

Milton from Berg Mayors  
San Mateo Times  
4/22/70

S.M. Times 4/22/70



ECOLOGICAL HEAVE HO—Beating Earth Day to the punch — or is it? — are these Belmont, Redwood City and San Carlos officials. They broke earth recently for the new sewage disposal plant to serve the tri-city area. Left to right: Blaine L. Harrison, consulting sewage engineer; Ernst Nackord, San Carlos councilman; Belmont Mayor Milton Tromborg; John Jenics, consulting engineer; Art Brabow, Belmont city manager; Howard Ullrick, Redwood City city manager, and Robert Allen, San Carlos city administrator. (Times Photo)

CITY COUNCIL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>RES. PHONE</u>	<u>BUS. PHONE</u>
Edward D. Vallerga MAYOR	4/72	887 Ralston Ave.	592-0203	592-0202
Robert A. Jones VICE MAYOR	4/74	665 South Road	591-6852	622-2269
William H. Hardwick	4/74	2720 Newlands	591-2544	321-2300 X-3186
Joseph J. Zucca	4/72	2704 Ponce Ave.	593-9537	369-1411 X-23
Charles D. Ketcham	4/72	816 Holly Rd.	591-3192	362-3212

CITY STAFF

<u>CITY MANAGER</u>				
James P. DeChaine		2113 Cipriani	593-2833	592-8101
ASST. C.M./FINANCE DIRECTOR				
Bruce G. Lawson		1001 Continentals	591-6569	592-8101
<u>CITY ATTORNEY</u>				
Kenneth H. Dickerson		801 Miramar	593-0874	593-3117
ASST. CITY ATTORNEY				
Robert Lanzone			739-7613	593-3117
<u>CITY CLERK</u>				
James W. McLaughlin	4/74	3313 Plateau Dr.	593-5723	592-8101
<u>CITY TREASURER</u>				
Florence Holland	4/74	1502 Winding Way	593-8648	592-8101
<u>BUILDING OFFICIAL &amp; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR*</u>				
Alex Hokamp		2009 Texas Way, SM	345-7357	592-8101
<u>POLICE CHIEF*</u>				
George Trenam		200 Davey Glen	591-2905	592-8101
<u>CITY ENGINEER</u>				
Gordon Tillson		800 Bayshore SM	325-8407	342-9585
<u>CITY PLANNER (Hahn, Wise &amp; Assoc.)</u>				
Neal Martin		1558 Laurel, S.C.	326-5367	591-8959
<u>RECREATION &amp; PARK DIRECTOR</u>				
Richard W. Perry		330 Gonzales, S.F.	334-7036	592-8101
<u>SUPT. PUBLIC WORKS</u>				
George Spanne		1511 Winding Way	593-3772	592-8101

\*Member of Traffic Safety Committee (with Fire Chief)

COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>RES. PHONE</u>	<u>BUS. PHONE</u>
<u>PLANNING COMMISSION</u>				
Ferd. J. Giuliani, Chm.	6/7/72	1510 Pine Knoll	592-0460	399-3894
W. Howard Mann, V. Chm.	6/7/72	1261 Hiller St.	593-6357	982-4800 X-239
Alexander M. Fletcher	6/1/74	1504 El Verano	591-6804	341-4848
Frank R. Gonsalves	6/7/72	6 Lyndhurst Ct.	593-2329	421-9344
John J. McInerney	6/7/72	324 Malcolm Ave.	593-0156	452-1941
Jeff D. Montgomery	6/1/74	1923 Bayview	591-9953	326-4000 X-3862
Glen E. Pollock	6/1/74	23 Tioga Way	593-6089	961-1111 X-2561

J. W. McLaughlin, Secy.

(See City Clerk)

RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

E. Walt Libal, Chm.	7/1/71	580 O'Neill Ave.	591-7252	591-8941
Robert A. Cissna, Jr. VC	6/30/72	1811 Mezes Ave.	593-5272	---
Wayne J. Benson	7/1/71	1501 Solana Ave.	591-6691	289-2491
Robert W. Gaber	6/30/72	2719 St. James Rd.	592-1281	765-2528
James Wallace, Jr.	6/30/72	317 Malcolm Ave.	591-3995	399-3752

Andree Nippe, Secy.

423 Wessex Way 591-5872 592-8101

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Harold Trefethen, Chm.		1604 Fairway Dr.	592-2295	391-4300
Art Weiner, V. Chm.		2108 Lyon Ave.	591-2300	391-6161
Gil Armando, Secy.		1112 Lassen Dr.	591-1812	591-2661
Richard Cortopassi		1900 Valdez Ave.	593-8900	365-2323
Robert DeLaurentis		417 Cornish Way	591-3246	391-4300

PERSONNEL BOARD

Roland E. LeBlanc, Chm.	1/7/71	1627 Sixth Ave.	593-3937	341-2683
Richard Stephens, VC	1/15/72	912 Chevy St.	593-8688	822-5490
Michael J. Kelty	1/15/72	821 Covington Rd.	591-2162	421-5800
Donald F. McKeever	1/15/73	107 Rose Lane	591-0297	---
Lawrence S. Thompson	1/15/74	43 College View	593-2552	---
Liz Oldt, Secy.		1161 Broadway	592-4189	592-8101

BOARD OF DESIGN

Thomas Haslett	12/12/72	2311 Coronet Blvd.	591-2770	764-5580
Vincent Raney	12/31/74	1300 Ralston Ave.	593-8525	392-5462

Alex Hokamp, Secy.

(See Building Official)

STANDING COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

General Assembly of Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)	Delegate: Vice Mayor Jones Alternate: Mayor Vallerga
Greater Transportation Committee	Councilman Zucca
Regional Planning Committee (RPC)	Councilman Hardwick Commissioner Mann
San Mateo Operational Area Civil Defense & Disaster Organization Council	Vice Mayor Jones
South County Garbage & Refuse Dist.	Councilman Zucca
Water Quality Administration Comm.	Councilman Hardwick

MISCELLANEOUS

		<u>RES. PHONE</u>	<u>BUS. PHONE</u>
AUDITORS			
Merrill F. Higham	1035 Alameda	591-1884	592-1521
BELAMEDA SWIMMING POOL	1100 Alameda		592-8101
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	1020 6th Avenue		593-5689
William Burke, Manager		345-6901	
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	5th & O'Neill		593-6242
Richard Weare, Chief		591-0445	
LIBRARY	1101 Alameda		591-8286
J. Davis, Head Librarian			
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT			
Mary J. Baker, Rep.	2113 Lyon Ave.	591-8736	344-8592
POST OFFICE	640 Masonic Way		591-9471
John Lamb, Postmaster			
SAN MATEO SCAVENGER CO.	225 Shoreway Rd., SC		592-2411
TRAFFIC COURT (Juvenile)	Council Chambers (Tuesdays)		
J. Hutchins, Hearing Officer			341-1361 X-3277
WATER DISTRICT	1513 Folger Drive		591-8941
Warren McClure, Manager			

ROSTER OF CITY OFFICIALS

CITY OF BELMONT

1365 Fifth Avenue

12/7/70

REDWOOD CITY TRIBUNE  
JUNE 10, 1970

OVER

# Belmont Can't Slow SP Trains

Belmont's ordinance limiting Southern Pacific trains to 35 miles an hour within the city limits was overruled yesterday by the State Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco.

The commission ruled the train speed limit in Belmont will be that prescribed in the SP's timetable and special instructions.

