

Torrance, California
August 9, 1949

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 of the City Hall at 8:04 p.m., Mayor Sherfey presiding. City Clerk Bartlett called the roll. Those responding were: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. Also present were City Attorney Smith and City Manager Stevens.

All persons present joined in the Salute to our Flag.

Councilman Jackson moved that minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 26th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

City Clerk Bartlett read the following communications:

Letter from Torrance Council of Churches commending Council on the fly abatement campaign. Matter of record.

Letter from Labor's League for Political Education urging support of HR 4190, a Bill to allocate shipbuilding work to the West Coast. Councilman Drale moved that we comply with the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce re application of Ruth Lee to practice phrenology (read last meeting) and recommending denial. Councilman Powell moved the request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce setting forth financial outlays during year 1948-1949. Councilman Jackson moved letter be filed as matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from Chamber of Commerce urging cooperation between City Council and Board of Education in construction of a swimming pool. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Dr. C. L. Ingold re leasing of southeast corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Pacific Coast Highway. Councilman Haggard moved letter be filed as matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from Hollywood Riviera Tree Committee re Fiesta picnic August 14th to raise funds for a tree planting campaign in their district. Councilman Jackson moved the Council go on record as commending the group for their action and that the matter be referred to the City Manager for handling. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from F. J. Smith requesting permission to operate a club on Washington Boulevard, which would give the City \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year revenue. Councilman Powell moved that the Council go on record as discouraging any such enterprise and that Mr. Smith be answered accordingly. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from George N. Orlich requesting refund on bakery route license due to sale of route. Councilman Powell moved request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from C. F. Steinen requesting permission for nightwatchman to live in a house trailer at 182nd Street housing project for 60 days. Councilman Drale moved request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

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Request from Mrs. Jeannette Adams to live in a house trailer near 182nd Street until house is ready for occupancy. Councilman Drale moved request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from Recreation Director recommending negotiations between Council and Board of Education for acquisition of Fern Avenue Park. Councilman Powell moved the matter be referred to the Recreation Commission meeting on August 15th for further discussion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Recreation Director, with request attached from Dorothy Ryan, re renting of Walteria Park building for Nursery School, and recommending denial. Councilman Powell moved for concurrence in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Memo from Recreation Commission attached to letter from Square Dance Class requesting use of Auditorium on September 5th for a party until midnight and recommending approval. Councilman Powell moved request be granted and that on August 23rd an accounting be made to the Council of the funds collected by the group and turned over to the Youth Canteens. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Edw. F. Saul urging reduction in City tax rate. Councilman Powell moved the letter be filed for reference. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letters urging consideration of a swimming pool were read from the following:

Torrance Lions Club
 Charley Gotts
 Robert S. Peckham
 Albert L. Friedman
 Harriet E. Curran
 L. H. Coleman
 Jean Walker
 Selmer Langerud
 Millie Meacham
 Mido Products (offered financial aid)
 Charles Schultz, Jr.

Councilman Powell moved that all letters re the plunge, together with the minutes covering oral communications, be filed together and directed to the Recreation Commission on August 15th, and that the people be invited to attend that meeting to hear what the Recreation Commission has already planned re a swimming pool and the unified recreation program between the Board of Education and the City for next year. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from Councilman Haggard suggesting \$30,000 be set aside to start a City-School owned swimming pool fund. Councilman Powell moved that the letter be directed to the Recreation Commission and that the Council attend the meeting on Monday. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Councilman Haggard moved that the Council, through ordinance, appropriate \$30,000 toward the beginning of what in the near future would be a swimming pool, appropriation to be allocated from the Public Improvement Fund. Councilman Drale said he thought it was too soon to make such an appropriation. Discussion followed. There being no second, Mayor Sherfey declared the motion lost. Councilman Powell moved that the matter of the swimming pool be held over until after the budget hearing. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Oil Workers International Union re job printing done for the City by the Torrance Herald. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed for reference and that it be answered by the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Letter from San Pedro Typographical Union #862 enclosing samples of printing and prices. Councilman Powell moved that Council meet with the management of the Torrance Herald, together with a disinterested representative of the printing industry, to discuss the matter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from Tripp & Callaway, attorneys, submitting verified claims from Theodore Jenks (\$7,350.00) and Elmer McCune, Jr. (\$10,840.00) for damages sustained in accident at airport. Councilman Jackson moved claims be denied and turned over to the City Attorney to be handled through the insurance company. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously.

