

Three of City's Commissions to Get Pay Boosts

Members of three city commissions will get a raise in their monthly pay come July 1.

Changes in the compensation of members of the Planning Commission, Airport Commission, and Civil Service Board were approved by a unanimous City Council last night.

Basic compensation of all commissioners has been \$10 per month.

But, according to Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr., chairman of the council's Finance Committee, some commissions have been meeting more often than others. And, since the monthly compensation is intended to cover "out-of-pocket expenses," some commissioners are being treated in a discriminatory manner.

So the council Finance Committee recommended a change in the policy. As a result of action last night, members of the Planning Commission will receive \$10 per meeting to a maximum of \$40 per month, while members of the Airport Commission and the Civil Service Board will get \$10 per meeting to a maximum of \$20 per month.

Other commissioners, who meet on an average of once

each month, will continue to get \$10 per month.

... Water

(Continued from Page 1)

lay is to give the owner of the property and residents in the adjacent area time to discuss differences about the proposed development.

• Adopted an ordinance extending the city's ban on the construction and display of billboards for an additional 90 days. A new billboard ordinance currently is being prepared for consideration by the council.

• Set Sept. 14 as the date for a public hearing on a proposed new Civil Service ordinance. A member of the city's Civil Service Commission will be asked to explain the commission's views on the proposed ordinance at a meeting Sept. 6.

• Rejected bids for landscaping at Lago Seco and Hickory parks and ordered the project re-advertised. Councilmen acted after J. A. Beasley noted that no local firms had submitted bids for the projects, although several local landscaping firms have established national reputations for their work.

... The Wall

(Continued from Page 1)

During the three-hour tour of East Berlin, our guide made no effort to cover up anything, to apologize, or to duck questions. I talked with him about the economy of East Berlin, about construction projects now under way, and about The Wall itself.

Perhaps the most striking things about the East Sector are the absence of any major department store and the few automobiles one sees. East Berlin, said the guide, has all the necessities for daily life—a Spartan life, at that. Luxury items are scarce and expensive—and fresh fruit must be ordered four days in advance and paid for at premium prices.

Average income: about 600 East Marks per month (\$150 at the current exchange rate). Rent, for a typical two-room apartment with kitchen and bath is about 65 marks per month or 10 to 15 per cent of the monthly income. Televisions, automobiles, other items taken for granted by Americans—indeed, by West Berliners—are out of reach for the average East Berliner.

APART FROM the blocks of ruins—and the equally depressing apartments in "Moscow" architecture—the most depressing sights in East Berlin are the people. Their faces are all the same, no smile, no life. They wander through the city as though they are lost, as though they are tired of life, knowing

there is little chance they will ever see The Wall torn down.

The East Berliners would, given the chance, rise up and turn out the regime of Walter Ulbricht, one West Berliner told me. "They hate the Russians," he added, "but they (the Russians) have the guns."

And those guns, trained inward rather than outward, keep half a city—1.1 million people—prisoner.

BACK ACROSS The Wall, however, a great new city is in the making. The Europa Center, a massive high-rise complex of fine stores, restaurants, and apartments, has been opened. West Berliners enjoy a high standard of living, an easy life, and some of the best merchandise which the Free World can offer.

Night clubs, theaters, fine restaurants, modern hotels, and new cars abound in the West Sector. And most important, hope—the spark of life—is ever present. It combines to make West Berlin the showplace of the Free World.

The appeal of Berlin, however, is history—not the past, but the present and the future. For unlike any other city, history is something that is made here daily. This is the city that was saved by a massive airlift in 1948, an act by the United States and Great Britain which Berliners have not forgotten.

That memory and the continuing presence of American and British troops (the fate of French forces is in doubt

... Council

(Continued from Page 1)

homeowner in the city will be 80 cents to \$1 on the annual tax bill.

During the formal hearing on the proposed budget, John Kirkpatrick, representing the Torrance City Employees Association, warned that the current budget made no provision for salary increases for employees. Kirkpatrick asked that money be earmarked for an increase of at least 3.2 per cent.

FERRARO'S BUDGET is based on an admittedly optimistic estimate increase of about \$20 million in the city's assessed valuation. He also estimates a net increase of \$226,000 in revenue from the new cigarette tax.

No increase in the cost of rubbish collection is expected, although slight increases in the cost of water delivered by the city's water department were approved by councilmen.

Councilmen will set the property tax rate for 1966-67 at a meeting scheduled for Aug. 30.

at this time) defy The Wall. For they are the reminder that West Berlin is a free city, standing proudly with her West German sisters.

But one can never visit this city without seeing, graphically, that in Berlin, East is East and West is West.



WINS AREA HONORS . . . Mrs. Leo Gardner of Redondo Beach was awarded "Man of the Month" honors at a luncheon Tuesday. Mrs. Gardner, incoming area chairman for the Bay West South Volunteer Foster Homefinders and secretary of the Los Angeles organization, received the Great Lakes Properties award for "her outstanding and unselfish work in placing youngsters in foster homes."

... Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

tax rates during Monday's debate, but Mrs. Watts told the Press-Herald after the meeting it was her hope to hold the line on taxes. She warned, however, that "we have five independent minds on the board."

As recommended to the board, the budget called for a tax rate of \$3.54 per \$100 assessed valuation. That would be about 10 cents higher than the current rate. An increase of 3.67 cents in the general purpose tax (from \$3.0633 to \$3.10) and the imposition of a 4.77-cent health tax (permitted by law but previously not imposed in Torrance) would account for the major increase in taxes.

The 10-cent hike in taxes would raise about \$250,000—the amount ordered cut, according to Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent for business. Talk of tax rates at this time, Mattox warned is merely speculation since the final rate will be determined by the total assessed valuation for the district—a figure which the trustees will not have until mid-July.

Mattox also told the board that a 50 per cent increase in federal aid may be expected during the 1966-67 school year. He estimated federal income at \$783,000 for the year.

... Chamber

(Continued from Page 1)

Chamber of Commerce affairs for many years and served during the past year as its first vice president.

Attorney Larry Bowman will be installed as first vice president Friday. Joining Hyde and Bowman in the top offices will be George Ebert, second vice president, and Leonard Ensminger, treasurer. J. Walker Owens is manager and secretary.

ONE OF THE high points of Friday's annual dinner meeting will be the presentation of the prized Laughon-Whyte trophy to the community's Distinguished Citizen for the year 1965. George Post, a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and vice president and manager of the United California Bank's Torrance office, is the current trophy holder.

The trophy was first presented in 1953 to then Mayor Mervin Schwab and has been passed on to the area's outstanding citizen each year since except 1963.

The trophy is a memorial to the late Dr. William Laughon, pioneer Torrance physician and civic leader, and to Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald for more than 30 years.

Architectural merit awards for outstanding contributions to the city's skyline will be awarded during the evening.

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<p>Carioca</p> <p>DuPont Continuous Filament Nylon Pile Tweeds</p> <p>Long-wearing, gorgeous multi-tone tweeds . . . won't fuzz or shed . . . stain-resistant . . . double jute backing prevents wrinkling or stretching.</p>	<p>Your Choice</p> <p>\$ 3.99</p> <p>sq.-yd.</p>	<p>Caprolan</p> <p>Continuous Filament Nylon Pile</p> <p>Decorator pattern in a wide choice of solid colors . . . so easy to clean, won't fuzz or shed, moth-proof and mildew-proof. Double jute backing.</p>
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