

New Construction Permits Lag During 1966

Torrance Press-Herald

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City Charter Study Gets a Start—Almost

When a review of the city's charter is launched — possibly within the next couple of weeks — indications are that city officials won't be very involved with it.

Several councilmen indicated last night they want the review, urged by the Torrance League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, and many others—including the Press-Herald, to be a lay project.

Councilmen, however, delayed the appointment of a committee to review the charter for at least a week while they determine just how uninvolved they want to be.

THE DEBATE was kicked off when Larry Bowman, representing the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, told councilmen the Chamber wanted to urge that the study be initiated at once. He said the Chamber would offer its resources in support of the proposed study.

Bowman's remarks, apparently interpreted to mean the Chamber was undertaking its own study, prompted Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. to explain that the council's Finance Committee, which he chairs, has launched a study and shortly will report its recommendations for formation of a citizen's committee.

In the meantime, Sciarrotta explained, City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier have been doing preliminary work to identify "fields of study."

THAT BROUGHT Mayor Albert Isen into the matter with a suggestion that a study should not involve the council. Isen suggested each councilman appoint two members to a committee. The committee then would select seven

more persons, raising membership to 21.

And, the mayor added, there should be no restrictions on what part of the charter should be studied.

Ferraro explained the Finance Committee had asked for specific areas of study to be identified to prevent a "fishing expedition" by a citizens committee. Several parts of the charter, he explained, need not be changed.

THE STUDY committee should decide what part should be studied, Isen countered. He called for a "page by page" study and suggested "the first thing to do is appoint a committee and tell them to go to work."

"I can't see the Finance Committee or Ferraro saying pages 1, 4, 7, and 9 are all right and pages 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10 should be studied," Isen told the Press-Herald. "This should be completely nonpolitical."

Ken Miller declared he agreed with Isen "right down the line." Miller said he felt any study of the charter should be "removed from the council and city government as far as possible."

AT THAT point, J. A. Beasley moved to have a resolution drawn establishing the study committee in accordance with Isen's suggestion—and requiring that all members have lived in Torrance for at least three years. Beasley's motion was seconded by George Vico.

Before a vote was taken, however, Isen began to wonder aloud if councilmen should perhaps name only one member to the committee — permitting the group to select 14 more colleagues. Councilmen decided they needed a week to think that one over and Beasley withdrew his motion.

City Dump Proposal Delayed for 90 Days

Permits Decline In 1966

Building permits worth nearly \$1.3 million were issued here in December, bringing to \$29.8 million the value of all permits issued during 1966, according to a report just issued by the city's Building Department.

Totals for the year show \$29,881,430 in new construction started here — most of it industrial and commercial buildings. Only 151 new single-family homes and 134 multiple units were started during the year, according to the report.

That compares to \$30,943,570 in 1965, according to John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety. A total of 841 new dwelling units — 424 homes and 417 multiple units — were built in 1965, he said.

McKinnon also cited an apartment building boom of 1964 in which new apartments worth some \$35 million were constructed. Largest permit issued in December was for air conditioning in the 13-story Union Bank tower now under construction at Carson St. and Hawthorne Blvd. It was valued at \$525,000.

No other permit was valued at more than \$70,000, McKinnon said. A total of 182 new permits were issued in December, he reported.

Four new homes, worth about \$106,000 value, were started and total commercial construction was pegged at \$253,235.

Red Cross First Aid Class Set

Standard First Aid will be taught in Torrance beginning Monday under the direction of Red Cross volunteer instructor, Fire Department Capt. Walter West.

Five class sessions are scheduled from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on consecutive Mondays at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave. Enrollment for the free preparedness training may be made by calling Red Cross.

Capt. West, volunteer chairman of Safety Services for the Torrance-Lomita Red Cross Branch, says anyone at least 14 years of age is eligible for enrollment.

The Red Cross First Aid textbook which sells for 75 cents will be available at the first class session.

Objectives of the course, according to Capt. West are the development of safety consciousness or awareness through close association of cause, effect, prevention, and care of accidents.

