

Torrance, California
August 15, 1950

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ABSTRACT

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 1950, Mayor Haggard presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Powell, Spelman and Haggard. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Smith.

All persons present participated in the salute to our Flag.

Mayor Haggard announced that this being an Adjourned Regular Meeting, the regular order of business would be dispensed with and that the first order of business would be the Budget Hearing.

Councilman Drale asked that the minutes of the meeting of August 8th be corrected, inasmuch as the closing motion was just that "meeting be adjourned", to guide the Council in its actions at this meeting. Councilman Powell moved that the correction be placed in the minutes -- that this is not an adjourned meeting; that it is a meeting called especially for hearings on two particular subjects. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Powell. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Haggard. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None

City Manager Stevens then read the proposed 1950-51 budget, following which the audience was invited to ask questions. Mr. Plomert, of Torrance Industries Tax Committee, complimented all who had worked on the budget for their fine work. Speaking for his committee, he then urged the Council to consider the Bus Department with great care, believing it should be self-supporting, which would reduce the tax rate. He also questioned "Unappropriated Reserve" and "Operating Reserve", stating he believed "Unappropriated Reserve" is merely a temptation for expenditure of additional funds. Also questioned was the amount set up for recreational projects and asked for details. City Manager Stevens explained that the amount originally requested was far in excess of that set up and that no details had been set forth by him as he did not feel he should tell the Recreation Commission which projects they should go ahead with. Councilman Powell briefly questioned Mr. Plomert as to his statements relative to the bus line. Councilman Powell moved that the budget be accepted as read and that the Mayor be authorized to set a date within the next ten days at which the revised budget might be reviewed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens reminded the Council that the tax rate in the three water districts would also have to be established, and that Water Superintendent Stanger recommended the rate be the same as last year. No action taken.

Mayor Haggard announced the time had come for hearing on the pinball ordinance. Those persons urging adoption of the ordinance were Reverend Miller of the Methodist Church, Rector Bellow of the Episcopal Church, Mrs. Millar representing the P.T.A., Mr. Moore representing Torrance Council of Churches, and Mr. Winters, representing First Christian Church. Those speaking in favor of keeping the pinball machines were Mr. Robert Commings, cafe owner, and Attorney Wm. E. MacFaden, speaking on behalf of the business men who possess such machines in their establishments. Following comments by the audience, Councilman Drale asked that Clerk Bartlett read the ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Haggard recommended the matter be disposed of one way or the other. No action taken.

At 8:55 p.m., recess was declared. Meeting reconvened at 9:08, and Mayor Haggard announced the next matter for discussion would be the licensing and control of out-of-city photographers. Mr. Harold Mellen, of Photo Arts Studios, stated that if the "no soliciting" clause of the present ordinance was enforced, the problem would be solved. Mr. Jim Neal, of the Dixie Lee Studios, presented copies of ordinances from Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach. Discussion followed with members of the Council, the City Attorney, the City Manager, the License Inspector, the Chief of Police and Mr. Neal all participating. Mayor Haggard urged the local photographers to report any out-of-town solicitors they encountered to the Police Department.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Request from John E. Dooley, of the Calvert Apts., urging 2-hour parking signs on the north side of Sartori between Engracia and Cravens, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Councilman Drale moved the request be referred to the Chairman of the Traffic Commission for his recommendation at the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Seaside Ranchos Homeowners Ass'n urging County development of Torrance Beach. Since action had been previously taken by the Council, Councilman Spelman moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Letter from members of the City Clerk's office, addressed to Mr. Bartlett, protesting salary schedule for position of Court Clerk adopted by the Council under Ordinance No. 523 and requesting survey be made as to duties. Councilman Drale moved the communication be sent to the City Manager for his recommendation at the next regular meeting and that he carry out the survey. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from City Manager Stevens reporting on progress in establishing the Torrance Disaster Council. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried. Councilman Spelman asked that copies be furnished the press in order that publicity might be given to the matter.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2084

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION WITH
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR AN ADVANCE TO
PROVIDE FOR THE ADVANCE PLANNING OF NON-FEDERAL
PUBLIC WORKS UNDER THE TERMS OF PUBLIC LAW 352,
81st CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, APPROVED
OCTOBER 13, 1949

Councilman Spelman moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2084. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2085

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK
TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED TO ROME
CABLE CORPORATION

Councilman Blount moved further reading of the Resolution be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Blount moved Resolution No. 2085 be adopted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 527

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AMENDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SUP-
PLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 326.

Councilman Powell moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 527 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 528

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF HUBER STREET.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 528 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 529

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AMENDING FRANCHISE ORDINANCE NO. 351.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 529 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 530

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A
COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

Mayor Haggard suggested that the ordinance be held for discussion by the Council. Councilman Spelman moved that the Ordinance be referred to the next agenda meeting for discussion with the City Attorney, and that the number be stricken. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens asked that the Council meet in agenda at 5:30 p.m. on Friday to go over the budget before final adoption. Meeting so set.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Manager be authorized to notify the State Highway Department of the condition of 17⁴th St., and urge its improvement. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Councilman Drale stated that some time ago the City Attorney had been asked to ascertain whether or not the telephone company could be required to pay the City a fee under franchise agreement. Mr. Smith replied that the State Constitution prohibited such a franchise and that the field was covered by the State.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be requested to draw a resolution naming the Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America, Torrance Branch, as the depositaries for the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Powell, at some length, discussed the necessity of a "war emergency" increase in pay for City employees to keep them from seeking more lucrative employment elsewhere and urged that the matter be discussed at the next agenda meeting, and brought up at the next Regular Meeting for official action.

Councilman Spelman moved that all bids for supplying oil to the City for the coming fiscal year be rejected and that the City purchase its oil on the open market from local distributors. Discussion followed as to legality of such purchases. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Haggard. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Powell.

Representatives from Harbor City urged that bus service in their district be retained. Also urging the retention of the service was a representative from Harbor Hospital. No action taken.

Jack Baldwin, of the Torrance Herald, called the attention of Councilman Drale to a defective curb at Marcelina and Cravens.

At 10:06 p.m., Councilman Blount moved meeting be adjourned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE