

# Council Demands D'A Probe

# Illegal Use of Engineering

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The City Council asked District Attorney Keith Sorenson to investigate to determine if state law was violated.

Additionally, payment on the work will be held up until

it can be determined if the street overlay projects are legal.

The revelations came when John Bortolotto, a partner in the contracting firm Kubit, Bortolotto and Kelly, Inc., asked Council members why the overlay projects were done without benefit of the normal bidding process.

City Manager James DeChaine answered that the street

work, involving the pouring of a layer of asphalt on several Belmont arteries, was not done according to established city procedures.

The projects involved were to be paid in three separate purchase orders, two of \$4859 and a third for \$3492.

Instead of sending out a call for bids from all recognized contractors, as is normally done, the contract was

# Funds Possible

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## 'SLOPPY'

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(Continued to Page 2)

# Will Go to

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## LITTLE LEAGUE

Debate centered on a proposed sale of 15 acres of city-owned land east of Baysshore, which Councilman Walt Worthinge predicted would bring the city enough money to buy the two parcels "with maybe a half a million dollars left over."

A parade of speakers told the Council that the sale might endanger current use of the other four acres east of Baysshore by the Little League and the 4-H Club.

Most also said that the voters should be given the chance to decide whether they want city money spent on the Twin Pines parcels, no matter whether the money comes from the sale of lands or from a bond issue.

## SMELL

Council members assured the audience repeatedly that current Council policy forbids the city from moving the Little League and 4-H from their current sites unless an

equal facility can be found which is satisfactory to the groups.

Councilman Bob Jones charged that sale of the land might cause future owners of the land to complain about the smell from the 4-H Barn.

He also claimed that land values in the Bay Area are going up by 30 per cent each year, and that the city's 20 acres of Baysshore land constitutes a "financial reserve" protecting against the "double digit" inflation predicted by some economists for next year.

## MOBIL OIL

A possible buyer of the land also roused Jones' ire. Councilwoman Pam Ketcham related that she and Councilman Walt Worthinge have met recently with Don Warren, a representative of Mobil Oil Estates, Inc.—the developer of Redwood Shores—who expressed an interest in buying the land along with a 57-acre parcel north of the city's land.

His group does not want to commit themselves to

# the Voters

buying the land until the State Lands Commission clears up title to the 57 acres, Mrs. Ketcham said. This might delay their purchase until November or December.

## LAND SPECULATION

Jones pointed out that Belmont is opposing Mobil's proposed Redwood Shores Shopping Center

development, and suggested the sale of Belmont land to the developer might compromise the city's position on the Shopping Center. Worthinge raised another issue connected to the sale when he asked City Attorney Ken Dickerson whether it is legal for a city

(Continued to page 2)

*City Council  
James Doerksen  
8/11/76*

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(Continued to page 2)

*City Council  
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City Council  
Lawyer Bulletin  
Aug 11, 1976

## Council Makes First Cuts in Budget; More Hearings Set

The City Council cut \$10,000 from the \$1 million Police Dept. budget and another \$5,500 from the \$338,000 Recreation and Parks Dept. budget in 9 hours of hearings Saturday.

The cuts followed recommendations made by the Council's advisory committee in most cases, and will have the effect of ~~reducing~~ a potential 18-cent property tax increase by about 1.5 cents.

At the end of the budget hearings Saturday the Council adjourned to further hearings Tuesday night, leaving major questions relating to the

future of Belameda Pool to be decided at the mid-week meeting.

No results from that meeting were available at press time.

Much of the day was occupied with extended discussions about long-range policies rather than specific cuts, with Councilman Bob Jones pushing for still more basic policy talks and a fundamental re-examination of the type of services offered by the city.

Only \$6000 was cut from a proposed \$21,000 tree care program for trees on city rights-of-way. This was the major departure of

the day from advisory committee recommendations.

### GIVE LAND BACK

The committee had suggested a reduction of the tree care program to \$10,000 based on a policy of requiring homeowners to share in the maintenance of trees on adjoining city rights-of-way.

Jones proposed dedicating some rights-of-way to the adjoining landowners in order to eliminate the city's responsibility for maintenance.

