

Times 12-10-68

# Belmont Council To Be on TV

Tentative plans now call for the Belmont City Council to go on television in February, the council learned last night.

Televising of council meetings was part of the agreement with Belmont Cable Television Co., Inc., in 1966 when it won the community antenna TV franchise and now, owner Verne A. Laughton told the council, his firm is ready to follow through.

The meetings would be carried on Belmont Cable's own closed-circuit channel 12 and be available only to the system's subscribers in Belmont. Tentative plans call for single-camera black and white taping, with public broadcast Tuesday nights, the night after the regular meetings, Laughton explained. This would allow editing by the station of anything objectionable, either to public taste or to the council, he pointed out.

This would be the only council TV coverage in the county as far as he knew, Laughton said, and would be on a regular basis unless directed otherwise.

Mayor Morton L. Podolsky was all for it, calling it "an opportunity to get before the people at no cost to the community."

Councilman Eve Sterry was "totally opposed to this whole idea," saying it would discourage direct participation by citizens who could sit at home and merely watch.

Final vote was 3-2, with Mrs. Sterry and Councilman Gerald F. Day opposed and Councilmen Joseph J. Zucca and Milton A. Tromborg joining Podolsky for it.

Times Mar 11, 1969

# 'Too Bright' But Council on TV

By JOHN CURRY

Belmont cable television viewers tonight at 7 can tune to cable channel 12 for the second episode of the Belmont City Council—The Late Show, Mission Impossible, Meet the Petitioners, Wide World of Sorts, or what have you, which was taped last night by a dutiful Cable Television, Inc., crew for showing at this more convenient time, as they say.

First thing they'll see is a long argument about the glaring TV light and wilting council aplomb, with Councilman Gerald F. Day finally deciding he's had enough and spending the rest of the four-hour meeting setting in the audience.

City Manager Arthur H. Bran-

dow will open the scene by declaring suitable minimum lighting will cost around \$300 and that the TV firm says it won't contribute because it might set a precedent for other city hall coverage in other cities. The ten lights would be ceiling mounted.

After some talk about the legality of public money for private enterprise's benefit there's a soliloquy on the TV ratings, in which Day claims about 1.2 per cent of the Belmont population, by his calculation, would be watching, not enough to justify the expense.

The plot is building toward the climax when Councilman Milton A. Tromborg breaks for a commercial to remind that Belmont is "a pilot city" for council TV, the subscriber list is getting bigger and "Nobody who saw it has said it was a waste of time."

Continuing the action, the vote to appropriate the money is 3-2 yes, with Tromborg, Mayor Morton L. Podolsky and Councilman Joseph J. Zucca for it, and Day and Councilwoman Eve Sterry the opponents, with Mrs. Sterry also asking City Attorney Kenneth M. Dickerson to get a legal opinion on this.

Now departing from the script, Day will announce he "suffered intense headaches and eye irritation" the day after the February 24 council telecast, the first ever. He wore his sunglasses then and does now and asks that TV be dispensed with till the lighting problems are worked out.

The vote will go 3-2 no this time, with Tromborg, Podolsky and Zucca opposing, and Day will announce the light is "injurious" and ask to be excused.

That single large spotlight has been elevated so it isn't directly in the council's eyes anymore, but it's still strong and hot, as sweaty foreheads will attest in this epic.

## Recreation Bond Issue Vote June 3

A \$950,000 bond issue for the development of parks and recreation areas in Belmont will go before voters on June 3.

If passed, the money would be used to provide three basic areas of improvement:

1. Purchase land for park areas;

2. Make essential improvements to the acquired lands, such as turfing playing fields, but the funds would not provide for major structural improvements;

3. Replace antiquated Belameda pool of the city's with a new pool at a location to be decided upon at a later date.

The motion to put the issue on the ballot met with the unanimous vote of the council.

William Broocks, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, outlined the proposal and said that copies of a brochure to acquaint voters with the project, would soon be available.

Belmont Courier Bulletin 3/29/69



*Series  
4.15.69*

# Tromborg New Mayor In Belmont

Milton A. Tromborg, a Belmont city councilman since last April, entered the second year of his term by being elected mayor of the city by his fellow councilmen last night in its annual reorganization.

Tromborg, 36, took over the gavel from Dr. Morton L. Podolsky and called the coming year "a great challenge" for him.

He had been vice mayor the past year and was succeeded in that post by Councilman Gerald F. Day, also elected last year for the first time.

Tromborg, who lives at 2809 Ponce Avenue with wife Janet and five children, is operator of Tromborg Royal Plumbing and Heating in Belmont and has been active in civic and Catholic Church affairs.

He was a planning commissioner for 3½ years before coming to the council and was the top vote-getter in last year's election.

Day, 41, wasn't far behind on the ballot and won on his first attempt at public office. He lives at 1036 Lassen Drive with wife Elizabeth and two children and is an engineer with Pacific Cement and Aggregates in San Francisco.

Councilwoman Eve Sterry, who finishes out a four-year term this year, declined a nomination by Tromborg for vice-mayor, saying the top people on the ballot should lead this next year because "I believe the problems are of a magnitude such as no other problems of the city have been before" and the strongest people available are needed.