"In other words," Belmont City Attorney Ken Dickerson said today, "the trains can go as fast as they damn well please."

The PUC decision asserts that train accidents are directly related to the efficiency of crossing guard apparatus, and that train speed is not a significant factor.

The commission noted that in a survey of 53 train accidents on the SP's San Jose-San Francisco run, 22 occurred in Redwood City, which has had a 45-mile-an-hour speed limit since 1922. The trains go through other Peninsula communities at up to 79 miles an hour.

Dickerson said, "the city has done all it can; now PUC is responsible for the safety of citizens at the crossings. We were hoping they'd give us at least equal treatment with Redwood City."

The commission stated the Belmont ordinance, which became effective May 13, was responsible for commuter

train delays of two to five minutes.

Dickerson said, "All but six of the 26 daily SP commuter trains stop in Belmont, anyway. It's the freight trains we're talking about."

Belmont citizens and officials had complained of excessive horn-blowing by SP engineers since the trains were slowed in Belmont. Dickerson said the problem had ended this morning. One veteran observer in Belmont said, "the silence was deafening."

# Belmont Probes Possible Suit ✓

Belmont City Attorney Kenneth M. Dickerson is investigating the possibilities making a "skeleton petition" to the state Supreme Court that would halt at least temporarily replacement of the Southern Pacific railroad station at Third and Townsend streets in San Francisco.

The Belmont City Council Monday night voted unanimously to initiate the proceedings, if appropriate, at the behest of Councilman Robert A. Jones, a commuter and Metropolitan Transit Committee technical committeeman on SP upgrading.

The petition for a writ of mandate would be aimed at the State Public Utilities Commission, which granted SP the authority to tear down the 60-year-old station and replace it with a smaller commuter facility at Fourth and Townsend.

But Dickerson warned the

council that there may be a statute of limitations of perhaps 180 days on such PUC actions and that he would have to investigate this and the possibility the Attorney General's office might "carry the ball for us" in court should enough cities be involved to make it worth its while.

The council authorized Dickerson to spend up to \$500 and to ask other cities on the SP commute line from San Jose north to contribute \$500 each. If no such support comes Belmont can abandon the proceeding but "Somebody has to lead," Councilman Edward D. Valerga, a non-commuter, said.

Jones has complained that there was no environmental impact report prepared for removal of the old station and its intended replacement and that it wouldn't hurt for the PUC to have hearings on such a report.

UC 1751111

BELMONT CITY COUNCIL  
REDWOOD CITY TRIBUNE  
APRIL 1, 1970

## April 14 Election in Belmont

# Five Candidates for Two Council Posts



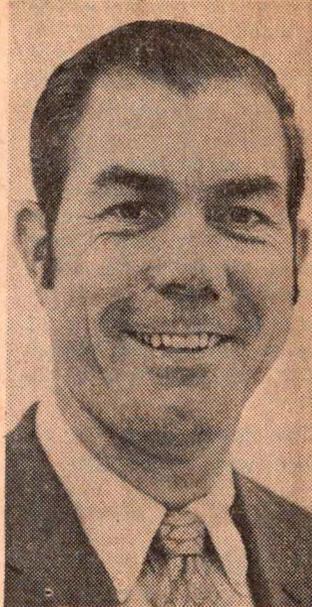
**MRS. EVE STERRY**  
incumbent

APR 1 1970

By **KEN ROWE**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Five candidates are vying for two seats on the Belmont City Council in the April 14 election.

The five, incumbent Mrs. Eve Sterry, Jeff Montgomery, Robert A. Jones, Harold J. Baudoin and William H. Hardwick, are pressing hard on the issues of financial and govern-



**JEFF MONTGOMERY**  
former councilman

mental stability and efficiency and development.

But there were some differences of opinion regarding development of Belmont's downtown area.

Hardwick said he would like to see it developed as a unitized, designed-controlled shopping center.

A member of the Belmont Planning Commission, Hardwick, 43, of 2722 Newland Ave. is an architect and works as a senior planner in the Stanford University Planning Office.

Montgomery agreed with Hardwick saying he would like to see a "major shopping center" there "with two or three major department stores." He



**ROBERT A. JONES**  
bank economist

said this should be accomplished by one developed, and run by a single management. The developer would have to "acquire all the downtown property in one piece," Montgomery said.

The acquisition could be facilitated by a cooperative sales agreement among the present owners of the property, or, if necessary, by "an urban renewal approach, and condemnation, to acquire the property at a reasonable market price," Montgomery said.

He said a cooperative sales agreement would probably give present owners better prices and should be promoted by the city.



**HAROLD J. BAUDOIN**  
real estate investor

Montgomery, 41, is manager of Varian Associates' major programs office in San Carlos. He lives at 1923 Bayview. He formerly served one year as a councilman in Montclair, Calif.

Jones said he wants to see "aggressive" development of the downtown area, but is opposed to the single-management concept.

Jones, 33, is an economist with the Bank of America in San Francisco, and a member of the Belmont Finance Committee. He lives at 665 South Road.



**WILLIAM H. HARDWICK**  
planning commissioner

OVER

which is literally torn to shreds."

Mrs. Sterry said she has, during her four years on the council, submitted yearly lists of budget-cutting proposals. She said she would work to eliminate "many frivolous expenditures and . . . feather-bedding positions, like that of the office manager."

Hardwick, like the others, decried "deficit spending" or budgeting. He said he would seek departmental reorganizations to cut back on personnel expenditures, and would be wary of any additions to the city staff.

Montgomery said he would seek "more uniform accounting and reporting procedures." He urged the "establishment of designated reserves for future capital expenditures, like a civic center."

Jones said his "emphasis is not on expenditure control, but on revenue control, the generation of non-property-tax revenues." Greater exploitation of federal and state grants, is one important revenue source, he said.

The candidates generally agreed reform of council meeting procedure is needed. Baudoin said he felt this had been already accomplished by criticism during the campaign.

Hardwick, Montgomery, Jones and Mrs. Sterry said they felt study sessions should be held on nights separate from the council meetings, in preparation for the upcoming regular meetings, and that the mayor must act vigorously to maintain decorum. Montgomery said the study sessions might be held jointly by the council and the city's commissions.

Jones went a step further, suggesting active public participation in the study sessions, with "an emphasis on education and learning." All agreed the sessions would cut down on the length of agendas.

Montgomery, Mrs. Sterry and Hardwick said they favor expense reimbursement to council members, rather than the present \$150 a month salary. Jones said he favors the \$150 salary, "because it's more controllable." Baudoin said the "\$150 is insignificant to me, either way."

On the question of preserving Belmont's environment, Mrs. Sterry suggested formation of an environmental commission, possibly a joint one for Belmont, San Carlos

and Redwood City, similar to the tri-city sewage control pact. Strides toward low-density development and control of dirt excavation and hauling are also important, she said.

"I don't really know much about it (environmental control)," Baudoin said, "but we should look into it."

Hardwick suggested adding one voting member, "who's strong on ecology," to the planning commission. This, he suggested, would be beneficial and, at the same time, save the city the cost of hiring an ecological consultant.

Montgomery suggested formation of volunteer advisory groups of scientists and engineers, which would aid the city in this and several other areas. Most environmental problems, he said, require regional solutions.

Jones said environmental control "hinges on land-use planning and the resulting zoning." He said it is essential to maintain low population density in the western hills.