"We should stop making neighbors who do keep up  
(Continued to Page 6)

City Council  
Courier Bulletin  
July 14, 1976

# Council Hits Ceiling Over Xerox

An angry City Council and a tight-lipped city staff split over the issue of a new Xerox machine for City Hall Monday night.

The Council will consider eliminating the machine at the next meeting, and Councilwoman Pam Ketcham charged the machine was acquired without the full knowledge or permission of the Council.

The city has already spent \$2900 on a down payment for the \$21,000 duplicating machine, and the first \$310 monthly payment will be on the July 26 Council agenda for

approval—or rejection.

The machine is being acquired on a lease-purchase basis, and could be returned at any time.

Mrs. Ketcham wanted the Council to return the Xerox machine Monday night, but Mayor William Hardwick suggested more study on the duplicating costs of city government and projected savings from the new machine.

### 40 COPIES

That information will be given to the Council at its next meeting.

Finance Director Allen Beck told the Courier-Bulletin Tuesday that he

has no information on the total amount spent each year on duplicating in the city government, although he admitted that "most" of the \$18,000 currently budgeted for rental of machines probably goes to renting and leasing duplicating machines.

City Manager James DeChaine estimated Monday night that the city could be spending only \$5800 per year for rental of such machines in five years if the new machine is retained, pointing out that it is fast enough to meet currently projected needs.

The machine was or-

dered recently by the staff to replace the slower (12 copies per minute) A.B. Dick machine which has been moved from City Hall to the Engineering Dept. The new machine reproduces about 40 copies per minute, and prints automatically on both sides of the paper.

### PRINTS BOTH SIDES

DeChaine cited the savings in time from a machine that automatically prints both sides. Currently the machine operator has to remove a paper after one side has been copied and then reinsert the paper

## Purchase

facing the other way.

The Council last year directed the staff to begin printing Council and Commission materials—which constitute about 30 percent of the 30,000 copies printed in City Hall each month, according to Beck—on both sides to save on paper.

### 'GROWING BUREAUCRAT'

Mrs. Ketcham, barely able to restrain her anger, questioned the importance of a new duplicating machine and called the purchase "a good example of growing bureaucracy."

The down payment was approved, along with other warrants and checks, by the Council at its last meeting.

At that meeting Worthge asked about the item, commenting that "it is about time we got some new duplicating equipment" in City Hall.

The Council was not told at that time, however, that the total cost of the machine by the time it is paid for—not including maintenance (which comes to \$150 a month on the A.B. Dick machine) and supplies—will be \$21,000.

### ASTONISHED

Hardwick told DeChaine Monday night that "we should have had the report before the fact and not have had the warrant after the fact, and that's what I'm concerned about."

Councilman Bob Jones said he was "astonished" and Hardwick admitted that "this completely went by me."

But it was Mrs. Ketcham who led the discussion, saying she was angered at "\$21,000 that I'm willing to bet none of the Council knew anything about."

### RALSTON AVE.

The Council voted not to allow any lease payments without prior Council approval, which brings a decision on the future of city duplicating services

(Continued to page 3)

*City Council  
Courier Bulletin  
July 14, 1976*

# Belmont Indignant At Item Accounting

Another spurt of indignation erupted from the Belmont City Council this week over money spent it hadn't authorized, this time for required shoring designs under the Southern Pacific railroad tracks for a new sewer line.

City Manager James P. DeChaine and City Engineer James R. Doerksen, both on vacation, weren't at the meeting Monday to defend themselves, so Assistant Sanitary Engineer Barry J. Trailer took on the task as best he could.

staff report that consulting charges by Structural Design Associates of San Francisco so far were \$625, with a limit of \$1,300 imposed by the council June 15.

But the council hadn't authorized hiring an outside consultant, leading Councilwoman Pamela S. Ketcham to ask pointedly, "Is there anything else going on the council doesn't know about? This has been going on for a year and we'd like to know exactly what projects are going on."

Mrs. Ketcham had blown

up at the July 12 council meeting over a \$2,900 down payment on a new copying machine, the leasepurchase being paid from money budgeted as equipment rental.

She noted the council hadn't approved the \$25,349.29 for the new machine and criticized the staff for contracting for it, despite DeChaine's arguments that the calculated long-term cost was lower than with present equipment. A staff report since then has indicated also that the new machine would cost less than what many other cities are paying for their duplicating services.