Councilman Joseph J. Zucca also declined a nomination for vice-mayor.

# Builder Halts Plan For Big Apartment

RC Tribune

4/15/69

"You have lost a \$4-million project for Belmont."

Those were the first words, addressed to the Belmont City Council, heard by Milton Tromborg as he took over the mayor's post last night.

The speaker was Theodore T. Blumberg, president of Davey Arbor Glen Development Corp., explaining why he was withdrawing applications for variances and use permits for a 15-story apartment building at 333 Davey Glen Road.

The corporation will suffer a \$1-million loss, Blumberg said, because of "delay, confusion and problems caused by certain people in Belmont."

The developer warned, "Politics and bickering in Belmont will come back to haunt it."

Blumberg said the firm will now proceed to develop the 6½-acre site in accordance with "normal zoning, without asking for any variances or exceptions."

Bill General of 16 Camino Vista Court, Belmont, a leader in the fight of some residents near the development site to block height and parking limit variations sought by Blumberg, said he was "unprepared for Mr. Blumberg's withdrawal."

General said he felt the city would not "lose anything," because Blumberg would now develop the property within normal zoning restrictions.

Blumberg indicated earlier that he has permits to allow construction of three large apartment buildings, including a 12-story building, on the same site. He indicated last night that the firm will now move along those lines, instead of constructing the consolidated building as far as possible from the nearby single-family dwellings.

Instead of three stories of

semi-underground parking, the smaller buildings would probably require large-scale tree removal for parking lots, the developer had said earlier.

Blumberg's corporation has an investment of more than \$5-million in apartment units in the immediate area of the site.



## 4½-Hour Spectacular On TV Tonight— Belmont City Council

The Belmont City Council will make its television debut tonight in a four-and-a-half hour, unexpurgated, taped presentation by Belmont TV Cable, Inc.

The debut will be available to CATV subscribers in Belmont, over Channel 12, from 7 p.m. to "12:30 or 12:45 a.m."

The pencil-and-paper newsmen, veteran council observers, appeared highly amused last night as they watched the TV crew, a cameraman and an engineer, in their first encounter with the council.

The newspapermen picked up their press table and moved out of the direct glare on a large TV floodlight used by the camera crew.

The council, on the other hand, reacted by objecting to the harshness of the lighting. Two council members covered their faces with their hands and agenda papers for a while.

Gary Shirey, the CATV engineer, said the cable TV company would honor the council's request that the tape be run unedited. But, he said, "They may change their minds after they see the first one."

Shirey said, "Probably the next one won't be so bad. They

ought to begin getting into the groove by the third one (filming session)."

Shirey said he felt the filming session, technically speaking "was very good, considering what we had to work with." He referred to the minimal amount of equipment used, not to the council.

The crew used one stationary camera for a medium-long shot of the council and part of the audience. The cameraman used a second camera to film the speakers, close up, with a telephoto lens. The engineer sat at the tape console monitor screen, flipping a switch to activate one camera or the other.

The presence of the cameras did nothing to curtail the usual council bickering.

City manager Art Brandow noted that it will cost CATV \$500 to \$600 to install "proper" floodlighting.

Only Mayor Morton Podolsky wore the traditional blue shirt for the TV appearance; the other men wore white shirts, which should appear gray on the screen. If any councilman was wearing make-up for the occasion, it was not apparent.



# Belmont Protest On Apts.

Petitions of protest and arguments against the proposed new Davey Arbor Glen Development Corp. planned community apartment complex at 333 Davey Glen Road were presented to the Belmont City Council in a long public hearing last night, but there's a hint the fuss may be settled more amicably than the requested revocation of variances.

The council put the matter over to its April 14 meeting after Theodore Blumberg, the developer, asked for it and said "I hope we can come in with another plan that meets with more acceptance by our neighbors and the city council."

According to the concept, for which the variances and use permit were granted by the planning commission, the 380 units on the 6½ acre site would be contained in buildings of 15, eight and five storeys. The neighbors were protesting the variances waiving the 50-foot height limit and density requirements claiming their hillside views were impaired and this wasn't "compatible zoning with single-family." The high-rise 15-story building particularly drew their ire.

Speakers such as Philip Burtok, 504 Davey Glen, Joe Stagnaro, 520 Davey Glen and William General, 16 Camino Vista Court, said they didn't mind the apartments but that the developer should abide by the zoning regulations and the city shouldn't allow variances like this.

Put over with the variances was a use permit review scheduled sometime ago by the council.

Otherwise, last night's meeting, like so many before it, ran until after midnight, this time till 12:08 a.m. But, unlike its recent past efforts, the council got all the way through the agenda, putting a few things over but not leaving whole sections of the agenda dangling.

An attorney for another property owner, G. C. Morgan Co., aimed some harsh words at the council in public hearing before its adoption of the "alternate A" Carlmont Drive extension to Hallmark Drive in the traffic circulation element of the city general plan.

Daniel Lampres, the attorney, criticized the route because he said his client hadn't been consulted. Morgan now owns some 250 acres of the western hills area west of the present Carlmont Drive terminus, through which the extension would run, but acknowledged that the firm had no development plans of its own to announce yet.