Jones said it would be "reasonable to consider" the so-called "executive zoning" for the western hills. This "clean-type" industrial and business zoning provides for about 10 per cent site coverage, leaving about 90 per cent for "open space."

Mrs. Sterry said she would like to see zoning density in the western hills cut back, lower than five dwelling units per acre. Further industrial development should be promoted east of Bayshore Freeway, not in the western hills.

Hardwick said the city's master plan projects an eventual population of only 38,000 people, but existing zoning would accommodate 56,000. This, he said, should be revised to accommodate 38-40,000 people.

Baudoin said he hopes "about half" of the land area in the eastern hills will be left undeveloped.

Mrs. Sterry said the unified shopping center idea is a "pipe dream." She said, "I don't believe there should be condemnation, people have been paying taxes on it for years. It would be morally wrong. . . ."

Mrs. Sterry, an incumbent, lives at 2045 Monroe Ave. A housewife and former businesswoman, she is seeking her second term.

The other contested council seat is now occupied by Dr. Morton Podolsky, who is not seeking re-election.

Baudoin said a unified shopping center would be "nice, but there are certain stores and businesses which should stay. Maybe the development could be fit around them."

Baudoin, of 804 Miramar Terrace, is a real estate investor and a salesman for a San Francisco food brokerage firm, Clyde LeBaron Co., Inc.

All candidates said they favor a strong city manager form of government, with the city manager empowered to carry out clearly delineated administrative functions, including hiring and firing of department heads. He would be fully responsible to the council, which would concentrate on policy matters.

Jones said, however, that the hiring and firing should be done by the city manager only with the "advice and consent" of the council.

Another major issue in Belmont is the question of if, when and how the city hall, and, particularly, the police facilities now located in the basement, will be replaced.

Hardwick called the police working conditions "a disgrace." He said capital improvement funds and replenished financial reserve should be used to build a new police station.

Baudoin said a bond issue should be used to replace both city hall and the police station and "the sooner the better."

Montgomery called for planning such a civic center within a year, with construction to start within four years. He suggested financing by special low-interest loan from the State Employees Retirement Fund, for example. Montgomery said the fund provided capital for a new city hall built when he was a councilman in Montclair.

Mrs. Sterry called the police station "raunchy." She said, "It's like a musical comedy set-up." Mrs. Sterry said a new police station could not be built immediately, "except by a voted bond issue."

Jones, on the other hand, said, "Yes, a new police station and city hall should be built, along with a recreational complex. It should be done immediately. Police clearly have the first priority."

Jones said a site may become available for purchase on Ralston Avenue near South Road, more centrally located than the present city buildings site on Fifth Avenue. A federal open-space grant could pay a large chunk of the roughly estimated cost of \$3 million for the development.

Further revenue could be obtained by sale of the present site of the city offices, Jones said, and the net cost to the city for the new civic center complex might be reduced to between \$300,000 to \$400,000.

To accomplish this, Jones said, it would be best to "create a municipal corporation using revenue bonds, backed by the city, to buy the improvements (new civic center) from the city and lease them back to the city for 50-70 years. The sale — lease-back device does not tie up the city's bonding capacity," Jones said. He indicated a federal open-space grant might pick up two-thirds of the projected \$3 million cost.

All candidates said they wanted to expand the sales tax and assessed valuation revenue bases.

Jones proposed a long-range capital improvements and budgeting program on "a five-year plan." Yearly budget proposals, under the plan, would be judged against the long-range forecast. Jones said this would alleviate problems in the present system, by which "the city manager has to scramble at the last minute each year to submit a budget

# San Carlos, Belmont Merger Study Begins

By BOB HEMINGWAY

As 1971 draws to a close, the city of San Carlos is in the process of getting down to some serious study of the long-proposed merger with the city of Belmont.

City Administrator C. R. Allen reports that there have been proposals received from 11 firms who desire to undertake the formal feasibility study for merger of the two communities.

Allen says that he and Belmont City Manager James P. DeChaine are in the process of reviewing the proposals and submit their recommendation to the city councils of the two cities early in 1972.

Allen adds that he is hopeful that a contract for the merger

study can be awarded by March 1. The study will take six to nine months to complete, the city administrator predicts.

No budget has yet been established for the study. However, the County Local Agency Formation Commission has provided \$5,000 "seed" money to get the study instigated.

It was not all smooth sailing for the city of San Carlos during 1971.

The biggest hassle began with the city's announced intention of widening Alameda de las Pulgas between San Carlos Avenue and Rockridge Road.

Opponents, fearing creation of a "speedway" and environmental problems, vociferously protested, and when that didn't

help their cause, instigated an initiative petition to force a halt to the project by requiring a public vote on any public improvement projects entailing the expenditure of \$100,000 or more.

Although the petition had a sufficient number of signatures to qualify for the ballot, the council refused to authorize an election after City Attorney Michael Aaronson ruled the matter was not a proper subject for initiative vote. He was upheld in Superior Court, and the proponents didn't carry the matter to appeal.

Alameda opponents indicated that they would make their muscle felt in the April, 1972, municipal elections when the

council posts of George Seager, Joseph Judge and Ernest Nackord are at stake.

However, since opening of the new Alameda just before Christmas, there has been considerable affirmative reaction, and that subject may not loom as a factor come April.

During the year, San Carlos, along with Belmont and Redwood City, was connected to the huge new deep water outfall line for disposal of treated sewage from the three communities at a point in mid-bay east of Redwood Shores.

Ordered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the new line has resulted in a discharge of the "least possible (pollution) impact of any com-

munity in the Bay Area," Allen says.

San Carlos is in the process of saving funds for construction of a new treatment plant to serve the three communities.

As the year drew to a close, the city approved a planned community development permit for a 526-unit dwelling project by William Roth on a 115-acre hillside location bordered by Brittan Heights and the San Francisco watershed.

Earlier, grading was completed for the No. 3 unit of Brittan Heights which will have about 500 dwelling units. It is anticipated the two projects will add another 2,000 to 3,000 residents to the community's present 26,000 population.

Belmont City Council  
Dan Madsen Turner  
Dec 29, 1971

recall

Belmont Citizens for Representative  
Government  
Redwood City Tribune  
March 1970

## In Belmont

# Backer Claims Recall Growing

(3) MAR 13 1970

"We're gonna nail those guys," Hal Malliot said today of two or three Belmont councilmen against whom Malliot is trying to mount a recall drive.

Malliot, of 1121 Lassen Drive, Belmont, announced initial plans for the recall earlier this week.

He announced today the Belmont Citizens for Representative Councils (BCRC) has been formed to further those plans.

Malliot said the recall move against Mayor Milton Tromborg, Councilman Joseph Zucca and, possibly, Councilman Edward Vallergera, "is picking up tremendously."

He said the BCRC will monitor the performance of individual councilmen. We will not be concerned with individual votes, but with the objectiveness and personal behavior of councilmen in all activities in which they represent the city.

Wednesday night, all five candidates for the two Belmont council seats to be contested in the April 14 election said they opposed the pro-

posed recall effort led by Malliot.

They included candidate Bob Jones, an economist with the Bank of America in San Francisco, and incumbent

Councilwoman Eve Sterry, a housewife seeking her second term on the council. Malliot today said the BCRC is endorsing both Jones and Mrs. Sterry.

Both Jones and Mrs. Sterry today said they welcomed the support, noting they still oppose Malliot's recall efforts. Both said Malliot was a virtual stranger to them.

