tax; a bond election is likely which will be costly. Dr. Wilson, therefore, in all honesty, cannot vote for the exemption.

Mayor Miller stated that it would appear there are other sources for capital improvements, as introduced by Councilman Sciarrotta, for later discussion not in connection with the budget.

Councilman Uerkwitz repeated his oft stated desire that the \$100,000 be replaced in the Gas Tax Fund. Councilman Johnson indicated his concurrence and support of Mr. Uerkwitz' sentiments.

The Council then undertook department-by-department review:

City Manager:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to approve, noting that the Sr. Administrative Assistant position funds should remain in the budget, pending outcome of Council Civil Service Committee determination on this matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and there were no objections.

It was noted that consideration of the Sr. Administrative Assistant would take some time, and that the figure of \$11,000 for a 9-month period would be more realistic.

City Attorney:

Councilman Brewster moved for the approval of the budget for this department, with further approval of the addition of 1 Deputy City Attorney, in the amount of \$12,444. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta,  
Surber, and Wilson.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Uerkwitz; Mayor Miller.

City Clerk:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the requests; the motion was seconded by Mayor Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

City Treasurer:

Councilman Brewster moved to concur. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Finance:

Councilman Johnson moved to delete the Multilith Offset Press -- the motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Miller moved to concur with the budget as presented for Finance; his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and carried, with roll call vote as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller.
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson.

Data Processing;

Councilman Wilson moved to concur; the motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and carried as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, and Wilson.
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Uerkwitz; Mayor Miller.

It was noted by Councilman Uerkwitz that his objection is based on the requested Secretary. The sum of \$18,955 representing 1 Secretary and 1 System Analyst is the basis of Councilman Johnson's "no" vote.

Personnel:

It was the comment of Councilman Wilson re: the Sr. Personnel Analyst to provide safety and driver training that there must be some other way of accomplishing this within the departments themselves.

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the Personnel budget, it being noted that the matter of the Personnel Director will be reported on at a later date. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, and Mayor Miller.
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Wilson.

Planning and Zoning:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur, it being noted that the amount of \$400 for the Noise Meter should be assigned to the Airport. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and carried as follows:

- AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber, Wilson, and Mayor Miller.
- NOES: COUNCILMEN: Uerkwitz.

Building Maintenance:

Councilman Wilson moved to concur. The motion, seconded by Councilman Brewster, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Custodial Services:

Councilman Johnson moved to approve; his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Manager Ferraro pointed out the Council requested review of the Library Custodian situation in six months.

Garage:

In view of the proposed cutbacks on the bus system, Councilman Uerkwitz questioned the need for 1 Equipment Mechanic, and MOVED to approve with the exception of this item. There was no second to the motion.

A motion was then offered by Councilman Wilson to delete the Equipment Mechanic as well as the two automobiles (Airport and Library) until further study. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

City Librarian West stated that deletion of the automobiles would necessitate returning mileage allowance to the budget.

Equipment Mechanic Rozendahl commented on the dire need for the Equipment Mechanic, long needed, and indicated that he would make up the cost for such Mechanic in some other part of his budget (there was no official direction by the Council to do so.)

Councilman Wilson AMENDED HIS MOTION to delete only the two automobiles and otherwise approve the Garage budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Insurance:

Councilman Johnson moved to concur; his motion, seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Retirement:

Councilman Johnson moved to concur. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Debt Service:

A motion to concur was made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Surber, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Community Promotion:

It was the recommendation of Councilman Wilson that a quarterly newsletter, at a cost of approximately \$8000, be added to this budget.

The "Tournament of Roses" was discussed. It was the suggestion of Councilman Wilson that this event could be paid for by way of special projects, such as "Airport Days" etc. Councilman Johnson expressed his very strong feeling that the "Tournament of Roses" is a Chamber of Commerce responsibility, the Chamber being the advertising agency for the City.

The following action resulted:

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the Community Promotion budget, adding \$8000 for a quarterly newsletter,

and specifically including the "Tournament of Roses Parade" item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

Added by Councilman Sciarrotta, prior to roll call vote on the motion, was that approval of the Rose Parade Float is with the understanding that for the float of 1972 that a new look be taken -- in his opinion, if the people of Torrance want a float they certainly ought to support it; it should be citizen participation, rather than Council action.

The motion carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber, and  
Wilson.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Uerkwitz; Mayor Miller.

Councilman Johnson then moved to assign the matter of the "Tournament of Roses" to the Chamber of Commerce, to be assumed by the Chamber as a part of community promotion, and money will be earmarked to subsidize same, not to exceed \$10,500. The motion died for lack of a second.