This route, proposed on a filled roadbed in a canyon, was considered superior to alternate B, swinging to the north and cutting through a hillside. The alternates were drawn up last summer by City Engineer Gordon A. Tillson. The vote for A was 4-0.

A petition with 49 signatures, mostly from the 2100 block of Lyon Avenue, requested council support of an all-emergency phone dialing system for police, fire, ambulance and other distress calls. Arthur J. Gehm, who presented the petition, said the system had been used in Europe and New York City successfully but telephone officials here said there were no plans afoot locally but opinions from citizens and local agencies were appreciated.

The council told the staff to write a letter of interest to Pacific Telephone.

Another petition signed by 43 residents of the same area requesting undergrounding of electrical facilities in the neighborhood was referred to City Manager Arthur H. Brandow for a report at the April 14 council meeting after Brandow said this may "get into areas of major city policy."

While supporting things, the council voted 3-1 yes on a request by Councilwoman Eve Sterry to have the Recreation and Park Commission study the possibilities of having accurate restoration, preservation and maintenance of the old pioneer graveyard near the new Junipero Serra revised Ridge route and just outside the city limits.

Councilman Joseph J. Zucca voted no, saying the city had enough to do within its borders, but Mrs. Sterry said the graveyard is important to Belmont history and anyway the city had plenty to say about the ridge route because, although it too was outside the city, it effected local residents.



## Belmont 'Family' Faces Fight

Belmont adopted an ordinance last night re-defining the word "family," and the American Civil Liberties Union said this morning that it intends to challenge the ordinance in court.

The action defines "family" as any persons related by blood, marriage or adoption, plus not more than two unre-

lated persons; or, unrelated persons not to exceed a total of three, living in a single-family dwelling.

During hearings preceding introduction of the ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance, proponents of the measure stated it would "clean out these nests of filthy hippies" from the city's neighborhoods.

The ACLU wrote to request a copy of the "anti-hippie ordinance" from the city officials, who replied that there was no "anti-hippie ordinance" but sent them the measure approved last night.

In a second letter, dated June 20, the ACLU charged the proposed measure was "unconstitutional."

Ernest Besig, executive director of the ACLU in San Francisco, said today that the legislation was brought to his organization's attention by Belmont residents who are "not hippies, just an ordinary family."

If the ordinance approved last night is applied, and if "any of these alleged hippies are arrested, we will intervene in their behalf and challenge this measure in the courts," Besig said.

Besig said the measure would prohibit, for instance, four airline stewardesses from living in a single-family home in Belmont. "This is unreasonable and arbitrary," he said.

Besig is a 15-year resident of Belmont.

The measure passed on a 3-0 vote, with Councilmen Joseph Zucca and Morton Podolsky absent.

Belmont -  
Council Meeting  
for Day's resignation  
to be cancelled?

## Belmont Non-Meeting:

# No Farewell For Ged Day?

By KEN ROWE  
Tribune Staff Writer

In most cities, a councilman appointed to higher office would be allowed a final address to his colleagues and afforded a graceful departure. Not in Belmont, however.

Councilmen are wrangling over the telephones this weekend about whether or not they will meet Monday night.

Mayor Milton Tromborg has canceled the Monday night session and the preceding executive session, at which a successor to Councilman Gerald (Ged) Day was to be discussed.

Day, recently named by Gov. Ronald Reagan to a post on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors which he will assume Tuesday morning, said today he will, as vice-

mayor, attempt to hold the Monday night session.

Day said he is acting on a legal opinion from City Atty. Ken Dickerson, who advised that the meeting could not be legally cancelled by the mayor.

But, there must be a quorum of three councilmen in order to hold the meeting.

Councilwoman Eve Sterry, a supporter of Day, said today she will attend the meeting.

Councilman Joseph Zucca is out of state, but reportedly could fly home to attend a later meeting on July 14 as requested by the mayor.

The key to the Monday night meeting is the decision of Councilman Morton Podolsky, who said today, "I don't know if I'll attend."

Dr. Podolsky says he is miffed because no other councilman has "had the courtesy" to inform him of who they are backing to replace Day.

Day said even if he is not afforded an opportunity to speak his mind Monday night, regarding his replacement, he will still "get his two-bits in."

"I can make a holler from the floor (a statement at a later meeting). I'm still a citizen here, by golly," Day said today. Of Tromborg, Day said, "I thought possibly he would have given me the courtesy of handing in my resignation."

Day, Tromborg and Podolsky have declined to name their respective candidates for Day's post. Mrs. Sterry claims to have no candidate, but she is expected to back Day's choice.

This situation is complicated by Tromborg's criticism of City Manager Art Brandow for taking a vacation before the presentation of the budget. Without the budget, Podolsky said, a meeting is senseless.

The budget and items important to city employees were scheduled for discussion at Monday night's regular session.

Brandow and Tromborg were both unavailable for comment today.



# Procedure Amendments Belmont Mayor Proposes 'To Bring Sanity Back to Council'

By KEN ROWE  
Tribune Staff Writer

Present rules governing operation of the Belmont City Council seem doomed to be scrapped tonight.