## 'Ouster, Recall Separate'

JUN 11 1970

Mrs. M. Patricia Thornton, ousted Monday from the Belmont Planning Commission in what she termed "political retaliation" by the Belmont City Council, yesterday said the action had "nothing whatsoever to do with the recall" effort directed against certain councilmen during the April municipal election.

Mrs. Thornton said she was not in any way connected with the recall effort mounted by Belmont Citizens for Representative Councils.

The short-lived recall headed by Hal Malliot, 1121 Lassen Drive, Belmont, was directed primarily against Councilman Milton Tromborg.

Tromborg said yesterday he "did not welcome" Mrs. Thornton's "return to the Planning Commission," and said he worked to defeat her reappointment, but this was not connected to the recall effort.

Tromborg agreed with Mrs. Thornton that she was voted off the commission in connection with her public statements questioning the legality of council candidates' nomination papers, criticizing City Clerk James McLaughlin, and asserting that McLaughlin was appointed Planning Commission secretary in 1964 by a "secret agreement" signed by six commissioners, including Tromborg.

RALSTON AVENUE OVERPASS

In February of 1972 the largest single capital improvement program in the history of Belmont will begin - and it's won't cost the citizens of Belmont an additional penny in property tax monies. The Ralston Avenue Grade Separation - or as it is more commonly called, the Ralston Avenue Overpass - will be under construction by that time. All of the monies necessary from the County, State and Southern Pacific have been firmly committed, and the City Council at its meeting of October 13 directed the Staff to proceed with acquisition of the properties involved in the right-of-way required for the project.

Many months ago, in response to recognition of the growing problems of vehicle safety and traffic congestion at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and El Camino Real, as well as the dangerous condition existing at the Southern Pacific crossing on Ralston Avenue, the City undertook a study of these problems. It was felt that a grade separation would be the best solution for both problems, providing both traffic safety and improved traveling conditions for the motoring public. Many public hearings were held and eight alternative over-pass and under-pass alignments were considered. Of the various routes discussed, the Planning Commission and City Council determined that the presently adopted overpass alignment was the most appropriate consistent with the City's financing capabilities.

Necessary applications were then processed to obtain the outside agency funds necessary for the project. The currently estimated cost to build the grade separation is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars, only approximately 20% of which will be financed through accumulated City Gas Tax monies. The balance will be provided by the State, County and Southern Pacific.

The Public Utilities Commission, responsible for determining the priority given all applications for such grade separations throughout the State, out of 45 applications considered in 1970, granted Belmont number 3 priority, with numbers 1 and 2 going to Los Angeles and San Francisco, respectively. This well illustrated that the existing safety and traffic conditions at the railroad crossing and Ralston and El Camino intersection merited such a solution as well as outside financial assistance. Now that the necessary

financing has been secured, the City Council is concentrating its efforts on the structural design of the project.

Great care is being exercised to insure that the structure, when completed, will be as aesthetically compatible with the surrounding area as possible. In addition, extensive landscaping will be provided to augment the appearance as much as possible.

On October 13, the City Council took final action to approve the major structural aspects of the design, leaving only a few minor design details to be determined in the very near future.

During the construction phase of the project, every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of both the residents of Belmont and its business community. Naturally, there is always a certain amount of inconvenience involved in any major construction project of this magnitude; however, the ultimate result of increased safety and improved traffic conditions at this location in our community should be worth the minor inconvenience involved. It is anticipated that the total project will be completed by the summer of 1973.

All in all, the City feels that the citizens of Belmont will be able to take a great deal of pride in what is felt to be an excellent overpass design and a very valuable addition to the community -- without having additional tax burdens placed upon them.

# CITY OF BELMONT

1365 FIFTH AVENUE

Belmont, California

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY ENGINEER

December 2, 1971

TELEPHONE

File 8506

To: Honorable City Council

From: City Engineer

Re: Ralston Avenue Grade Separation - Financial Status Report

Recently City Attorney Dickerson evidenced concern regarding project financial feasibility due to increasing right of way acquisition estimates. Receipt of detailed appraisers work sheets on November 23rd which firmly reflect a substantial increase in project acquisition costs has caused me to re-examine and update all previous estimates.

As you will recall, estimates at the time of PUC priority application (August, 1970) reflect the following:

Construction	\$1,320,000
Construction Contingencies	130,000
R/w and Contingencies	850,000
Incidentals & Engineering	200,000
	<u>\$2,500,000</u>

On 13, April, 1971 as a result of the appraisers preliminary opinion that R/W costs should be budgeted at an outside high of \$1,100,000 including contingencies, a maximum project estimate of \$2,750,000 was presented to the Council.

Since that time design has progressed, the Hill Street Loop has been adopted and added to the project estimate and additional appraisal work has been provided. At this time the project estimate reflects the following:

Construction	\$1,400,000
Construction Contingencies	100,000
R/W	900,000
R/W Contingencies	250,000
Incidentals & Engineering	200,000
	<u>\$2,850,000</u>

Several months of contact with various property owners in the intervening period indicated that the climate for reasonable property negotiations was favorable. However, recent actions including the petition presented at the last Council meeting would indicate that more litigation would probably

be necessary with a resultant tendency toward higher acquisition costs. It should also be emphasized that the figures presented herein are estimates and although they are based on the best available information, future actions could either increase or decrease the actual project cost. Such things as higher court awards, increased litigation expenses and similar items could increase the cost while favorable property negotiations and favorable construction bids could reduce the cost.

All funding agreements related to the project are based on distribution of actual cost except the County of San Mateo which is based on a contribution of \$500,000 at this time. If project requirements so indicate it would certainly seem proper to request further County contribution although this would not be appropriate until the actual cost of the project is better established. On the assumption that the final project will cost \$2,850,000 and that there would be no increase in San Mateo County funding cost sharing would be as follows:

S. P. Railroad	\$ 310,000
State	1,270,000
County	500,000
City	770,000
Total	<u>\$2,850,000</u>

It is estimated that the City will have accrued in gas tax funds for this project an amount of \$785,000 by September 1, 1973 which is the end of the estimated construction program.

Since my previous cash flow estimates of August, 1971 were based on a \$2,500,000 project and \$791,000 court deposit estimate, further consideration of the effect of the additional basic and contingency \$300,000 condemnation cost should be made. Since property negotiations and litigation are anticipated it is not advisable to discuss the effect of various parcels in this report, however, after some discussion with the City Attorney it is my opinion that deposit requirements could approximate \$900,000. The adjusted cash flow estimate would reflect a cash court deposit requirement for property condemnation in the amount of an additional \$110,000 which would during the initial stages of the project exceed available gas tax funds by an amount of \$500,000 in lieu of the \$390,000 previously estimated thus necessitating a temporary cash flow borrowing requirement of up to \$500,000. The City Manager feels that the cash flow problem could easily be resolved by a combination of short term borrowing from other City funds and from tax anticipation notes issued against future property tax revenues.

This office is continuing to evaluate design against acquisition estimates to keep acquisition costs to the least amount commensurate with proper design standards and is also continuing to study alternatives which will provide needed project flexibility to accommodate these increased budgetary estimates.

-3-

If these revised project cost estimates are of concern, certain minor adjustments could be made to lower the project cost estimate as follows:

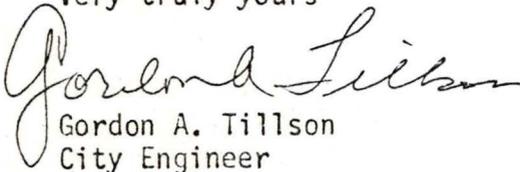
1. Shortening the overhead structure by approximately 130 feet at the west end which would however result in a less desirable 28 foot high embankment at approximately the west side of the Bayview Federal Savings property and would result in much more limited circulation from the area north of the structure. This alternative would also require engineering redesign but could save approximately \$60,000.