Another course in Standard First Aid will be offered on Thursdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. beginning Jan. 12, at the District Red Cross Service Center, 1499 W. First St., San Pedro.



JOSEPH Z. FANDEY
Commended for Actions

AIDS CAPTURE

Midshipman Wins Praise

A Torrance youth this week was commended by the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy for his part in the apprehension of a criminal offender in Washington, D.C. last July.

Midshipman Joseph Z. Fandey, 23, a first classman at the Naval Academy, was commended by Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman for his role in the capture of a suspect in a hit-and-run incident in the nation's capital.

Fandey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Fandey of 18918 Cranbrook Ave.

FANDEY AND a classmate, Midshipman Ernest W. Moldenhauer Jr., observed the hit-and-run incident while driving on weekend liberty in Washington last summer. The driver ran over the victim a second time as he fled from the scene. The victim subsequently died of his injuries.

The two midshipmen gave chase to the fleeing car and forced the assailant off the road. Fandey and Moldenhauer apprehended the suspect and escorted him back to the scene of the accident, where he was taken into custody by civil authorities.

For his part in the capture, Fandey was lauded for his "highest ideals of professional responsibility and civic duty and for the swift and commendatory action which upheld the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

FANDEY WAS graduated from Serra High School in 1961 and attended El Camino College and the Naval Academy Prep School in Bainbridge, Mr. He was appointed to the Academy in 1963 after serving one year in enlisted status in the Navy.

He will be graduated next June and has expressed a desire to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Lynne Frantz Named Grand Jury Foreman

Lynne A. Frantz, promotional manager for the South Bay Shopping Center, has been named foreman of the 1967 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.

The 36-year-old Frantz, who lives at 2612 Via Carillo, Palos Verdes Estates, heads the 25-member group which was empaneled Tuesday by

Chamber Asks Council for Study Period

Further action on a proposed city dump adjacent to the Civic Center was delayed last night for at least 90 days by a 4-2 vote of the City Council.

The Council, considering a recommendation from its Public Works Committee to have the 42-acre site appraised, agreed to the 90-day delay at the request of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's Industrial Development Committee plans to study the proposal during the 90-day period.

THE MESSAGE from the Chamber was delivered by J. E. Penick, who is manager of the Mobil Oil refinery, which owns the 42 acres being eyed for the dump.

Penick also told the council his firm "has not been and is not now seeking to sell" the land.

Voting for the 90-day delay were Councilmen David K. Lyman, Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr., George Vico, and Mayor Albert Isen. Ken Miller and J. A. Beasley opposed the delay and H. Ted Olson was not present.

ISEN OBJECTED to the recommendation to hire an appraiser and said he felt the city could get an industrial reator to appraise the land as "a public service." He said an appraiser's fee would be wasted if the city should decide not to proceed with the project because it did not want to remove the land from the tax rolls.

Projected cost figures, he said, could be amended to cover higher — or lower — land acquisition costs.

Miller and Beasley, however, contended the appraisal was both "necessary and logical" because the project is largely dependent on the value of the land.

THE PROPOSED dump site would be purchased under a \$2 million tax exempt bond and would be operated by the city during a 20-year period. Preliminary estimates, based on an assumed land value of about \$40,000 per acre, indicate the city could make up to \$2.6 million.

An appraisal, Miller said, "is nothing more than getting all the facts together."

Lyman, who is a member of the council committee which recommended hiring the appraiser, said he agreed that an appraisal should be made by a professional, but added, "I can't see any harm in . . . allowing 90 days for a study."

THAT PROMPTED Miller to ask, "Is the Chamber of Commerce going to make up my mind or am I going to make up my mind?"

Beasley also challenged the Chamber, commenting that the people "elected me to represent them, not to defer to the Chamber of Commerce."