Mayor Milton Tromberg, who initiated the move, said today it would "... bring sanity back to this city council, eliminating the chaos of the past six to eight months."

On the agenda for tonight's 8 o'clock meeting, Tromberg's proposal is listed as item 11, under ordinances for in-

troduction, and refers to "amending" the procedural ordinance. The full text of the proposed ordinance, however, calls for "repealing" the entire procedural ordinance.

Councilwoman Eve Sterry said this "appears to be an attempt to deceive or mislead ..."

Tromberg said today his intention is not to simply repeal the procedural ordinance, leaving a vacuum, but to amend or repeal the present ordinance and replace it with

an older, probably modified, ordinance governing council operation.

Mrs. Sterry noted the city procedural ordinance, No. 401, is similar to the model procedural ordinance of the League of California Cities. A League attorney, the councilwoman noted, called the Belmont ordinance "a very complete and comprehensive document."

"I don't like what I'm doing, but I've got to do something," Tromberg said, "It's hard to repeal something I voted for

in the first place, but it (the procedural ordinance) just isn't working."

Mrs. Sterry said, "... abolishment of this ordinance would represent, in effect, anarchy or mob rule, and a return to the days as when, before this ordinance, rules were called on a 'made as you go' basis."

Tromberg said, "We spend more time on pettiness when we should be moving mountains in this city. ... Golly sakes, with the old ordinance, I don't remember having any procedural hangups."

A few points which Tromberg said he would like to see revised are the "Order of business," time periods during which items may be placed on the agenda, and the method and manner of recording minutes of meetings.

These matters and others, Mrs. Sterry said, represent "most vital safeguards for ex-

pediting democratic action and enforcing law, order and due process in council proceedings ..."

Tromberg said today it is his intent to "... bring the council into line, to understand we can't expect law and order from people in the audience ... if we don't have it on the council."

Mrs. Sterry listed six items

she said are most important in the ordinance which could be abolished or amended subsequent to tonight's action. In brief, they concern:

- Abstention from votes.
- Conflict of interest.
- Order of business, the listing of items on agendas.

-Recording all legal opinions of the city attorney in the minutes of meetings.

-Tape recorder policies facilitating written transcriptions of the minutes for councilmen who request them.

-Verbatim recording of councilmen's statements in the

minutes, when desired.

-Using Roberts Rules of Order.



Redwood City Tribune  
Tues Dec 9, 1969

## Belmont Defeats, 3-2, Council Procedure Plan



**MILTON TROMBORG**  
end to haggling

An attempt led by Mayor Milton Tromborg to repeal the procedural ordinance by which the Belmont city council operates, was defeated last night in a 3-2 vote.

As debate delineated voting positions about to be taken by various council members, Tromborg said: "It would be complete chaos to just kill this (the present procedural ordinance); I just want to modify it. You want to delay it . . .

"I stuck my neck out because I thought I was doing the right thing. Everyone was hot to trot, but tonight I hear a lot of back-off!" the mayor said.

Councilman Joseph Zucca voted with Tromborg; Mrs. Eve Sterry, Edward Vallergera and Morton Podolsky successfully opposed the change.

Tromborg said something had to be done to eliminate procedural deficiencies, "Haggling," "harrassment of

the city clerk over minutes," political "manipulation," and other problems.

He said 30 days would be available in which to substitute new procedural rules, and he was not advocating ruleless operation of the council.

Councilman Vallergera said, "I don't think you have to kill the patient in order to cure it. I don't think the (present procedural) ordinance is the cause of stagnation. 'erring' on the co



# Letters to the Editor

## Eve's Side Of It

To the Editor:

With respect to the city council's award of the controversial variance on San Ardo Way to developer Ward Thomas, and the mayor's "nothing was wrong" statement reported by the Courier, all the background facts have been ignored by the mayor.

Actually, rather than a three-foot deviation from the zoning ordinance, the variance, contrary to report, is a twelve-foot deviation.

Also, while on the one hand it was made clear that mine was the only "no" vote against the variance on the council, on the other hand, and contrary to what might be assumed, the planning commission vote also was not unanimous, and in actual fact three commissioners opposed it.

The big gap in the mayor's statement, however, is represented by the fact that no mention whatsoever was made concerning the question of legality of the public hearing held by the city council concerning this variance. This question stems from the fact that the zoning ordinance requirement which follows below, was ignored in the hearing.

This requirement is:

"All evidence submitted at such hearings, except original public records or certified copies thereof, shall be given under oath administered by the Mayor or the Vice-Mayor".

Even the city attorney was not aware of this requirement until in the middle of the hearing I remembered it, pointed it out, and after the city attorney agreed it had to be done, swearing in began.

However, at this point the number-one witness was not on hand, his unsworn testimony presented earlier could not be considered, and even though the variance would be extraordinarily damaging to his property, when the council would not reprocess the hear-

ing back through the planning commission, this witness and the 34 other people who petitioned against the variance were simply wiped out, and deprived of legal rights.