The sewer shoring study had "sufficient justification" in the city engineer's view to proceed without council approval, but "the question of propriety" had been raised by the city manager's office, Trailer reported.

Assistant City Manager Allen R. Beck said he had found out about the expenditure only on July 15. "This is an embarrassment to me," he said.

Trailer reminded the council that the project, to re-route the new main trunk sewers along Ralston Avenue under the tracks, had been in the works for years and "This is just a new direction."

The matter was continued to the Aug. 9 meeting so the staff could produce some documentation about what was being done.

"I can't vote on this until I see a contract," Mayor William H. Hardwick commented.

"There isn't any," Beck replied.

"Then the consultant should give us specifications on which to base a decision," Hardwick said.

Jan 4, 1976?  
Belmont Council

## Areas of Concern

# Belmont City Council

Inflation and tax demands, which are causing uneasiness about the future, are uppermost in the minds of the Belmont City Council as they begin this new year. The Council plans to assist the tax burdened residential community by encouraging growth in the commercial area. "Belmont captures very little of the business tax dollar and more business would be productive for the community," said Councilman William Hardwick.

Belmont is one of the few cities that has not had a city tax boost in the past year and with inflation continuing, the City Council plans to look into the possibility of annexing the Harbor Industrial area and the development of certain downtown areas as increased tax bases. By this, they hope to avoid any increase in taxes for the residential community, council members said.

Before this can be done City Council members and Planning Commission Chairman Alex Fletcher feel it is essential that the review and update of the General Plan is accomplished as soon as possible so that long term plans and objectives can be made. Ordinance changes in the past have altered the General Plan.

Areas suggested for development in the downtown district include from City Hall to the north, which Councilwoman Pamela Ketcham would like to see follow the lines used in San Anselmo and Mill Valley. The Hanson property, which runs from Sixth Avenue to

Ralston Avenue, could be developed along the lines of the hilly shopping area in Sausalito, according to Councilman Hardwick.

Another area is Northwest Ralston Avenue from Safeway to Cipriani as suggested by Chairman Fletcher. "I can't see private homes going up in that area, perhaps executive type commercial zoning might be acceptable."

Eastern Belmont (east of Highway 101 is yet another area which Chairman Fletcher and Councilman Hardwick feel needs addressing. The Regional Planning Commission has suggested a bike path to run, possibly, from South San Francisco to Redwood City. "Belmont's Laurel Creek stands as a stumbling block unless something is done," said Chairman Fletcher.

"We have rezoned between Old County Road and the freeway and I would like to see this area cleaned up with curbs installed to make the entrance to Belmont more attractive," said Councilman Hardwick. He would also like to see the undergrounding of more utility wires.

The main issues that Councilwoman Ketcham sees for this new year are land use, which includes traffic, sewers, drainage and services pertaining to them; expansion of the library facility and efficiency at City Hall.

Agreement appears unanimous that playing fields

# Looks To New Year

must be found to handle the sports programs for which the city tax surplus of \$50,000 has been allocated. Councilman Hardwick would also encourage facilities for aquatic sports.

While Vice Mayor Walter Worthge said that improved efficiency within the Public Safety Departments will be seen this year, Councilwoman Ketcham said concerns within the Fire District still need to be resolved. "A report by consultants needs to be implemented and the Fire, Police and Engineering Departments need to be researched as far as testing is concerned, so that the most qualified get promoted. I would like to see and encourage the Personnel Board to delve into this."

Vice Mayor Worthge feels that the introduction of program budgeting will provide a long needed management tool to better analyze costs. "We should also adopt early in the new year the proposals contained in our Risk Management Study which will reduce our high insurance costs."

Councilman John McInerney stated that, in the near future, the Council should have established management by objectives in order to set their goals. This, according to council members McInerney and Ketcham, would lead to more efficient procedures.

Twin Pines received attention from all the council members and all recognized the necessity to provide access, preferably from Sixth Avenue, along with better parking.

Within the Park, Councilman Hardwick would like trails, bridges and lighting installed so that the park could be open in the evenings. This, he feels, might discourage vandalism that has been occurring. "Financing for this might come from state funds or grants."

