

Torrance, California  
March 23, 1948

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, March 23, 1948, at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilman: Gilbert.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 9, 1948 be approved as written. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Tide Water Associated Oil Company advising that for the twelve months preceding February 1, 1948, no receipts or earnings were derived from the use and ownership of pipe line under Franchise Ordinance No. 127. Matter of record.

A statement was read from the Southern California Gas Company showing gross receipts earned for period January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947, inclusive, under Franchise Ordinance No. 322, and enclosing their check for \$9,036.57. Matter of record.

An application for Taxicab Owners Permit was read from Chas. T. Berry, operating as Chuck's Cab Service, which application was approved by Chief of Police John H. Stroh.

Councilman Tolson moved that Chas. T. Berry be granted a Taxicab Permit. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from V. W. Coil, Commander, V.F.W. Torrance Post No. 3251, requesting permission to sponsor firework stands within the city limits of Torrance in July, and guaranteeing to comply with all City and State laws governing the sale of fireworks.

Councilman Jackson moved that the V.F.W. Torrance Post No. 3251 be granted permission to sell fireworks for one day in July, provided that the premises where the stands are located are left in a clean condition. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from James Brodie, incoming Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, stating that he had an opportunity to sponsor a carnival for the benefit of the veterans, and requesting the City Council to waive the \$50.00 license fee in order that the organization may benefit by saving this amount.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the request be referred to City Administrator Stevens for investigation as to the type of show to be staged, and that he be authorized to exercise discretion in whatever action he believes necessary. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was received from W. G. Gill requesting a refund of Business License No. 1072, issued February 2, 1948, for Service Station, which business he has discontinued due to illness.

Councilman Tolson moved that W. G. Gill be refunded the unused portion of Business License No. 1072. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors enclosing a resolution adopted by said Board on March 9, 1948, authorizing an appropriation of \$30,000.00, from the County Motor Vehicle Fund, Aid to Cities, for the improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard and other streets within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Chas. T. Rippey, Attorney, enclosing, at the request of the Metropolitan Water District, a form of resolution regarding a water diversion project from the Colorado River proposed by the State of Arizona, which will imperil the rights of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He explained that the object of the resolution is to urge the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution authorizing the transfer of the Arizona-California Water controversy to the United States Supreme Court for settlement.

Clerk Bartlett advised that later in the meeting he would read a resolution on this subject.

A communication was read from Chas. T. Rippey, Attorney, in the matter of Benner vs. City of Torrance, asking if it will be necessary to obtain the Writ of Mandate ordered by the Court directing the City to pay J. J. Benner the sum of \$420.00 for wages covering the period from 1-10-47 to 2-25-47.

In reply for an opinion on the matter, City Attorney Smith stated that it would be a waste of time and money to appeal the case and advised that the amount be paid.

Councilman Tolson moved that the sum of \$420.00 be paid to J. J. Benner for wages covering the period from 1-10-47 to 2-25-47, as ordered by the court in the case of Benner vs. City of Torrance. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

A communication was read from City Administrator Stevens submitting the following recommendations for the Council's consideration and approval:

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PERSONNEL:

- (a) That J. W. Holmes and M. H. Porter, having satisfactorily served their terms as Police Officers in their present pay bracket, be advanced to the next higher pay bracket, effective March 16, 1948, and that their compensation be at the rate of \$265.00 per month for the second half of March and for April, and \$253.00 per month for May and June.
- (b) That the Engineering Department be authorized to employ two chainmen on a temporary basis for a period of not over six weeks.

APPROPRIATIONS:

- (a) For plumbing installations in the dark room of the Police Department, the sum of \$100.00.
- (b) For the purchase of Official Fine Receipts for the City Court, the sum of \$88.15, plus tax.
- (c) For checking the heating and ventilation systems in the Civic Auditorium, and for making the necessary repairs, the sum of \$56.76.
- (d) For advance warning signs for railroad crossings, the sum of \$80.00.
- (e) For the purchase of 1,000 gallons of L3X Bitumuls and 40 tons of crushed rock for street repairs, the sum of \$175.00.
- (f) For the purchase of 4,000 gallons of road oil and 180 tons of crushed rock for street maintenance, the sum of \$950.00 (From County Gas Tax Funds).

ZONING:

- (a) That April 15, 1948 be set as the date of public hearing for the following Planning Commission cases:
  - (1) Case No. 103, changing Tract No. 14838, Kettler Knolls No. 3, from A-1 Zone to R-1, R-3 and C-1.
  - (2) Case No. 108 affecting a strip of land 274' wide along the easterly boundary of Palos Verdes Parkway, from Calle Miramar southerly to the City limits of Palos Verdes Estates, from A-1 to R-3 Zone (Sunhaven Properties, Inc.).
  - (3) Case No. 111, the appeal of Oscar Efferfield for a Variance at the corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and 238th Street.
  - (4) Case No. 104, petition of J. Hugh Sherfey, Jr. for a Change of Zone of Lots 4 and 5, Block 8, Tract No. 4070, from R-1 to C-1 Zone.
- (b) That the Planning Commission be requested to hold a public hearing on the manner of establishing the minimum area for lots in an R-1 district of 5,000 square feet with a minimum frontage of 50 feet.
- (c) That the Council reject the application of William L. Holt to establish a mobile hamburger stand on the corner of Neece Avenue and Highway 101.

