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Budget Hearings Set Before City Council

Hearings on the proposed \$2,775,132 municipal budget have been scheduled for July 2 and 9, according to action taken by the City Council Tuesday night.

The July 2 meeting Tuesday will be a 5:30 p.m. meeting. Two controversial items are conspicuous, in the one case, by their inclusion, in the other case, by their omission.

A \$13,000 allotment for the Chamber of Commerce has been included after considerable argument in recent weeks questioning whether the Chamber has offered enough direct advertising and publicity to warrant this sum from the city.

While it appeared at the last City Council and Chamber session that the Chamber might receive the \$13,000, a question still remains whether the money will be earmarked for advertising and publicity purposes.

As a result of a hearing Tuesday night, it appears that the Torrance Area Youth Band will not receive its \$2500 as it has in the past.

The budget, as presented to the council by City Manager George Stevens, makes no provision whatsoever for an allocation to the band.

The proposed tax rate is based on an estimated assessed valuation of \$114,800,000 and will total \$1.219 per \$100 of assessed valuation, if approved

by the council.

Stevens estimates that during the coming fiscal year the city will receive \$500,000 from the one cent sales and use tax.

"From the large retail developments being planned for our community," Stevens said, "this source of revenue may soon be as important as the property taxes."

Major budget items is again salaries, Stevens indicated. About 70% of the operating ex-

penses will be earmarked to payrolls, with a 7 1/2% general increase in salaries and a minimum \$25 per month salary increase anticipated.

Principal personnel increases will occur in the police, fire, park, recreation, and street departments.

Stevens said that both salaries and number of employees compare favorably with the standards of other cities.

Band Hears Sour Notes From Council

Torrance Area Youth Band spokesmen tried to say it with words as well as with music, but Torrance's City Council turned a deaf ear to the group's arguments that the city should give them \$2500 this coming year as in the past.

Not only did the council turn thumbs down on the amount requested, but the youth band has been dropped completely from the budget which was submitted for study Tuesday night.

In presenting their case, youth band spokesmen tried to woo the council with a two-minute tape-recorded sample of the bands' work, followed by arguments why the band should be supported by the city.

The band mentioned its youth-band-artists' series and the 'Miss Torrance' contests, and individual concerts as some of the cultural contributions to the city.

It was also mentioned that the band has achieved a high reputation among music teachers here and in surrounding areas.

The general attitude of the council appeared to be that the city, even though it has done so in the past, has no right to use public funds for private organizations; that the group serves an educational purpose and should contact the Board of Education as well as the City Council, if it were to get money

through dues; that the number of children served (about 125) does not warrant the money requested (\$2500 of which goes for salary of Band Director James Van Dyck); and that if money were granted this group it would have to be granted other cultural groups in the city.

Councilman Nick Drale was the only one who voted in favor of granting the \$2500.

Schools To Receive \$130,476

Congressman Cecl R. King announced today that the U.S. Office of Education has certified for immediate payment a federal grant of \$130,476 to assist with current expenditures of the Torrance Unified School District.

The award is certified under Public Law 874, which provides financial assistance for schools in federally affected areas.

A tentative entitlement for fiscal year 1956 in the amount of \$144,973.49 has been set aside for the Torrance Unified School District, according to S. M. Brownell, Federal Commissioner of Education.

Congressman King was informed that additional payments will be subject to such adjustments as may be required by actual data in place of estimates and by the availability of funds.

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El Nido To Dedicate New Center

The fulfillment of a long-cherished dream will be realized next Thursday afternoon when the little community of El Nido will dedicate the new community house in El Nido park, the first of many improvements

planned by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Under the direction of deputy Aelyn V. Weber the festivities are slated to start promptly at 2 p.m. The program calls for addresses by Supervisor Hahn and officials of the Los Angeles

County Department of Parks and Recreation. President George G. Morehart of the El Nido Civic association will open the program with an address of welcome while Hahn is expected to tell of the county's future plans for the

further improvement of the park.

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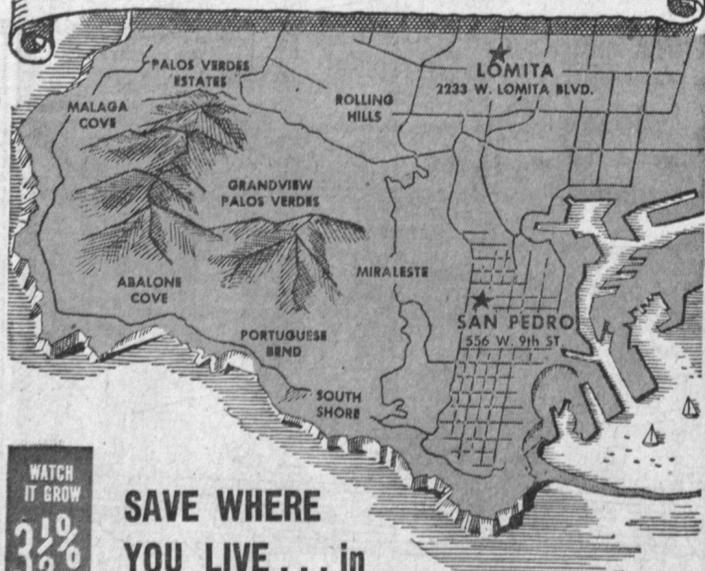
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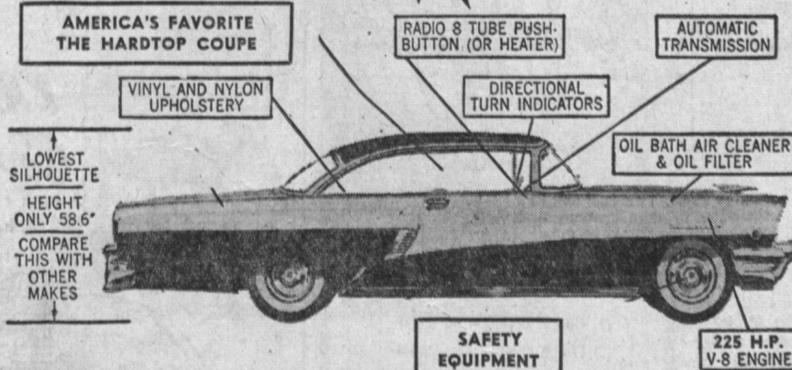
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