Before all this can be achieved Councilwoman Ketcham would like to hold joint meetings with the various commissions in an effort to resolve the discussions and issues of the past 18 months to two years. "We've thrown a lot of balloons in the air and we've been handling large agendas which leave no time to settle other issues."

She suggested the need for study sessions on alternate weeks so that the regular meetings would not be turned into Town Hall meetings but would be true legislative sessions.

Along with the Councils' agreement that further acquisitions of open space land should be continued within the fiscal restraints, Councilman McInerney summed up the feelings and goals of the Council: "We must be diligent in interpreting and enforcing ordinances, codes and the general plan. We must always make known to the City Council, commissions and committees the public's feelings with respect to the direction the citizens wish to go. Only by doing this can we hope to retain the present beauty of Belmont and be responsive to the public's wishes."

*Belmont Courier -  
Bulletin 3-17-76*

Charles Tomucci  
1512 Solana Drive  
Belmont

## Mayor Makes Proposals For the Upcoming Year

A series of proposals for the new City Council to consider were made by Mayor William Hardwick immediately following his swearing-in last week.

Hardwick moved up to the Mayor's spot last week in the Council's annual rotation of officers, with new Councilman Frank Gonsalves being chosen Vice-Mayor by his colleagues.

After the Council passed a resolution of appreciation for the Mayoral services of Bob Jones, returning to a spot as an ordinary Councilman, the new Mayor offered his list of suggestions, which included:

1. Attendance of the city staff and Council at occasional meetings of the various social and neighborhood organizations in Belmont;
2. Addition of a long chord to the audience microphone in the Council chambers so members of the audience can speak from their seats rather than the podium if they feel more comfortable doing so;
3. Reports to the Council and public by the Council's various standing committees;
4. Completion of Twin Pines Lodge Building improvements;
5. A summary by the staff at an up-coming Council meeting of the provisions of the Brown Act, which limits what Councils can do in private meetings;
6. Summaries given to the public by the City Attorney of what is discussed in executive session;
7. A citizen committee on currently proposed state and federal legislation;
8. A city-wide tree-planting program, and an arboretum in Twin Pines Park;
9. A careful review of proposed Downtown Design Control amendments, which would relax some of the provisions of the Design Control ordinance and tighten some others.

## **Belmont forwards fireworks opinions**

In response to a request from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for comments from cities regarding a possible ban of fireworks, the Belmont City Council this week voted to send the supervisors minutes of its meeting of Sept. 27 and a copy of a report from Fire Chief Richard Weare.

Pros and cons were voiced at the Sept. 27 meeting by members of the council and audience.

Chief Weare stated he was convinced "that fireworks, both illegal and safe and sane, cause fires and injuries and should be totally banned. But, I also know total ban enforcement is all but impossible to enforce at a local level. The only possible avenue would have to be on a countywide or statewide basis."

October 15, 1976

Smco- BELMONT  
- Budget

## 'Make budget fit our goals'

The Belmont City Council decided last night to set goals and programs and then budget to meet those goals, rather than react to a budget presented by the city staff.

The council asked the Advisory Finance Committee to begin on program budgeting for 1977-78 with long-range planning in mind.

Council members and members of the Finance Committee met jointly to discuss the city's finances and budgeting.

Councilman Robert A. Jones cited the need for long-range planning and said he favored setting goals. He asked for a change in the way the tax rate is set to assure an opportunity for public input.

Councilman Walt Worthge agreed, declaring he would want the staff to react to the council instead of the council reacting to a voluminous budget document presented to the council at the last minute.

Vice Mayor Frank Gonsalves said at the time of the last budget the council did not have time to "get their teeth into" what was presented before the tax rate had to be set. He said he preferred for the council to set justifiable goals, instead of knocking down items to meet the tax rate.

Councilwoman Pamela Ketcham said that regardless of assessed valuation, the blame is placed on the city and the various county agencies if the total tax bill is increasing.

Committee member Paul Louie said that for many years the council had felt frustrated at having to whittle on the budget and that the council should know what makes up the budget items before it tries to make cuts.

Nov 1976

# New Council Members Carried Most Precincts, Vote Analysis Shows

by DAVID ALLAN

The three newly-elected Council members carried virtually every area of town except the Homeview-Sterling Downs section east of El Camino and the apartment area around Carlmont Drive, a study of vote returns shows.