MISCELLANEOUS:

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- (a) That the City Attorney be instructed to take necessary legal action to have the obstruction to the natural waterway removed at 171st Street and Casimir Avenue (Torrance Manor).
- (b) That Mrs. K. L. Christofferson be granted a temporary ninety-day permit to live in a trailer at 3516 Emerald Street, during the period of construction of her home at that location.
- (c) That the City accept the portable STOP and GO signal offered by the National Supply Company for use at the intersection of Carson Street and Border Avenue, and that said company be relieved from all responsibility and liability for the operation and maintenance of the signal.
- (d) That the California Water Service Company be authorized to install five fire hydrants in the Hollywood Riviera district at locations recommended by the Fire Chief.
- (e) That the City Administrator be authorized to prepare plans and specifications for the purpose of awarding a lease on the Torrance Municipal Airport.
- (f) That the Mayor be authorized to sign the Stipulation for Judgment in the case of the United States v. 91-36 acres of land in the City of Torrance, in accordance with recommendation of the City Attorney.
- (g) That the Mayor be authorized to sign the proposal of the Metropolitan Water District to temporarily serve County Water Works District No. 13, in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. W. H. Stanger.
- (h) That the Mayor be authorized to sign the Quitclaim Deed to the Torrance Municipal Airport, in accordance with the recommendation of the City Attorney.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of City Administrator Stevens. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented for re-adoption and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1895

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY DEMAND THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OF CERTAIN MATERIALS INCIDENT AND NECESSARY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS AND MAKING FINDINGS RELATING THERETO.

Clerk Bartlett explained that the reason for re-adopting Resolution No. 1895 is that an omission had been made in the last paragraph, and it has now been corrected by inserting the following words -and the cost of laying said pipe-.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1895 be re-adopted as corrected. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1896

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN SUPPORT OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 145 AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 226, RELATIVE TO A FAIR AND FINAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA WATER CONTROVERSY.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1896 be adopted. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1897

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DIRECTING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO ESTABLISH LIMITED TIME ON PARKING ON CERTAIN STREETS.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1897 be adopted. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 401

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING ALL OF LOTS 32 AND 33, AND PORTIONS OF LOTS 1, 60 AND 61 OF TRACT NO. 639 FROM AN A-1 (LIGHT AGRICULTURAL) DISTRICT TO A C-1 (RETAIL COMMERCIAL) DISTRICT.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 401 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 401 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 402

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING ALL OF TRACT NO. 14016 FROM A-1 (LIGHT AGRICULTURAL) TO R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL), EXCEPTING LOT 9, BLOCK 1, SAID TRACT NO. 14016, TO BE REZONED C-1 (RETAIL COMMERCIAL).

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 402 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 402 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California, 617 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles 14, California, making application for franchise for pipe lines in the City of Torrance, such franchise to be granted for the term of thirty-five years from and after the effective date thereof.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the application for franchise presented by the Union Oil Company be referred to the City Attorney and City Administrator for examination and report to the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from V. W. Coil, Commander, V.F.W. Torrance Post No. 3251, requesting a reduction in the rent of the Civic Auditorium now being used by their organization for dances every Friday night.

Councilman Tolson moved that the request be referred to City Administrator Stevens for recommendation to the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

City Administrator Stevens advised that he had received a telephone call from Major Carpenter of the National Guards, who asked that the Council consider granting to the National Guard a ninety-nine year lease to a two acre site, located at the Municipal Park north of the railroad track, for the purpose of erecting an armory. He explained that at present the State was undecided whether the proposed armory should be erected at the Air Strip or on the two acre site at the Municipal Park.

After some discussion on the legality of granting such a lease, Councilman Tolson moved that the request of Major Carpenter be referred to the City Attorney for an opinion on the legality of leasing city owned property for an extended period of time. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

City Administrator Stevens recommended that the City Attorney be instructed to start proceedings for the abandonment of the necessary streets and alleys in the Jack Pine Subdivision.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the City Administrator. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Attorney be authorized to start proceedings for the abandonment of the necessary streets and alleys in the Jack Pine Subdivision, in accordance with the recommendation of City Administrator Stevens. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Tolson moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

At 8:30 p.m. Councilman Gilbert took his seat at the Council table.

At 8:30 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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