2. Minimizing landscaping, installation of PG&E leased lighting system and other minor items could possibly save approximately \$20,000.

3. Funding trunk sewer relocation including required capacity enlargement from sewer bond funds at a project saving of approximately \$25,000.

Some design re-evaluations have already been made which has enabled the appraiser to reduce his estimate some \$41,000. It may also be possible to reduce the right of way contingencies estimate by an additional \$80,000 but further discussions with the City Attorney are necessary before this can be confirmed.

Very truly yours

  
Gordon A. Tillson  
City Engineer

GAT:ms

**REFERRAL:** When the council is not prepared to take definite action or when further study is needed, the council may refer any given matter to the staff for study and subsequent report.

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE:** Procedure in the council as well as the decorum of all persons participating in council meetings is governed by standard rules of parliamentary procedure and other regulations adopted by the council.

## council meeting agenda

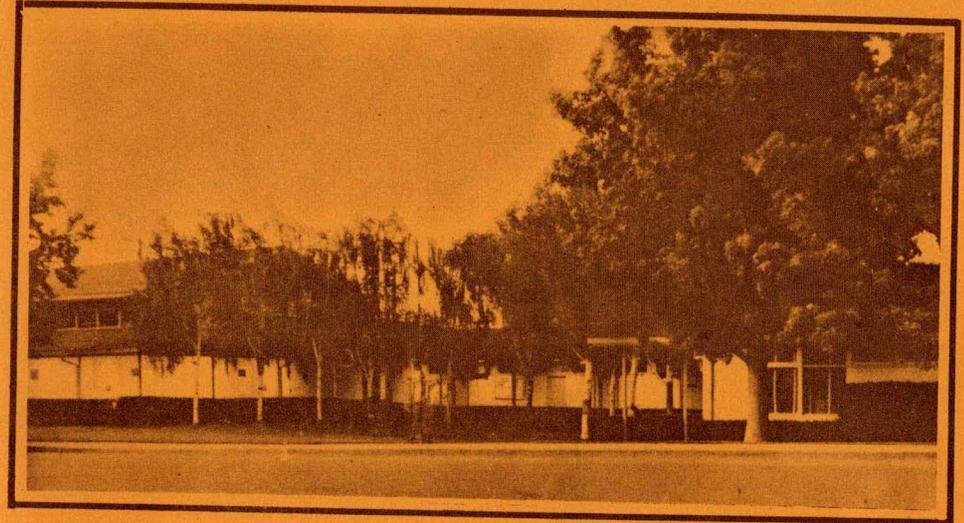
At each regular meeting the council follows an agenda prepared by the city staff the preceding Thursday. Copies of the agenda and staff reports are delivered to the council on the same Thursday. Agendas are available to the public in the city clerk's office on Friday preceding the meeting and in the council chambers before and during the meeting. Reports to the council include discussion and action recommended on such matters as communications to the council, tentative and final subdivision maps, encroachment permits, bid openings, parking limitations, claims against the city and the like. All of these matters have been thoroughly investigated by the staff in order that the council may have all available facts prior to making a decision.



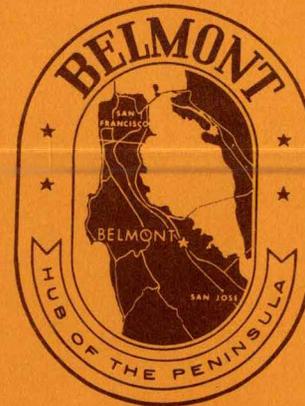
### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

City Hall – 1365 Fifth Avenue . . . . .	592-8101
Police (emergency) . . . . .	593-2121
Fire Protection District – 5th & O'Neil . . . . .	593-6242
Belmont Elementary School District 2960 Hallmark Drive . . . . .	593-8204
Belmont County Water District 1513 Folger Drive . . . . .	591-8941
Juvenile Traffic Court Council Chambers (Tuesday only) . . . . .	573-2161
Post Office – 640 Masonic Way . . . . .	591-9471

Your City Council  
welcomes you...



YOUR INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION ARE THE GUIDEPOSTS  
TO GOOD MUNICIPAL  
GOVERNMENT



REGULAR MEETINGS  
SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY  
of each month at 8:00 P.M. in the  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1365 Fifth Avenue

# City Government in BELMONT

Belmont is a general law city governed by a five-member city council elected to four-year overlapping terms. Every even-numbered year either two or three members are elected by the voters of the entire community. Each year the council chooses one of its members as mayor and one as vice mayor. The mayor is the presiding officer of the council.

Belmont is one of more than 300 California cities operating under the council-manager form of government. Under this system the city council appoints an experienced, professional city manager whose responsibilities include enforcement of ordinances, preparation of the annual budget, long range planning and general management of the city's affairs.

Professionally trained and experienced personnel, appointed by the city manager, head the various departments providing municipal services to the public. The city council also employs a city attorney to handle the city's legal affairs, a consulting city engineer and city planner. A separately elected city clerk takes minutes of council meetings and preserves important city documents and an elected treasurer invests idle funds in local banks to yield additional city revenue.

## citizen participation

Persons wishing to present a matter to the city council are urged to do so in writing through the city clerk by Tuesday noon preceding a council meeting. This allows sufficient time for copies to be distributed to each member of the council for review. Should a person desire to address the council, he must use the podium, and begin by stating his name and address for the record. Any interested person or his authorized representative may address the council with regard to matters referred to in any report by the city manager, city attorney or other staff member or on any item on the agenda if recog-

nized by the mayor. Experience has shown that routine matters often can be resolved more promptly if taken up directly with the city department providing the service.

Many public spirited citizens of Belmont give freely of their time on council appointed boards, commissions and committees. These bodies act in an advisory capacity on such matters as planning, personnel, design, finance and recreation and parks.

## public hearings

In certain kinds of proceedings the law requires that public hearings be held. A public hearing is designed to protect personal interests by permitting citizens to voice their approval or disapproval of any particular issue at hand. It is the council's duty to hear and weigh the testimony. The law prescribes the manner in which the hearing is to be conducted in each case. The council, therefore, is obliged to follow the legal requirements imposed and the legal advice of the city attorney.

## actions

Business presented to the council is disposed of by one of the following actions:

**ORDINANCES:** An ordinance or amendment to an ordinance is a "legislative act" and requires two "readings" at two separate council meetings, after which it is published in a local newspaper. Ordinances take effect 30 days after the second reading and passage. An ordinance is the most binding and permanent type of council action and may be repealed only by a subsequent ordinance.

**RESOLUTIONS:** A resolution expresses a policy of the council or directs certain types of administrative action. Unlike an ordinance, it requires only one reading and becomes effective immediately after council approval.

**MOTIONS:** A motion or minute order is an informal oral action of the council ordinarily used to indicate routine approval of a procedural action. This includes such things as filing a report, authorizing administrative officials to take certain actions and authorizing disposition of business on the agenda.

**VOTE REQUIRED:** Ordinances, resolutions and orders for the payment of money requires affirmative votes of at least three members of the city council for passage. Motions require only a majority vote of those present.