Only three out of thirteen precincts were carried by anybody except newly-elected Frank Gonsalves, Walt Worthge and Pam Ketcham.

Defeated Councilman Ferd Giuliani and Morton Podolsky carried one precinct apiece while challenger Floyd Sampson, who finished the election sixth out of nine candidates, captured the Belmont Canyon Road precinct.

Precincts One and Two are located east of El Camino, and it is there that the greatest Podolsky and Giuliani strengths lie, although Giuliani ran fairly well all over Belmont.

Gonsalves took Precinct One (Nesbit School) with 104 votes out of 206 voters, while Giuliani was close behind with 97. Podolsky ran third in that precinct with 82 votes and Ketcham followed with 71.

In the second precinct, centered at the fire station at Ralston and Granada, Giuliani lead all comers by a wide margin: 67 votes to 48 for Gonsalves and 34 apiece for Sampson and Podolsky.

The third area of strength for the defeated

incumbents was the apartment area of Precinct 13, centered at the Jewish Community Center.

Podolsky won in that precinct with 84 votes while Gonsalves followed with 73, Giuliani with 73 and Worthge with 67.

But it was in the larger precincts of the central Belmont area and in the Heights that the challengers ran away with the election, limiting the incumbents to third place. Giuliani finishes in the City Hall and Fox School precincts.

Podolsky did not finish in the top five in any of the central or Heights precincts. Giuliani had seven fourth-place finishes in all.

Gonsalves, who lead the pack in the final tally March 2, took precincts One, Three and Four. Worthge, the second-place finisher, took Seven, Nine and Twelve while Ketcham earned her third place vote by winning the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Tenth precincts.

In addition to winning ten out of thirteen precincts, the three newly-elected Council members between them accumulated second-place finishes in the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh precincts.

The tale of the election was told by the fact that the three precincts dominated by the defeated incumbents were also three of the four precincts with the lowest percentage of voters going to the polls.

Only 22.1 percent of registered voters in the Jewish Community Center precinct went to the polls. Podolsky won that precinct.

The precinct with the second-lowest percentage of voters going to the polls was the Nesbit precinct, where the incumbents did well. 24.9 percent voted there.

The next-worse percentage was in the Fox School area, won by the challengers, with 29.2 going to the polls.

The third precinct dominated by the incumbents, the Fire Station Two precinct (Ralston-Granada), saw only 31.5 percent voting, which was below the city-wide average of 36.7 percent but not too far below the percentages of 31.8 in Precinct Six and the 31.9 in Precinct Eight.

the highest total of voters going to the polls was in Precinct Eleven, where 49.1 percent visited the polling booth March 2.

## 'The Buck' Just Gets Passed On

# Belmont: Create A Committee

S M Jones  
Nov 12, 1976

By DAN COOK  
Commentary

Eight months ago, Belmont voters turned out two incumbents seeking re-election to the City Council and elected two relative newcomers to the local political scene.

Since former councilman Eugene Sullivan decided not to seek a new term, the newcomers were joined by former planning commissioner Frank Gonsalves, creating a newcomer majority on the council.

Since that time, the new majority has enjoyed a long "honeymoon," with Mayor William Hardwick and Councilman Robert A. Jones, as a general rule, patient with the newcomers in their attempts to familiarize themselves with council business.

Indeed, the new majority of Vice Mayor Gonsalves, Councilwoman Pamela S. Ketcham and Councilman Walter Worthge Jr. — with several of them talking about their "mandate" — set about to reorganize the face of Belmont city government.

Since the election in March, seven new committees have been created. So far, the results have been indifferent. A suggestion by the newly appointed Citizens Advisory Committee on who should be appointed to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, its first official act, was rejected by the council.

Two new committees were approved this week, neither was given a clear charge by the council. At least one councilman says he has no idea what the responsibilities of the newly created commissions should be.

Following the last election, the business of the city slowed nearly to a halt. The new councilmembers, unfamiliar with their jobs, picked their way carefully and cautiously through agendas.