During the council hearing and before the council's vote on the variance I asked the city attorney if the fact that all evidence had not been given under oath as required by the ordinance did not invalidate the entire hearing, as obviously it should do. He replied, and I have double-checked the facts on the tape-recording of the hearing:

"If someone wishes to contest the result of the decision made by the council they could argue that due process was not carried out." He said also, "It could be looked upon as though an error had been made." In a letter dated December 16 (the council vote was on December 13) I also contested the result directly to the Mayor, again quoting the zoning ordinance requirements and the statements of the city attorney as per the tape recorder. Now, and half a month later, he still has not acknowledged receipt either by letter or even by a phone call.

Eve Sterry  
Councilwoman  
City of Belmont

## More Protests

To the Editor:

In your publication of December 27th you reported that Mayor Joseph Zucca upheld the council vote granting a variance of 3 feet to builder Ward Thomas as 2827 San Ardo Way, Belmont, when in fact the variance granted is for 12 feet, a considerable difference.

It should interest the residents of Belmont to learn how meetings of the City Council are conducted, as my first experience was a shocker when I appeared to oppose the granting of this variance that will destroy the building line and its attendant esthetic value and adversely effect the property values of homes on this

street. While 36 residents of San Ardo Way opposed the variance which would favor one individual and disfavor many, the meeting was conducted with blatant overtones of prejudice that made it appear that approval of the variance had been predetermined. Only a naive person would overlook the fact that Ward Thomas previously has applied for and been granted 14 variances on this street alone, a perfect batting average.

The meeting of December 13th was conducted with little regard for parliamentary procedure and city zoning ordinance and should be invalidated as testimony was not sworn as required by the ordinance. The legal rights of the residents of San Ardo Way have been completely ignored and we appeal to all voters in the City of Belmont to attend the city council meetings in order to use your vote judiciously come next election day. We think there is something rotten in Belmont.

Joseph Sturman  
2825 San Ardo Way

Mr. and Mrs. William Hodges  
2820 San Ardo Way

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Carlan  
2723 Barclay Way

Courier -  
Bulletin -  
Jan 3, 19



# Zucca Calls Sterry

## Charge 'Bullfeathers'

By DON CARTER

Belmont Mayor Joseph Zucca Monday night stepped down momentarily from the mayor's seat to make a bitter verbal blast against Councilwoman Eve Sterry.

Addressing his four council colleagues, who were seated above him, Zucca scored Mrs. Sterry for taking her complaints to the newspapers, and denied the council had done anything "illegally."

"I think the actions she is involved in," Zucca said, "are reprehensible, unfair, and unwarranted, and in the worst taste. It is nothing but bullfeathers."

He termed Mrs. Sterry's criticism of earlier council actions, "a gross misrepresentation." She should make any charges against councilmen at council meetings, "where they can reply," and "not by writing letters to the editor" in the newspapers,

Zucca said.

He objected to Mrs. Sterry's "innuendos" that councilmen are engaged in behind-the-scenes "briefings."

Mrs. Sterry, he said, had telephoned him from time to time to "enlist his support" for various actions, such as cutting back the salaries of the city clerk, city attorney and the assistant city manager. "Now I've become one of the bad guys, too."

In reply, Mrs. Sterry said that

she has found that submitting "letters to the editor" has been the only way to get her views aired.

She charged that the council majority is "constantly tabling" her motions to have hearings.

Such action, she said, "if not illegal is at least unethical."

Following the meeting, Mrs. Sterry told reporters she has been "trying for two years" to get the council to adopt procedural rules that would "protect

all members with equal fairness."

She said she has discussed the problem with San Mateo County District Attorney Keith Sorenson's staff and was advised to hire an attorney.

"I can't afford to hire an attorney, but I can keep pushing for a procedural ordinance," she said.

Toward the end of a lengthy agenda, Councilman Robert Fitzgerald moved to "table" eight

items on which Mrs. Sterry has been seeking a council hearing. The motion was promptly accepted by his colleagues, Mayor Zucca, Vice Mayor Morton Podolsky and Councilman Valterga.

Fitzgerald said he had not had time to study them all.

The tabled items included a review of the city's legal services, the salaries of the city clerk, council salaries, a business license ordinance, procedural rules, billboards and a city manager ordinance.



Redwood City Tribune  
January 15, 1968

County cities and towns  
Belmont

## Secrecy In Belmont

To the Editor:

With reference to your recent Brown Act editorial, the public information program that has been continually conducted by the Tribune regarding the Brown Act has been exceedingly meaningful.

In 1968 it should become even more so — a recent League of California Cities Legislative Bulletin predicts that in 1958 there will be continuing attempts to amend the Brown Act to make it applicable to even two or more members of a legislative body, also that it can be anticipated that attempts will be made to make this law, (the people's "right to know" law), unworkable.

Forces opposing the people's "right to know" are surely tenacious.

At a recent City of Belmont meeting a former mayor opposed a new planning commissioner's concept that citizen participation is necessary in government as represented by Belmont Planning Commission level, and pressed the concept that the planning commission should decide what is good for the people to know.