*Tribune 3-13-70  
1970 Election*

## In Belmont

# Backer Claims Recall Growing

"We're gonna nail those guys," Hal Malliot said today of two or three Belmont councilmen against whom Malliot is trying to mount a recall drive.

Malliot, of 1121 Lassen Drive, Belmont, announced initial plans for the recall earlier this week.

He announced today the Belmont Citizens for Representative Councils (BCRC) has been formed to further those plans.

Malliot said the recall move against Mayor Milton Tromborg, Councilman Joseph Zucca and, possibly, Councilman Edward Vallerga, "is picking up tremendously."

He said the BCRC will "monitor the performance of individual councilmen. We will not be concerned with individual votes, but with the objectiveness and personal behavior of councilmen in all activities in which they represent the city."

Wednesday night, all five candidates for the two Belmont council seats to be contested in the April 14 election said they opposed the pro-

posed recall effort led by Malliot.

They included candidate Bob Jones, an economist with the Bank of America in San Francisco, and incumbent

Councilwoman Eve Sterry, a housewife seeking her second term on the council. Malliot today said the BCRC is endorsing both Jones and Mrs. Sterry.

Both Jones and Mrs. Sterry today said they welcomed the support, noting they still oppose Malliot's recall efforts. Both said Malliot was a virtual stranger to them.

~~Not~~ Just One Of Those Things:

Courier 3-10-70

# Belmont City Council Boils Over In Anger

Setting for the Monday night's meeting of Belmont city council might better have been in Madison Square Gardens with 6-ounce gloves and Queensbury rules enforced.

Shouting, gavel banging and finally a recess for a "cooling off" period followed a bitter verbal clash between Mayor Milton A. Tromborg and Vice-Mayor Joseph Zucca.

Issue at stake was the

reverting to the more or less original city manager ordinance, which had been dumped in favor of a revised city manager's ordinance that gave the city manager the right to hire and fire department heads and also protecting him with a liberal severance allowance in case the council wished to dispense with his services, but requiring a vote of four in favor by the council, instead of the previous 3-member

vote.

Councilman Zucca, deploring that the issue had anything to do with Councilman Morton Podolsky's claim that such action would help save the city from "financial disaster" felt that the city manager would be "in a very compromising position" by not acceding to requests from any of three council members who would then have the power to fire him.

One thing led to another, and as the atmosphere became more charged, Zucca accused Mayor Tromborg of coercing city employees to do work for the mayor's plumbing business.

Tromborg denied the charges which came about in a noisy verbal exchange that saw the revised city manager's ordinance approved 3-2 which chopped off the city manager's power to hire and fire and eliminated the security of a healthy severance allowance. Voting against the measure were Councilmen Sterry and Zucca.

Zucca also emphatically stated that Tromborg wanted

Continued on Page 8

## Council

Continued from Page 1

to see City Manager Arthur Brandow fired. "He makes no bones about it around the city hall", Zucca exclaimed.

To all Zucca's allegations, Tromborg shouted "Prove it!" and denied all charges.

Zucca countered, "I've got witnesses!"

There the matter dropped ... for the time being.

In a final gesture of benevolence, the council, by unanimous vote, expressed confidence in the capacities of city manager, the city attorney, the city engineer, the city clerk and all department heads and staff.

In other action the council:

-voted to stay with the in force 1962 electrical code relating to the use of non-metallic sheathed cable in certain construction and so

to inform the County Board of Supervisors;

-introduced by a 5-0 vote that churches be included in the sewers charges, like car washes, at \$5 per month;

-by unanimous vote introduced a resolution to prohibit parking along El Camino Real fronting McDonald's Drive-In;

-adopted a resolution establishing the installation of a 4-way stop sign at Hallmark Dr. and Comstock Circle

-adopted a resolution calling for bids on the \$900,00 bond issue for improvement of sewerage;

-turned down Councilman Zucca's request for a special audit, estimated to cost \$3,750, and suggested that City Treasurer Florence Holland and Accounting Consultant John Morton provide the desired information.

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—Sharkey Photo

*Lawyer 3-15-70*

## A Refreshing Change Of Pace:

# Belmont City Council Finally Simmers Down

In a rapid turn-a-bout, Belmont city council, meeting Monday night, romped through a lengthy agenda with a bare minimum of controversy.

The meeting (surprisingly) came to a halt at 10:35 at which time the city fathers adjourned for an executive session, with several items having been put over.

One of the major matters faced by the council was the acceptance of the bid of the low acceptable bidder, Stern, Brenner & Co., of Beverly Hills, for the purchase of \$400,000 in bonds that will enable Belmont to pay its way in the tri-city initial sewage project costs, involving Belmont, Redwood City and

San Carlos. Their bid of 6.9277 percent interest covered a period of 30 years. The bid was just barely under the seven percent authorized by Belmont voters on Feb. 24.

The sewage disposal initial project is now about seven months behind schedule and is planned for completion by April 1971, involving construction of a deep water sewage outfall into the bay.

Other action of the city council involved:

Councilwoman Eve Sterry's new city manager

ordinance (without the controversial severance pay clause) was dumped 3-2 with only she and Councilman Joseph Zucca voting for it. Mayor Milton Tromborg and Councilmen Edward D. Vallergera and Morton L. Podolsky were against the measure.

Mayor Tromborg said that he would introduce a new ordinance on this matter after the election of April 14, claiming that the new council will be the body "that has to live with it";

—authorized City Manager Arthur Brandow to hire a new

Continued on page 8

## Belmont City Council

Continued from page 1

full-time recreation and parks director at a salary he will recommend to the council. Currently Rich Perry is acting recreation director and Fred Demattei heads up the park department on an acting basis.

Belmont-Redwood City-San Carlos Cable TV

service to Belmont came up on the agenda at the request of Councilman Podolsky. Complaints had been numerous about the service, quality of pictures and other unsatisfactory facets of the program. Councilman Vallergera affirmed that "I receive more complaints over Belmont CATV than dirt hauling."

## Osborne's Fete Candidate Jeff Montgomery

Mr. and Mrs. Glen N. Osborne were hosts at a champagne reception introducing city council candidate Jeff D. Montgomery at their home, 1779 Terrace Dr., last Wednesday.

About 75 guests attended the party, including some members of the "Sweet Adelines" who entertained with several barbershop songs.

Joining Mrs. Osborne in greeting the guests were her daughter Janell and three of the Montgomery teen age daughters who accompanied the candidate in his appearance.

However, City Manager Brandow said that the trouble is expected to be eliminated in a few weeks and service should improve. The matter was put over for 30 days at which time a report from the CATV manager will be expected;

—adopted alternate 1 overpass on the recommendation of the planning commission for the Ralston Ave.-El Camino grade separation;

—authorized the purchase of four new police cars as requested by Police Chief George (Bud) Trennam;

—passed an ordinance limiting the speed of trains through Belmont to 35 m.p.h. at the recommendation of Councilman Vallergera, and limiting to 10 minutes the length of time a crossing may be blocked by trains.

MANAGER LOCAL NOTICE

Courier-Bulletin  
March 4, 1970

Courier-Bulletin  
3-4-70

## "Belmont Not Broke" - Zucca

Belmont city council, meeting Tuesday night in a post-midnight adjourned session, heard Councilman Morton Podolsky assert that the city was in a dire financial position and that cash reserves, year after year, were less and less.

His arguments were refuted by Councilman Joseph Zucca who pointed out that by June 30, cash reserves would total over \$400,000.