Meetings that previously were handled in three hours began to turn into six-hour marathons. A 10:30 p.m. mandatory adjournment policy was repealed by a split vote, and truly remarkable nit-picking over items of minor consequence became the order of the day.

As new Mayor Hardwick took over from the former mayor Jones, who wielded a quick gavel, the audience comment began to become protracted, often with numerous speakers rising to speak on every item, and often with the preface that they were representing one or another homeowners' association or other special interest group.

The distrust of the new council majority of its own city staff was typified during this summer's budget sessions, when Councilwoman Ketcham tried to sack first City Manager James DeChaine, then City Engineer James Doerksen. Neither bid won majority support, however.

Time and again, exchanges between city staff and council have been sharp and inflammatory, and the bitterness remains.

Now, the council's honeymoon is over. Strains have been seen, both among the council and among those who pack the council to watch deliberations which generally lead into the wee hours of the morning.

At Monday's meeting, Jones, faced with inclusion of a new committee not on the agenda and a second to be created close to 1 a.m., finally voiced a solid opinion about the council's creative tendency.

"This city is committeeing itself to death," Jones said. "What we really should create is a 'Committee on Committees.'"

Since the new council was seated in August, the members have created a Finance Committee, a Citizens Advisory Committee, a Safety Advisory Committee, a Youth Committee, a Liaison Committee for the Arts Council, an unnamed fire district advisory committee, revived the Pool Committee and considered the establishment of a Library Committee.

That is eight new committees in the span of seven months — better than one a month.

All were undertaken with the espoused goal of fostering citizen involvement in local government. However, there is a catch.

With every committee thus created, the power vested in elected officials by their constituents is weakened by fragmentation.

The council majority has repeatedly claimed that no final decision-making authority has been vested in these newly created boards and commissions.

However, the preliminary decision-making, which leads to courses of action rejected and others adopted for submission for final determination, has effectively

been removed from the elected officials and handed to appointed committee members.

So the public business, conducted in open session by a fragmented delegation of authority by the council, is in fact being conducted by no less than 100 appointees.

Should a citizen wish to pursue an issue to come before the council, it is conceivable he would have to attend as many as six meetings of various agencies to follow the issue — that though the ultimate authority is that of the City Council, and the City Council alone, under state law.

An old saying has it that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. There are signs, however, that not everyone in Belmont is happy with accepting a camel in lieu of a horse.

Jones has repeatedly warned his colleagues of another old saying: "The buck stops here." So far, his warnings have fallen on deaf ears.

There are other voices in the city, aside from the old ones, many of whom are self-styled decision-makers and city appointees themselves fond of hearing their own voices addressing the council.

Three of the new voices were heard this week, and there are signs that their pleas may grow in number.

Three women appeared to address the council on the matter of the recent Town Meeting 1976. They opposed the idea of the Town Meeting itself, and all three asked the council to abolish the Citizens Advisory Committee and return control of the city's business to the elected officials.

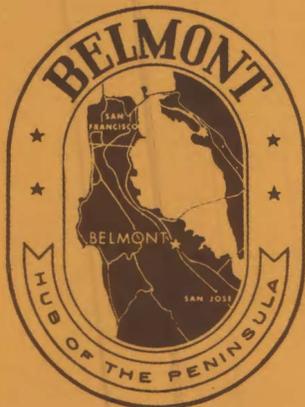
Their remarks were met with silence from both the council and the audience.

It could not be determined whether the silence was a rejection of the pleas by the councilmen or whether the silence was pregnant with thought.

