

TORRANCE HERALD

November 21, 1948 Torrance, California SECTION C

CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE CITY MANAGER GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED

Immediately upon the ratification of the new City Charter by the California Legislature which convenes Jan. 6, the City Council will be asked to submit to the people an amendment providing for appointment of a City Manager to handle administrative and financial details of the city government.

So announced members of the Board of Directors of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, who state that enactment of a city ordinance to accomplish the establishment of the City Manager form of government has been decided against in favor of the Charter amendment.

C. T. Rippey, attorney and director of the Chamber, said that the amendment can be presented to the people at an election in the early spring, in time for ratification of the amendment by the Legislature during next year's session.

According to the proposals being prepared for the action of the City Council at the proper time, the City Manager of Torrance would save the amount of his salary and many times over, in reducing government costs, building up revenue and accomplishing a balanced budget.

Last year, the City of Torrance went into the hole to the amount of \$60,000 and registration of warrants was necessary due to lack of funds.

The City Council has adopted a sales tax ordinance providing for collection of one-half of one percent on local retail sales, for one year, to overcome the present financial problems. The Chamber directors had agreed not to oppose the sales tax, as they have the parking meters, providing the Council agree to submit to the people the question of the employment of a City Manager in Torrance.

Proposals being drafted provide that the City Manager to be appointed need not be a resident of Torrance at the time of his appointment, but that he must be a citizen not less than 30 years of age. He must be one of demonstrated administrative ability with experience in responsible executive positions and shall be chosen solely upon the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications without regard to political and religious beliefs.

The City Manager would be removable by ordinance only, adopted by four-fifths vote of the City Council, as now proposed, this being a requirement which will prevent "meddling" with the business affairs as being handled by the Manager. The City Manager would have the right to demand written statements of reason alleged for his removal and would have the right to a public hearing thereon.

Proposed salary minimum is \$500 a month, fixed by ordinance.

The City Manager would be responsible to the City Council for proper and efficient management of all of the affairs of the city placed in his charge. Subject to requirements of the Civil Service ordinance as to procedure, qualifications, examinations, gradings and hearings, the City Manager would have power to appoint, discipline, suspend or remove all heads of departments, subordinate officers and employees, with certain exceptions.

He would have power to abolish or consolidate duties and functions of heads of departments or employees. Appointments by the City Manager

Freed Dilley Remains On P. V. Board

Freed Dilley of Torrance was retained as a member of the Board of Directors of the Palos Verdes men's golf club at the annual election meeting last Friday and together with other members of the new staff will be installed at a dinner dance to be held Dec. 21. He was the only candidate, L. B. Kelsey, nominated for secretary, having withdrawn.

N. T. Jordahl, of Redondo, was chosen president to succeed Marshall Petrie of San Pedro, with F. D. H. Eaton of Palos Verdes being named vice president to succeed Robert Thompson of San Pedro. Grant Benham of San Pedro was reelected for a third term as secretary-treasurer with Paul Barth of Manhattan Beach joining Dilley in rounding out the board of directors.

The Palos Verdes entry in the Public Links matches, which includes Ray Sleppy and George Fritts of Torrance, broke even with the Sunset Fields team with a 9 to 9 score in the meeting at Palos Verdes Sunday but were eliminated from further competition, having lost the first half of the match on the Sunset course 15 to 3. Elmer Clements and Ernie Krig of Redondo Beach and Arnold MacDonnell, Felker Manufacturing employee, were others on the team.

Next big event of the season comes to the hillside layout this week, with the annual Thanksgiving day turkey shoot. Birds will be awarded winners in three classes of men's competition and in two for the women. N. T. Jordahl, a member of the tournament committee, is handling the event for chairman Wallace Fox.

In the finals of the San Pedro city tournament, Mrs. Irene Newton defeated Mrs. Lulu Messall 1 up to win the women's division championship. Prizes, valued at more than \$850, were awarded winners at a buffet dinner Sunday. The tournament drew 108 entries and was declared by club officials to be one of the most successful ever held at the hillside course.

A tempting Thanksgiving day dinner has been planned for Nov. 28 and will be served to the public as well as golf club members, it was announced by Larry Beaulac, club manager.

would be on the basis of executive and administrative ability and training and experience of such appointees in the work which they are to perform.

The City Manager nor persons under his direction would be barred from engaging in municipal political campaigns and from contributing to such campaigns.

The City Council and its members would be barred from directing or requesting the City Manager to appoint or remove any person from office.

The City Council would be prevented from appointing to any office or position any relative of any member of the City Council. The Council members would be barred from giving orders or instructions, publicly or privately, to any person under the jurisdiction of the City Manager. Council members would be barred from coercing and influencing the Manager in respect to his duties, the handling of municipal contracts and purchases. Violation of such provisions would be a misdemeanor resulting in forfeiture of office.

Special powers and duties of the City Manager would be:

1. Enforcement of all Municipal ordinances, franchises, leases, contracts, permits and privileges, through such departments, officers and employees as he may designate.
2. Purchase all supplies, property and equipment on requisition signed by him except for the water districts, unless so directed by the City Council.
3. Preparation and submission of the annual budget.
4. Make such recommendations to the City Council or Board of Equalization regarding taxes, assessments or the assessment roll as he may deem advisable.
5. General supervision over all city property.
6. Supervise public construction and issue permits for private construction.
7. Advise the City Council on financial needs, conditions and requirements of the city.
8. Attend all meetings of the City Council, public and private.
9. Examine without notice the conduct or accounts and records of any officer or employee.
10. Refrain from engaging in private business or enterprises except management of properties which he may own.

These suggestions, it was pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce committee backing the plan, are subject to change and revision to bring about the most suitable City Manager setup for the City of Torrance which is obtainable.

Serving with Rippey on the committee are R. I. Plomert Jr., tax counsellor for the General Petroleum Corp., Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald, and Blaine Walker, secretary of the Chamber.

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Air Port Of Entry For L.A. Is Suggested

Los Angeles should be an air port of entry, directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce yesterday told Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder. They proposed Snyder, who is empowered to designate ports of entry for civil aircraft and to assign officers and employees of the customs service to them, so designate the city and argued that Pan-American has landing rights at Los Angeles and Pacific Overseas Airlines has landing rights at Ontario under "Special Designations."

The directors declared Western Airlines, soon to establish daily service to Mexico City, and other airlines or business firms desiring to make frequent flights from foreign points, must accept "Special Designations."

"These designations mean that operators furnish transportation and overtime pay for customs inspectors traveling between a number of airports in different parts of the country with consequent delays.

"One field would be named as an air port of entry. This would facilitate greatly the movement of passengers and cargo and a customs staff would be on hand at the spot.

"Moreover, we feel that because of the amount of aerial traffic generated by this community its designation as a port of entry is overdue," President James E. Shelton said.

CHURCH OF AIR SERVICE TOPIC IS "THANKSGIVING"

On Sunday morning (November 24) the Columbia Church of the Air will broadcast under the auspices of the Christian Science Committee on Publication for Ohio. The subject of the address will be "Universal Thanksgiving." The program will be released over Station KNX at 7:30 a.m.

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