At a following meeting, in reply, the new commissioner publicly read to the former mayor the preamble to the Brown Act, as follows:

"In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

This former mayor's disregard for this spirit has been notorious. Even though involved in a long law suit highlighting wining and dining private council meetings the mayor thereafter still regularly and even openly sort of thumbed his nose at the Brown Act.

Leading a delegation of councilmen he would march into planning commission meetings, they would all sit together continually talking sotto-voce and disregarding the planning commission meeting going on, while angry, frustrated citizens, not knowing what to do about it, had to sit and watch the private meeting going on in full public view.

EVE S. STERRY  
2045 Monroe Street  
Belmont

☆☆☆

1-25-68  
**Tribune Forum Column**

1-25-68  
**Councilmen  
Turn to Press**

To the Editor:

In documented rebuttal of Mayor Zucca's charges, I here-with submit samples of ob-viously prepared, as opposed to solicited, press releases co- vering every member of the city council. They establish that contrary to the mayor's charges, all councilmen can and do turn to the press and letters to the editor.

It should be obvious that Mr. Zucca should have known how exceedingly wild were his charges, but apparently he hoped to screen vital basic is- sues.

1. Mayor Edward Vallergera's release opposing my charge in the Tribune that the law suit for collection of dirt-hauling fees had not been authorized by the city council, and that the Brown Act was violated.

2. Release by Councilman Fitzgerald supporting one made by me to the Courier-Bulletin and appearing on the same date. Mine charged the city attorney with making non-factual statements in the zon- ing ordinance issue.

3. Release to the Tribune, signed Joe Zucca, as a letter to the editor. However this first appeared in a prepared statement form in the Courier-Bulletin, attacking the "group of willful people" who even- tually forced adoption of a

new zoning ordinance on the basis that the old one was de- gally erroneous.

4. Courier Bulletin release as a letter by Councilman Zuc- ca. It speaks for and in de- fense of Mayor Benson and city policy involving the grad- ing, excavation and dirt-haul- ing bills owed the city, and long overdue.

5. While rather than "Coun- cilman" Podolsky, the Podolsky letter omits the title, it nevertheless clearly is po- litically oriented, since it re- fers to the controversial Baja, Mexico, trip and rebuts ru- mors that he "was running away". This trip, made with Councilman Vallergera, came right after the zoning ordi- nance issue came up.

The vital basic issues, which include the raise contrary to state law given the city clerk several months ago, include also matters like the city

manager recommended aboli- tion of the assistant city manager office (even though on a low priority basis), the question of validity of the zon- ing ordinance, the private briefing sessions by the ma- jor, the question of predeter- mination of votes, the fact that the council doesn't want the is- sue of council salaries voted on while there's still time to put it on the ballot, and so forth.

The San Ardo Way variance was only the trigger, yet it also is just as vital, since, while the zoning ordinance re- quires all testimony in this variance to have to be given under oath, yet it was not, and even though the city attor- ney had to state:

"If someone wishes to con- test the result of the decision made by the city council they could argue that due process was not carried out" and "It could be looked upon as though an error had been made" and therefore the coun- cil vote for the variance was on the basis that it could make the city exceedingly vulner- able.

EVE S. STERRY  
Belmont Councilwoman



*Belmont Courier Bulletin*  
*April 24, 1968*



MEET YOUR NEW CITY COUNCIL. . . Former Belmont mayor, Joseph Zuca, (left) congratulates Dr. Morton Podolsky on becoming his successor. The event took place last week when votes were canvassed and new council mem-

bers sworn into office. New councilmen are Gerald F. (Jed) Day, second from left, and Milton A. Tromborg. Councilwoman Eve Sterry, far right, starts the third year of her four-year term.

—Sharkey Photo.

Burlingame Advance Star  
October 27, 1968

San Mateo County  
City of Belmont

# 'UN Day' Fete In Belmont Stirs a Fracas

Belmont's first annual observance of United Nations Day was held Thursday without serious injuries or major damage.

There were, however, these developments:

Mayor Morton Podolsky faces a signed complaint by James Cooney, 49, of 353 Waverley St., Menlo Park, that the mayor assaulted him and ripped the buttons off his shirt while he was passing out "Pro-American" literature during the ceremony.

Mrs. Podolsky has countered in a statement to Belmont police that Cooney grabbed her wrist when she tried to stop him from putting anti-United Nations literature on an olive tree that was being planted and that her husband stepped in to stop him.

Halyards on both the city hall flag pole, where the ceremony took place at 11 a.m. yesterday, and the flag pole at Belmont library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, were severed, according to Belmont police reports.

Belmont police, some of whom

witnessed the Podolsky-Cooney tangle, are investigating and may turn the case over to the San Mateo County District Attorney's office.

Mayor Podolsky today declined comment and said he had not yet decided what action he would take.

Belmont police officers James Scales and Joseph Rogus, observing the ceremony featuring Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, R-Portola Valley, and other dignitaries, filed the following report:

About 10:45 a.m., before the ceremony, a group of "Wallace for President" demonstrators drove up in a truck bearing "Wallace" signs as well as anti-United Nations slogans.