Following a stormy session, the council voted 3-2, with Councilmen Zucca and Sterry dissenting, to introduce a new city manager ordinance that would just about be the same as it formerly had been prior to adopting the recent new one.

The council also passed a motion, 3-2, with Sterry and Zucca again dissenting, to rescind the finance director ordinance introduced at the last meeting.

By a 3-2 vote, the council adopted a resolution

terminating the planning services of Hahn, Wise and Associates in 90-days, but that in the interim the contract may be re-negotiated.

Councilman Podolsky then made a motion to drop Jones, Tillson and Associates as engineering counsel. The motion failed 4-1.

In other action the council:

—adopted an ordinance re-zoning property owned by State-Wide Stations, Inc. at 1200 El Camino Real, from a C-2 to a C-3 District for Fotomat Corp;

—by unanimous vote named Robert W. Gaber to fill the unexpired term of Harry Keshishian on the Recreation and Park Commission;

—by unanimous vote suggested that Belmont Little League work with the Recreation and Parks Commission in their bid to

(Continued on page 8)

MARCH 4, 1970

Times 3-10-1970

# Shouting Match At Belmont

The main issues almost became lost in the Belmont City Council's arguments over them last night. The arguments got so hot that the mayor called a "cooling off" recess.

In the way of achievement the council adopted the revised city manager ordinance, which leaves City Manager Arthur H.

Brandow technically a city administrator, as he always has been, but now with three instead of four votes needed to dismiss the incumbent. The full city manager ordinance killed last week had four, along with a six-month severance pay provision which three councilmen have objected to.

The council also gave unanimous votes of confidence to Brandow and the entire city staff near the end of the meeting, which came at 12:50 a.m.

The issue of Brandow's status, first brought up by Councilman Morton L. Podolsky ten days ago in a move to demote him to city engineer as a reported economy move, has eclipsed the economy thing. The council, after more argument last night, decided to ask City Treasurer Florence Holland and accounting consultant John Maddux to determine city funds each month for the past four years, amounts spent and income of each year and he amounts budgeted and spent for street repairs and public improvements.

This was Councilman Edward D. Vallergera's motion, brought around after one by Councilman Joseph J. Zucca, for an audit of this year's finances only, died by a 3-2 vote. Zucca had asked for the audit to clear up Podolsky's charge that the city was approaching fiscal disrepair by letting its reserves run down.

This financial report is expected at the March 23 meeting.

Zucca's request for the study, heralded by pre-publicity Saturday, was dinged from the start when it was learned that the cost would be \$3,750, as quoted by Merl Higham, the accountant who does the city's year-end audits.

The high point of the meeting came in an explosive exchange between Zucca and Mayor Milton A. Tromborg, which the latter broke up by calling a recess so everyone could cool off.

The argument was over the severance pay when Zucca said Tromborg "wants to can Brandow—he says so around city hall. Something's in the wind. Our mayor makes demands on department heads because he's a local businessman."

Tromborg promptly slammed the gavel and shouted "I defy you to show this! You're nothing but a school teacher who sits on a little throne yourself!"

Zucca: "If you'd like an investigation I'd be just as happy to have one. You've ordered city employes to do things because you're the mayor."

Tromborg (enraged): "I did not! If you have a charge to make you get people down here (pointing to the podium) to testify and get it in writing! That's a challenge to you and I'd like to see you prove it!"

The vote, a few minutes later, to adopt the city manager ordinance was 3-2, with Tromborg, Podolsky and Councilman Edward D. Vallergera voting yes and Zucca and Councilwoman Eve Sterry no.

Zucca said he would document his allegations if he needed to but declined to specify further what they might be.

Tromborg, still in a lather, later said he would make his own investigation of the "erroneous accusations" by Zucca and that he would get written statements from every city employe that he "never pressured them to do my work."

By that, Tromborg said he thought Zucca probably was talking about the sewer cleanouts around the city, which the city maintains generally at private property lines.

Tromborg, a plumbing contractor, said, "When I come to a cleanout I pull the plug and if it's clogged I call the Department of Public Works to clean it. The DPW does it for everyone in town, including any contractor or private citizen who asks for it."

## Second Term in Belmont

# Reelection to Council Sought by Housewife

Belmont's first councilwoman, Mrs. Eve Sterry, announced today she will seek a second term in the April 14 municipal election.

Mrs. Sterry has lived 20 years in Belmont. She and her husband, Charles, live at 2045 Monroe Ave.

If re-elected, Mrs. Sterry said, she will work against "deficit budgeting," and for user-oriented fees and licenses to alleviate property tax burdens, for downtown development, quarterly "town meetings," a municipal Environmental Control Commission, and improvement of the recreation and parks program.

In the parks program, Mrs. Sterry said, she will propose user-oriented fees, double fees for nonresidents and self-help policies, such as contracting work to youth groups. She said she will propose construction of a new city swimming pool, run by a non-profit corporation.

Mrs. Sterry said Belmont's



**MRS. EVE STERRY**  
seeks second term

proposals to hire a finance director, to establish a finance committee, more clearly define the city manager's role, and correction of inequities in the collection of sewer services charges costing the city an estimated \$10,000 a year.

The Sterry's have three sons, Clint, a junior at San Francisco State College; Steven, a graduate student in business administration at UCLA; and Phillip, a businessman in Hawaii.

solution of financial problems would be the key to the city's future. Towards this end, she said, she has worked during the past four years to improve the city's financial condition. She made or gave support to

Redwood City Tribune  
March 10, 1976, p. 1

## Accusations Fly

# Belmont

By KEN ROWE  
Tribune Staff Writer

Belmont Mayor Milton Tromborg was charged last night by Vice Mayor Joseph Zucca with coercing city personnel to perform work for the mayor's plumbing business.

Tromborg denied the charges, which came during a bitter debate preceding a 3-2 vote to adopt an ordinance stripping the city manager of powers and security voted for him a month ago.

Zucca also charged Tromborg with maneuvering to get rid of City Manager Arthur H. Brandow.

Audible gasps rose from the audience as Zucca said, "Our dear mayor here — wants to can Brandow. He makes no bones about it around city hall."

Zucca said, "Our mayor is in the plumbing business . . . he makes demands on various department heads."

Tromborg countered, "Prove it! You (Zucca) set



**JOSEPH ZUCCA**  
makes charge

Brandow up as a monarch! You're nothing but a school teacher on a puppet throne

# Council

# Erupts

yourself! I can't take that kind of garbage."

Zucca continued, "If you'd like to have some kind of investigation, project for project . . . It is common knowledge that you ordered city employees to put in pipes because you are the mayor."

Tromborg, before calling a brief recess in the five-hour meeting, countered by saying Zucca "never hesitated to (excessively) use the (city hall) Xerox machine for projects you're interested in . . ."

After the recess, Tromborg categorically denied the charges and challenged Zucca to substantiate them at future meetings, noting this would require testimony against him by the city manager and director of public works.

During the recess, Tromborg told the Tribune he frequently called on city personnel to "locate laterals (sewer pipes) for me, like any other plumber, but I never asked or ordered them to dig

them up or lay any pipe for me. This is legal, general practice with plumbers. Why, sometimes I call on them 10 to 12 times a day. All plumbers do this "when performing work relating to city-controlled pipes."

Zucca told the Tribune, "I've got the witnesses."

No investigation was ordered.