*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**

# SEATING ARRANGEMENT CITY COUNCIL



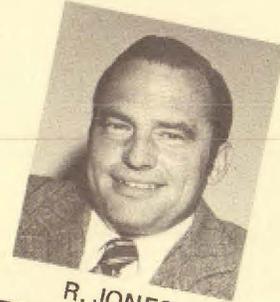
E. SULLIVAN



E. VALLERGA



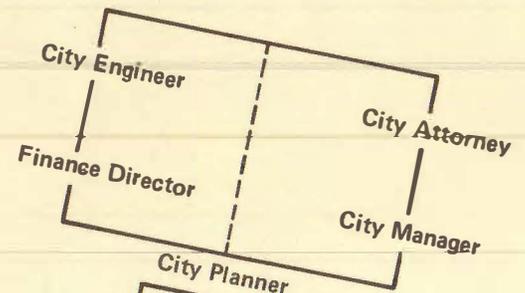
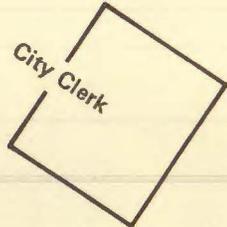
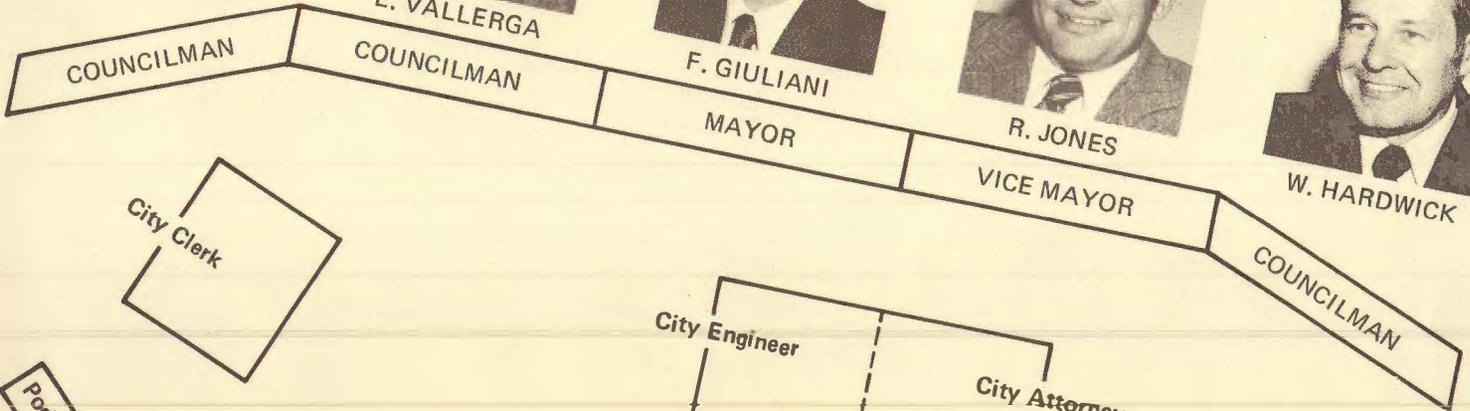
F. GIULIANI