Letter from A. H. Bartlett requesting change of classification for Mrs. Esther Lowen from Typist-Clerk to Account-Clerk, examination having been successfully passed. Following discussion, Councilman Powell moved matter be referred to the City Attorney for clarification. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett then read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN ALLEY IN TRACT NO. 8198; FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read the following recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Warner O. Wallace be temporarily employed as a Painter, effective August 8, 1949, at a compensation of \$231.00 per month.
2. That Leland Fitzgerald be temporarily employed as Range Officer on a part-time basis, effective August 8, 1949, at a compensation of \$35.00 per month.
3. That the following personnel be temporarily employed as Laborers in the Street Department, effective on the dates indicated, and that their compensation be at the rate of \$184.00 per month.
 - a. William N. Moore August 1, 1949
 - b. Everett R. Wallace August 1, 1949
 - c. Charles S. Ward August 2, 1949

Councilman Jackson moved Council concur with the recommendations of City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the improvement of Sepulveda Boulevard from Narbonne Avenue east to Santa Fe tracks, the sum of \$12,039.03. (From State Gas Tax Funds)
2. For payment to Barclay Surveying Company, the sum of \$768.00, for Engineering services. (From WALTERIA Sewer District, State Highway Gas Tax and Airport Funds)

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3. For the improvement of Pacific Electric tracks at 223rd Street, the sum of \$819.59. (From County Aid Funds)
4. For the replacement of broken curbing in front of the Stadium Theatre, the sum of \$105.00.
5. For the payment of insurance premium for Fire and Theft on City Fleet, the sum of \$650.52.
6. For the payment of insurance premium for Comprehensive, Bodily Injury, Liability and Property Damage for the City, the sum of \$5,122.71.
7. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign contract with Shepherd Tractor and Equipment Company for payment for a Motor Grader.
8. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign a contract with Two Macks Electric Company for purchase of electric lamps.

Councilman Drale asked for clarification of Item 1 - difference between bid accepted and figure shown here, which was explained by City Manager Stevens. Councilman Jackson moved for concurrence with recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried by following roll call vote: AYES: Haggard, Jackson and Sherfey. NAYS: Powell. Councilman Drale did not vote.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That the recommendations of the Bus Superintendent for standardizing fares for school children and veterans be approved.
2. That the Council authorize the City Attorney to take the necessary legal action to obtain a final accounting of Airport funds from E. Y. Tarkington.
3. That the Council authorize the City Attorney to take full legal action necessary to cause the removal of the buildings on the Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway without further delay.

Councilman Powell moved Council concur in recommendations. Motion seconded by Councilman Jackson. Councilman Drale asked for clarification of Item 2 and it was explained by Mayor Sherfey that an accounting of Mr. Tarkington's books to verify records on file with the City Clerk was in order. Motion carried by following roll call vote: AYES: Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NAYS: Drale.

Letter from the Planning Commission was read re Case No. 174, petition of Minnie V. Wrenden for Variance and Conditional Permit to operate a Drive-In Theater near Redondo Beach Blvd. and 164th St. "It was the unanimous vote of the Planning Commission to recommend approval of the above Variance, subject to development and landscaping as per Exhibit 'A' and minor engineering changes satisfactory to the Engineering Department." Councilman Drale moved for concurrence in recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Attorney Smith requested an additional two weeks to obtain more factual information before rendering legal opinion as to prices charged by Torrance Herald for legal advertising. So moved by Councilman Drale, seconded by Councilman Powell, and unanimously carried.

City Manager Stevens introduced a pamphlet which the Pest Control Committee proposed to mail to the citizens and advised the Council that the lowest bid for spraying our alleys was \$554.00, submitted by Mr. Olsen. Councilman Powell moved that the amount be appropriated from the \$700 allocation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Attorney Smith requested that further reading of Ordinance No. 473 be suspended as a new amendment to Ordinance No. 316 would be introduced to replace it. Councilman Powell so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale read his motion made June 28th re amendment to Ordinance No. 326 covering Police and Fire Departments and stated he was again moving that the City Attorney prepare such an amending ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale, as a tax payer, urged the construction of an incinerator for the City and advised that the money so appropriated in the new budget was not sufficient. Discussion followed.

Mayor Sherfey, at 9:26 p.m., declared a 10-minute recess. Meeting reconvened at 9:43.

Mr. Peckham suggested that some of the City's surplus be spent on a loud-speaking system in the Council Chamber.

Those in the audience urging a municipal swimming pool were Charley Gotts, John Hanks, Mrs. O'Toole, Dick Miller, Dr. Laughon, Mr. Jolly, Miss Dolores Jensen, Jack Baldwin, Mr. Casey and Mr. Percy. Those urging that the incinerator was our first concern were Mrs. R. C. Brown, Mr. Elder, and Mr. Gilbert Vaughn. Mrs. Carr, of the Board of Education, suggested that the Recreation Commission should have time to study the matter. Councilman Powell urged the audience to attend the Recreation Commission meeting on August 15th.

At 10:20 p.m. Mayor Sherfey declared recess and meeting reconvened at 10:34 to discuss the proposed budget. City Manager Stevens advised the audience of the preparatory work done in arriving at the proposed budget and explained that while the City has grown about 15% above last year, the proposed operating expense for the new fiscal year is increased only approximately 10%. The proposed budget was read department by department and all questions readily answered. Mr. R. I. Plomert complimented the Council and the Budget Committee on their fine work.

City Manager Stevens reminded the Council that at the meeting of the Water Board on Monday, August 9th, it was recommended that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare a resolution allowing the City to join the West Basin Water Association. Motion so made by Councilman Haggard, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried.

Councilman Powell moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 11:13 p.m. Councilman Powell moved meeting be adjourned until Tuesday, August 16th, at 8:00 p.m. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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