Zucca was joined by Councilwoman Eve Sterry in voting unsuccessfully against the city manager ordinance. They argued in favor of strong, administrative power for the city manager, including the power to hire and fire department heads; for severance pay to give the manager financial security, in case he were fired; and for a four-fifths majority vote requirement to fire him, as opposed to a three-fifths simple majority vote.

Tromborg and Councilman Edward Vallergera quoted a recent telephone survey of 14 of the 18 cities in San Mateo

Redwood City Tribune  
March 10, 1970, p 2



**MILTON TROMBORG**  
denies charge

County, in which 10 of the 14 required only a simple majority vote to fire the city man-

ager or administrator, and none offered severance pay.

Zucca argued extensively with outgoing Councilman Morton Podolsky, who originally suggested the city manager amendments, as one of several "emergency measures to prevent the financial collapse of the city."

Mrs. Sterry termed the Podolsky proposals "brutal and unprecedented," and said she abhorred the "crudeness and heartlessness of it."

City employes, Mrs. Sterry said, "will have to retaliate as best they can."

Zucca charged Podolsky's proposals damaged the city's image and "people are beginning to have a loss of confidence."

Zucca's final statement on the city manager ordinance drew applause from the full-house audience which included a number of city employes.

Zucca, a counselor at Carlmont High School, said adoption of the ordinance would "demonstrate a cold disregard for the city manager and his office . . . If it is passed, sometime in the near future, the city manager's head will roll.

"The city manager would be in a very compromising position . . . any of the three (majority councilmen) can ask favors, with the implicit threat that, if he (the city manager) does not come across — he's canned. I'm asking you to back away from this . . . to get away from street-corner politics."

Belmont Times Gazette 5-11-1970

# Ralston Dirt Hauling

## Okayed

Belmont councilmen voted 4-1 Monday night for a compromise measure allowing trucking of excavated dirt over the city's most heavily congested street, during peak morning traffic hours.

"It's going to be just like the old days in Belmont," said Councilwoman Eve Sterry,

who voted along against the measure, in reference to dirt-hauling furors which have gone on in the city for a decade.

The hauling permit amendments were granted to Fisk Fireze, McClean, Peninsula subcontractors for the Bonnie

Brae Retirement Residence to be built at 2400 Carlmont Drive, Belmont, by the Leslie Foundation of Burlingame. Ground was broken Feb. 20 for the \$2.5-million, three-building complex.

David Firenze said his firm would promise to give the city

about 2,000 cubic yards of dirt, and haul it free of charge to the municipal Little League Park, east of Bayshore Freeway, where fill is needed.

The council majority accepted the gift as part of the deal.

Hours for hauling were changed from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

to 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., adding 3 hours and 15 minutes to the work day.

Instead of routing all the trucks up through San Mateo, as originally planned, half the trucks will be routed east on Ralston Avenue to Bayshore Freeway, during the first hour

of hauling each day, with the other half routed circuitously west on Ralston and north through San Mateo.

The fill is destined for bay-side dumping in Menlo Park and near Broadway, Burlingame.

Larger trucks also were approved for use.

## Zucca Wants Audit of Belmont Books

Belmont Vice-Mayor Joseph Zucca said today he will ask for an immediate special audit by an outside certified public accountant to determine the city's financial position.

He said he will call for the audit at Monday night's council meeting "because of Councilman Morton Podolsky's reckless charge that our city is on the verge of 'financial collapse.'"

Podolsky made the charge at Tuesday's council meeting, citing as evidence a dip in the city's reserve fund from \$385,000 in 1966 to \$38,000.

Zucca called the charge "irresponsible" and said the city's projected reserve fund for the end of this fiscal year is \$120,000.

He charged Podolsky does not understand city finances.

"I don't think it (the financial collapse) is true nor does the City Treasurer think so," Zucca said in a statement distributed to newsmen. "But because Podolsky has no faith in our staff and because he has now cast a cloud of doubt over our financial state, I think it imperative that his charge be

laid to rest. At stake may be the sale of our sewer bonds which will provide money to correct a bad sewer situation in Belmont."

The council Tuesday adopted, by 3-2 votes, two of Podolsky's cost-cutting proposals: firing the city planning consultants and junking plans to hire a financial consultant.

The city staff was directed to try to negotiate a new contract with the planning consultants, Hahn, Wise and Associates, before the 90-day period for notification of dismissal expires.

Zucca also attacked the council's introduction, again by a 3-2 vote, of an ordinance which would reduce from four to three the number of votes needed to fire the city manager.

Podolsky also introduced that proposal, saying it would make the city manager "more responsible" to the city council.

He said tighter rein over the city manager was part of his overall plan to give the city council strict control over city finances.

The council rescinded an ordinance which would have given the city manager hiring and firing power over city department heads, a function now performed by the city council.

"How this (reducing the votes required for firing) will correct a financial condition escapes me," Zucca said. "Frankly, I think it's simply an effort to place the city manager in a compromising position."

Monday's council meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in the council chambers.

San Mateo Times  
27 JAN 1970

## Belmont Widening Set

Another of those seemingly endless roundhouse arguments enveloped the Belmont City Council last night, without anyone even saying "dirthaul."

It was something akin—Mayor Milton A. Tromborg and Councilman Joseph J. Zucca asked initiation of studies for eventual widening of Ralston Avenue from Cipriani Boulevard to the west city limits into a parkway to match the Alameda de las Pulgas-Cipriani section.

They stood in the 3-2 minority as the council voted this down but then approved by the same margin a motion to have the staff study the Davis and Hallmark Drive areas for "minor widening" or traffic lights, with a possible eye toward a pedestrian overpass at Hallmark, near Fox School.

Zucca had asked for some \$8,700 for the cost of aerial maps, controlled surveys and preliminary soils engineering as a start of parkway planning. The three other councilmen didn't like the parkway idea but at City Manager Arthur H. Brandow's urging, approved the money for the lesser project.

"Asinine planning," Zucca called it.

"Maybe asinine, but it's nice to do something we can afford to do," Councilman Edward D. Vallergera retorted.

Zucca claimed that all or most of the estimated \$800-\$900,000 cost of the parkway could be paid from state and county funds and not from other monies the city hopes to get for its eventual grade separation at Ralston and El Camino. And it's a parkway, not a freeway and could be "a very lovely ride," Zucca went on.

He, Tromborg and City Engineer Gordon A. Tillson agreed that any work on that stretch had to be preceded by comprehensive planning to be worth anything.

But Councilwoman Eve Sterry and Councilman Morton L. Podolsky maintained that the city must have priorities on its projects, starting with the Ralston-El Camino grade separation. "One thing at a time," Mrs. Sterry called it, while Dr. Podolsky listed six priority items which to him came before this.

Oh, yes, dirthauling did come

up a little later, when the council approved Brandow's drafting of a ballot measure for the April 14 municipal election which would delegate authority to the staff to grant permits for small hauls of under 1500 cubic yards. The vote was 3-1 yes, with Mrs. Sterry voting no.

The measure will be back for approval at the next council meeting.

In other business last night the council:

Approved a Recreation and Park Commission recommendation that the property south of Ralston Between Hiller and Kedith streets be named "Homeview Park";

Approved application for a Fotomat Corp. booth on the gas station lot at 1200 El Camino Real, rezoning from general to highway commercial;

Approved a resolution commending Harry C. Keshishian for his 2½ years of service on the Rec and Park Commission (Keshishian has resigned);

Introduced ordinances raising the hotel-motel tax from four to five percent and establishing a planned unit development section in the zoning ordinance.