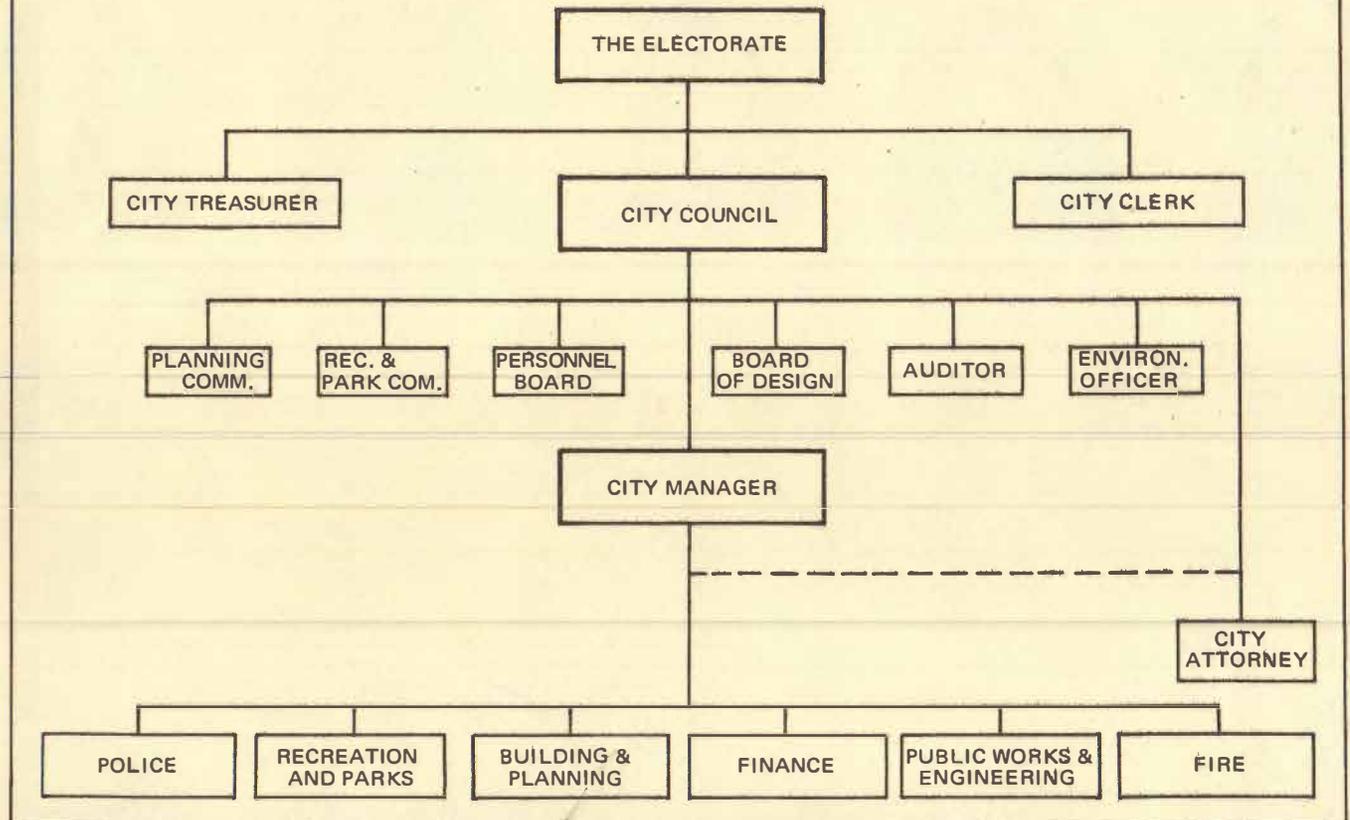
R. JONES



W. HARDWICK



CITY OF BELMONT  
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



RCT  
12/10/76

# Belmont's moratorium will be lifted in '77?

Authorization to hire a consultant to design a renovated San Juan Pumping Station "with all possible speed" to alleviate the sewerage problem in Belmont was given by that city's council last night.

Estimated cost of the project is \$383,668, plus about \$35,000 for a consultant. The city has budgeted \$400,000.

Meanwhile, owners of properties served by the San Juan Pumping Station, who have claimed hardship cases because of a moratorium on granting building permits, will have to wait until Jan. 10 to see if they can proceed with building plans.

The council on Nov. 8 suddenly slapped a moratorium on building permits in an emergency ordinance after homeowners in the San Juan area complained that the sewer system is so greatly over capacity that raw sewage flows into the streets.

Mayor William H. Hardwick suggested at last night's meeting, attended by about 75 persons, that the moratorium might be lifted subject to certain conditions, such as allowing

construction to move ahead but with an interim method of handling sewage. He suggested the option of property owners installing a holding tank until sewer connections could be made.

City Engineer James R. Doerksen said the city code does not allow for holding tanks now. Further action on lifting or easing the moratorium was delayed until City Attorney Kenneth M. Dickerson studies the legality of holding tanks.

Doerksen said holding tanks cost about \$2,000.

Councilman Walter Worthge said he would be reluctant to remove the moratorium until the council has an opportunity to study problems which will accompany development.

Vice Mayor Frank Gonsalves suggested considering the hardship cases but keeping the moratorium in effect. He proposed setting a time limit on accepting hardship complaints.

The council passed a motion instructing the Planning Commission to begin an investigation of the zoning ordinance

and General Plan with emphasize on the San Juan area.

Council members had expressed concern about the impact on environment by building in the area, such as traffic and excavation. They want excavation kept to a minimum.

The council accepted Plan B of three alternatives advanced by the city engineer for the San Juan project. It encompasses renovation of existing facilities, with the addition of new electrical and mechanical

gear. A 5,000-foot force main is included.

Doerksen estimated the San Juan project would take to the end of 1977 to complete, but council members urged that the completion date be moved to at least mid-October, even if incentives have to be added.

The council amended its moratorium ordinance to allow issuance of building permits for alteration or repair of existing buildings, provided they do not add to the sewer problem.

**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.