Both added they appreciate the advice of the Chamber, but want an appraiser to establish the value of the 42 acres. "The Chamber isn't go- (See CITY DUMP on A-2)

Torrance Classroom Ransacked ---

Vandals who apparently gained entrance by smashing a door with a fire extinguisher entered a classroom at the Carl Steele Elementary School while students were away for the holidays, inflicted heavy damage on the room, school officials reported to Torrance police. The intruders sprayed the fire extinguisher contents on the ceiling, floor, and walls of the classroom, smashed a record player and other classroom equipment, and pulled a 10-foot length of lighting fixtures from the ceiling. Investigators said a beer can was found in the classroom and another outside near the classroom.

Dills Takes Senate Oath ---

A protest to the seating of Ralph C. Dills as the newly elected Senator in the 32nd District was filed in Sacramento Monday after Dills was sworn into office with his 39 Senate colleagues. The protest, filed by James J. Oppen, attorney for Y. Lane Knight, unsuccessful Republican candidate for the office, contended that Dills did not meet the residence requirements for election in the 32nd District. Oppen said Dills was a resident in the 33rd District less than a year before the election. The protest was referred to a Senate committee for consideration.

Vote Tally Now Official ---

It's official! Torrance voters rejected a proposal to permit the City Council to elect the mayor last Nov. 8 by nearly a 2-to-1 majority. Results of an official canvass of the election, held in conjunction with the state general election, were given to the City Council last night—along with a statement of election costs. A total of 49,103 ballots were cast, with 15,281 votes in favor of the change and 29,951 votes against it. A total of \$6,538.02 was spent from the city treasury to pay for the special election, which was called by a 4-3 vote of the City Council.

Full Probe Due on Disputed Autopsies

Full disclosure and further investigation of facts uncovered by six prominent pathologists in the twice-reversed testimony of a Deputy County Coroner were ordered by County Supervisors.

New Date Set for Hearing

A public hearing on the city's Meadow Park Redevelopment Project, first scheduled for Jan. 23, was rescheduled last night for Feb. 8.

City Councilmen, acting in their capacity as directors of the city's Redevelopment Agency, rescheduled the hearing last night after they learned of an error in scheduling the first hearing.

The first hearing, councilmen were told, was set for 3 a.m., not 8 p.m., as intended.

To comply with provisions of the law which required a notice of the hearing to be published for four consecutive weeks, the council rescheduled the hearing for 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6.

dore Curphey submitted a brief summary of the full report on Deputy Coroner Dr. Harold Kade.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who called for the report last Sept. 27, after learning that Dr. Kade's testimony had been reversed in court on two occasions, said he was "not completely satisfied with Dr. Curphey's summary."

It disclosed that the committee of doctors felt Dr. Kade's testimony in one case—that of Darlene Stearns—was not justifiable on the basis of evidence.

IN THE CASE of Phyllis Parr, the committee found that Dr. Kade's testimony that homicide was the cause "could not be substantiated beyond reasonable doubt."

Supervisors were also informed that Dr. Kade had submitted his resignation effective Jan. 15 from the County Coroner's staff.

"This investigation is not finished — far from it — it's just beginning," Hahn said.

THE BOARD of Supervisors supported Hahn's demand that the "complete file" of the investigation be made public and directed it to the District Attorney, County Counsel, and Chief Administrative Officer to determine

if the matter should be taken to the Grand Jury.

Hahn also asked that the State Board of Medical Examiners, which licenses physicians in California, review the report.

He also requested that the District Attorney review a third case involving the conviction of a Henry T. Hebert. (This case also involved disputed testimony by Dr. Kade in which Hebert was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. The decision was later reversed by the District Court of Appeals and Hebert was freed. It was noted that Dr. Kade's testimony as to the cause of death was "radically different" from that of other pathologists, including his superiors in the County Coroner's department.)

Hahn said he wanted the full report of the investigating committee made public because "the citizens have a perfect right to know what goes on in the morgue, especially when a defendant may be found guilty of murder on the basis of an autopsy surgeon's testimony."

The expert committee investigating the two cases involving Dr. Kade was composed of the following leading doctors: Lewis T. Bullock, M. D., chairman, Medical Examiner Committee, Los Angeles.

(See CORONER on A-2)