The half-dozen demonstrators carried signs reading "Give Reds a Seat in UN, Ours," "Boycott Rhodesia, Help UN Starve Black Babies," "To a Communist Peace Means No Resistance to Enslavement," "UN Troops Killed Children in Katanga with UNICEF Money," "Get the U.S. Out of UN. Get the UN Out of the U.S." and "U.S. Condone Communist Imperialism."

The demonstrators made heckling comments during the series of UN Day speeches and passed out literature, then gathered around the olive tree being planted in order that anti-UN signs would be visible in any photographs taken of the occasion, officers related.

Cooney tried to put a leaflet on the tree and Mrs. Podolsky grabbed it and Cooney pulled it back from her. At that time, Dr. Podolsky, a dentist, grabbed Cooney by the shirt, pulling three buttons off, and yelled, "You leave my wife alone."

Officers Rogus and Scales separated the two men and escorted them to the police station at city hall. Mayor Podolsky was released to return to the ceremonies, and Cooney signed a complaint that the mayor had assaulted him.

In his statement Cooney said he was delivering "pro-American" literature when the woman grabbed his papers, then Podolsky grabbed his shirt and "engaged in threatening and abusive language."



# Western Hills S.M. Times 10/29/68 Development

## Is Debated

Next major bone of contention for the Belmont City Council in the continuing development of the city's western hills shows promise of being the proposed Carlmont Drive extension to Hallmark Drive, if last night is an indication.

City Engineer Gordon A. Tillson presented his new study findings and recommendations, showing two alternatives for the extension.

Attorney Daniel N. Lempres, attorney for G. C. Morgan Co., owner and-or prospective buyer of the land over which the road would pass, again stated his client's objection to the routing, noting that Morgan hadn't been consulted and said, "All we ask is that Hallmark leave us alone."

Then Charles R. Ellsburg, president of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association, warned of the impending traffic jam on Hallmark, now the only way out of the new developments and noted that whatever the route, a new access road has to be built before the planned Hallmark unit 6 of 117 homes can be built. Hallmark 5, also under consideration by the city, is for 52 homes.

Tillson's report was referred to the planning commission for recommendations and updating of the city master plan.

The latter is because Tillson's alternate B closely follows the master plan outline of the extension, but wasn't recommended by Tillson. Instead, he said his alternate A would be preferable because it required less hillside cutting and would cause less "visual impact" in the area.

Alternate A would run southeast from the end of Carlmont Drive and swing west in the Belmont Creek canyon east branch. Alternate B would be a sidehill route and less expensive but would cut through potential green space and have less usable frontage for development, Tillson said.

S M Times 10/29/68

# New UN Day Row in Belmont

That United Nations Day fracas between the mayor and a heckler is going to reverberate around Belmont City Hall for awhile, it appears.

A lot of things have happened at city hall and to the city council, but for the first time last night sign-carrying pickets showed up to make their point.

They didn't make it, however, because the council adjourned at midnight while group spokesman Joss D. Cooney of Menlo Park was attempting to speak.

Mayor Morton L. Podolsky tore Cooney's shirt front last Thursday at a UN flag-raising ceremony at city hall after a minor brush between Cooney and Mrs. Podolsky. The district attorney's office yesterday officially washed its hands of assault complaints from both Podolsky and Cooney, for lack of witnesses and evidence.

But Cooney and four women entered the council chamber at about 10 last night and said they wanted to speak to the council about the city official's participation in a UN observance.

Cooney wore a large Wallace button, one woman carried a large American flag and the others carried such placards saying things like "UN Helps Russian Czech-Mate" and "United Nations Troops Killed Children in Katanga with UNICEF Money."

A written plea by Cooney at meeting's end did no good and the council adjourned, telling Cooney he could get on next week's adjourned meeting agenda if he wished.

The council didn't go through

its 42-item marathon and had to put much of it over to next Monday, November 4, at 8 p.m. at city hall.

Cooney afterward flayed the DA's office for failure to act in the matter, charging its obligations were not being carried out.

He charged Podolsky and Congressman Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey Jr., the UN Day guest speaker, with violating their oaths of office by "ceding of the City of Belmont to UN jurisdiction by flying the flag of the UN in the city. . . ."

S. M. Times 10/29/68



# A Long Night At Belmont

## Council Gets Its Work Done

Belmont City Council had another long, long night last night and early this morning, once again going five hours but getting considerable work done.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 a.m., the exact time observers calculated it would two weeks ago, when it surprised everyone and adjourned a half-hour earlier than that.

Starting off the 38-item agenda was the search for a new city planning consultant. Harold E. Atkinson, former holder of the post, resigned two weeks ago.

On Councilman Gerald F. Day's motion the council directed City Manager Arthur H. Brandow to ask for proposals from at least three area planning firms, interview them and have recommendations ready later. He suggested the July 22 meeting for hiring a new consultant but Mayor Morton L. Podolsky asked more time for a better selection, to which the council agreed.

### Study

The council earlier accepted Atkinson's resignation.

In another study matter the council gave the green light to the Chamber of Commerce to make a study of "sphere of interest" around the city's unincorporated perimeter, as requested by the county Local Agencies Formation Commission and neighboring San Carlos, which itself is making such a study.