Health Services:

A motion to concur was made by Councilman Uerkwitz, seconded by Councilman Johnson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Retirement:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to approve the subject budget. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Environmental Quality Program:

Councilman Wilson moved to concur. His motion, seconded by Mayor Miller, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Police:

Approval of a Sergeant and Police Officer for the Narcotics Division was requested by Councilman Uerkwitz. Discussion followed on this need, as well as the need for the requested five Policemen for the Patrol Division. The following action resulted:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to approve the Police Department budget, with the addition of a Sergeant and Police Officer for the Narcotics Division and retaining the requested five Policemen for the Patrol Division. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Fire:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the Fire Department budget, adding the air conditioning unit (\$2,200) at Fire Station #1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Building and Safety:

Councilman Wilson moved to concur. His motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Civil Defense:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to delete the requested Mobile Radio. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Surber, Uerkwitz,  
and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Sciarrotta, Wilson.

Engineering:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur -- his motion was seconded by Mayor Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Traffic and Lighting:

Councilman Wilson moved to concur; the motion was seconded by Mayor Miller.

It was the comment of Councilman Johnson that the proposed expansion of the Communications Systems would be the first step toward another very expensive department; here is a case where service can be contracted more efficiently. A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Johnson: That the new position of Communications Electrician be deleted; there was no second to the motion.

The main motion to concur carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz,  
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson.

Street:

A motion to concur with the request was made by Councilman Uerkwitz, seconded by Councilman Surber, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Sanitation:

Councilman Brewster moved to approve the Sanitation budget. His motion, seconded by Councilman Wilson, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

City Yard:

Mayor Miller moved to concur. His motion, seconded by Councilman Brewster, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Library Commission:

Councilman Wilson moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Library:

Councilman Johnson MOVED to concur with the Library budget, adding the amount of \$900 to cover mileage cost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Recreation:

Councilman Wilson moved to restore cuts made in the Recreation Department budget - the Senior Citizens program and Information Services - to include an .8 Intermediate Recreation Leader and a .5 Intermediate Recreation Leader. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber,  
and Wilson.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Uerkwitz; Mayor Miller.

It was the recommendation of Councilman Johnson that the \$2500 allocated to sump design presentations (Page 201) be diverted to the Senior Citizens Program. Mayor Miller was of the opinion that the \$2500 should be deleted entirely -- he so MOVED; the motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz,  
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Johnson (should be transferred to  
Senior Citizen funds)

Councilman Johnson thereupon MOVED that an additional \$10,000 be found in the Recreation budget for the Senior Citizens program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was offered by Councilman Sciarrotta: That Staff study the needs of the Senior Citizens and report back on such needs and the amount of money required. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote on the substitute motion was unanimously favorable.

The remainder of the Recreation Department budget was approved, on a motion by Councilman Uerkwitz, seconded by Councilman Wilson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Park:

Councilman Wilson moved to approve; his motion, seconded by Mayor Miller, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Airport:

It was noted that the cost of the noise meter should be \$800, as well as the amount of \$900 for mileage of second car, per earlier action. Councilman Brewster moved to concur, as amended. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Bus:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the Bus Department budget, with the exception of the Bus Washer (\$45,000), and, per recommendation of Councilman Uerkwitz, deletion as well of the amount of \$8,020 for bus route maps and signs until a better figure can be obtained. The motion, as amended, was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Water:

Councilman Johnson moved to concur, and his motion, seconded by Councilman Surber, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Implementation of the water rate increase was discussed, and the date of July 1, 1970 was confirmed. Councilman Johnson so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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It was the comment of Councilman Brewster that in view of the approximately \$7000 gained in the foregoing action, and the \$10,000 gained in the utility tax and property tax computations, it would permit the services of three junior clerks which would keep the libraries open six days per week. Councilman Brewster so MOVED; his motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

In view of the difficulties confronted by some of the Commissions, it was MOVED by Councilman Johnson that a Minute Secretary position, deleted last year, be reinstated. The motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion was then directed to the unofficial financial outcome of the budget, and it was the consensus that the necessary figure to balance the budget (approximately \$38,000) could be satisfactorily resolved by the Finance Director and the City Manager.

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City Manager Ferraro then described the presentation planned for the Monday, June 22nd, meeting regarding the Recreation Bond Issue, and the considerations that should have the attention of the Council at that time.

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It was the suggestion of Councilman Johnson that budget review start earlier in the year for future budgets, if it can be worked out in a practical and realistic manner; there were no objections.

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At 4:25 P.M. Councilman Wilson moved to adjourn to Monday, June 22, 1970, at 6:00 P.M. for further budget review, to be followed by the public hearing on the Bond Issue at 7:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

10.

City Council  
June 20, 1970

APPROVED BY:

*Ken Miller*

Mayor of the City of Torrance

*Vernon W. Coil*

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