This will be a "study in some depth," Chamber Representative Gil Armando told the council. By a 2-1 vote the council approved, directing the chamber's eventual report to the planning commission and new planning consultant. Councilwoman Eve Sterry voted no, saying she thought the planners should do

The proposed minimal widening of Ralston Avenue between Old County Road and the Bayshore Freeway interchange was put over another two weeks after the council learned, to its surprise, the job was being asked to go to bid instead of the city public works crew doing it.

### Higher Cost

City Public Works Supt. George Spanne told the council last night he didn't have the men or machinery for the job, but when the project was approved two weeks ago the council had been told by City Engineer Gordon A. Tillson it could be done.

The potential added cost to the estimate \$3,640 job irked the council, with Milton A. Tromborg stating, "I want to see some conformity," in staff planning.

In other matters the council:

Decided to list what it thought were changes needed in its new procedural ordinance, noting they were unhappy about some of the rules in it and Tromborg noting it's one reason for these all-night stands at meetings;

Approved a resolution authorizing an agreement with developer L. C. Smith for public improvements and deeding of a street-width strip of land in the Lauriedale tract off Marine View Avenue to the city to serve the new St. Mark's Catholic Church site, the agreement still to be signed by Smith and which would culminate a five-year quest for these by the church;

### New Parks

Okayed a Recreation and Park Commission recommendation on policy for naming new parks;

Adopted an ordinance resuming the old 7:15 p.m. study meeting times for council meetings, the regular meetings to start at 8 p.m. instead of the present 7:30 and effective in August;

Accepted the resignation of James E. Sims from the personnel board, the first in several years, and told Brandow to contact applicants for a recent planning commission seat and ask if they would be interested. New applications also were invited, to be sent with experience resumes and background to Brandow at city hall;

Referred to the Planning and Recreation and Park Commissions, Brandow and City Attorney Kenneth M. Dickerson an offer from Hallmark Homes, Inc., to sell the city 15- and 12-acre parcels of wooded hillside in the western hills after approval of final maps of the proposed Hallmark 5 and 6 developments.



# CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

CITY OF BELMONT

APRIL 9, 1968

## Nominees for Belmont City Council

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### JOSEPH J. ZUCCA

Age: 45

Occupation: High School Teacher

Education: Bachelor and Master's Degrees from University of San Francisco, Additional post graduate work at Chico State College and University of Oregon.

#### Qualifications:

A 100% commitment to Belmont, its youth, and its citizens. Science teacher at Carlmont High School - 15½ years. Elected to Belmont City Council, 1964. Held office as councilman, vice-mayor, and mayor (my present position). Appointed to Belmont Recreation and Park Commission, 1958. Served one year. Elected to Belmont School District Board of Trustees, 1955, 1958, and 1961. Served 8 years. Appointed to San Mateo County Greater Highways Committee, 1965. My present position is vice-chairman. Appointed to South County Garbage and Refuse Disposal District, 1965. My present position is secretary. Appointed to San Mateo County Disaster Organization, 1964. My present position is vice-chairman. Selected "Belmont's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, 1966", by the Belmont Jr. Chamber of Commerce. Worked in many civic, cultural and church connected organizations such as PTA, Crippled Children's League, Concert Association, Holy Name Society, etc. Served in Army Air Force, World War II. Honorable Discharge.

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### GERALD F. "GED" DAY

Age: 40

Occupation: Engineer

Education: Norwich University and University of Maine - General Engineering

#### Qualifications:

My 15 year's engineering and cost analysis experience ranges from the technical side of machine design to the long-range planning and supervision of million dollar projects. It has been many years since there has been a council member in Belmont with engineering and financial planning background, even though most council level problems center in this area. During the 8 years my family and I have lived in Belmont, I have observed and, as a citizen, voiced strong opinions about actions of the City Council, Planning Commission, etc. My conclusion is that there is a crying need for people who can offer this background and experience to step forth.

I represent no group, no special interest, and my background is not political. I seek to serve on the City Council by representing Belmont's homeowners and taxpayers with integrity and dedication, keeping always in mind sound management of the resident's tax dollar.

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### MILTON A. TROMBORG

Age: 35

Occupation: Businessman

Education: Graduate of San Mateo College; attended San Francisco State College

#### Qualifications:

My candidacy is based on sound business experience (I have owned and operated my own business in Belmont for the past five years); local government service, and a responsible record of leadership in civic, community, youth and church activities. In my 14 years in Belmont, I have had the following record of community service: Belmont Planning Commission, 1964-1968, Chairman, 1966-67; Vice-President and Director, Chamber of Commerce; Vice-President, Little League; President, Holy Name Society, I.H.M. Church; Belmont Architectural Committee; San Mateo County Historical Sites Committee; member of Jaycees; Chairman, Capital Improvements Committee of Belmont Master Plan; member of Government Research Council of San Mateo County; Boy Scout Leader and Youth Advisor.

Belmont citizens are entitled to a responsible, dedicated government. I will help bring back to Belmont an era of fiscal responsibility and sound leadership. Your vote, based on my business and governmental qualifications, will be appreciated.

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