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Torrance, California
June 24, 1952

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 on Tuesday, June 24, 1952, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

The salute to our Flag was led by Councilman Blount.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10th and the Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 18th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Mayor Schwab announced the time had come for the opening of bids for the improvement of 166th Street, from Crenshaw Blvd. to Casimir Ave, and the intersection of 164th St. and Arlington Ave. Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
C. O. Sparks, Inc, and Mundo Engineering Co.	\$ 6.50	\$ 5,525.00
Griffith Company	\$ 4.92	\$ 4,182.00

On the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, Councilman Spelman moved the bids be referred to the Engineering Department for checking and report at the next Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced it was time for the opening of bids on fire hose and Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price Per Foot</u>
Bi-Lateral Fire Hose Co.	2½" Double Jacketed	\$ 1.81
American Rubber Mfg. C.	" " "	1.58
Roy G. Davis Co.	" D.J. "White King"	1.90
" " "	" " "Highflex"	1.80
" " "	" " "Jupiter"	1.75
" " "	" " "Planet"	1.70
Harvel	" " "White King"	1.90
"	" " "Highflex"	1.80
"	" " "Jupiter"	1.75
"	" " "Planet"	1.70
Albro Fire Equipment Co.	" " "Battleship"	1.80
" " "	" " "Western"	1.75
Pioneer Rubber Mills	" " "Battleship"	1.80
" " "	" " "Western"	1.75
John F. Wardlaw	" " "Eureka"	1.65

City Manager Stevens advised the contract should be awarded tonight and suggested the bids be studied during a recess later in the evening.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Invitation for a representative of the City to attend the 38th Annual Conference of the International City Managers' Association in Kansas City, Missouri, September 28th to October 2nd. The Mayor asked Mr. Stevens if he would care to attend this conference and he replied that he did not know. The matter was discussed briefly and filed as a matter of record.

Request from Luis Monson for permit to collect junk. Councilman Spelman moved the matter be referred to Chief Stroh for his recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Recommendation from City Clerk Bartlett for the temporary appointment of Harriett V. Leech as part-time Recording and Filing Clerk, effective July 1st. Councilman Spelman moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from North Torrance Civic Improvement Association protesting the proposed rezoning of the northwest corner of 190th St. and Western Avenue from A-1 to M-2. As this matter was scheduled to appear later under Planning Commission matters, Councilman Drale moved that action be delayed at this time. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Verified claim for damages from C.K. Kennedy, in the amount of \$98.24 for damages to his automobile arising out of an accident with a City Truck driven by P. C. Skaggs. Councilman Blount moved the claim be denied and referred to the insurance carrier. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the Associated Telephone Company advising of application to the Public Utilities Commission for increase in rates. Councilman Blount moved written protest be sent to the "proper body". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Bid from Fred Fuld, Jr., on the auditing of the City's accounts:

City of Torrance	\$ 1,200.00
M.I.D. # 1	750.00
M.W.D. # 1	375.00
M.W.D. # 2	375.00
Municipal Bus Line	450.00

Councilman Blount moved the proposal be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Bids from Logan R. Cotton on the auditing of the City's accounts:

General Government	\$ 1,200.00
Municipal Bus Department	300.00
M.I.D. # 1	1,000.00
M.W.D. # 1	500.00
M.W.D. # 2	500.00

Councilman Blount moved these communications be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Proposal from Southern California Humane Society for pound service for the fiscal year 1952-53.

Proposal from South Bay Humane Society for pound service for the new fiscal year. Clerk Bartlett stated that South Bay Humane Society had served the City for 20 years and he believed them capable of doing the work, Councilman Drale moved the contract be awarded to South Bay Humane Society. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from Torrance Area Youth Band for renewal of the yearly allotment of \$200 per month. Councilman Drale moved the matter be referred to the budget hearing and the communication filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Request from Torrance Firemen's Association, on behalf of the Wage Committees of the Police and Fire Departments, for a meeting to discuss wage increases. Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed and referred to the budget hearing. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick submitting Tract Map No. 18098, advising of approval by the Planning Commission on June 18th, and recommending proper arrangements for water be made before signing the final map.

Letter from Mr. Patrick submitting Tract Map No. 18180, advising of approval by the Planning Commission on May 21, 1952, and recommending proper arrangements for water be made before signing the final map.

In each case, Mr. Patrick advised that cesspools and septic tanks would have to be installed unless an off-site sewer trunk could be installed from 233 rd Street to 237th Street. Due to previous problems in connection with cesspools, Councilman Drale moved these two tracts be referred to the Sewer Committee for study as to the possibility of such a sewer trunk, and report at the next meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Contract between the City, Truman Enterprises, Inc., and Dominguez Water Corporation for water service. Councilman Blount moved that authorization to execute the contract be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. Refund to the H. E. Murray Company, Plumbing Contractors, the sum of \$205.50 which was collected in duplicate for construction in Tract 17330.

2: Payment to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for publicity and advertising service during the quarter April-June, 1952, the sum of \$1,250.00 (Budget Item).

At the request of Councilman Benstead, action on these items was taken separately.

Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in recommendation #1. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in recommendation #2. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Blount, Spelman, and Schwab. NAYS: Drale and Benstead.

AWARDS OF BIDS:

1. That the bid of Ragsdale & Newell, who submitted the low bid for gasoline supplies for the year 1952-53, be accepted and all other bids be rejected. Councilman Drale asked if this included diesel fuel and Mr. Stevens replied that it did not; that Ragsdale and Newell did not bid on diesel fuel; and that an agreement for such fuel was being worked out. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations from City Manager Stevens as to certain new classifications in the classified service, together with certain increases in salary schedules for other positions, all subject to the proposed 5% salary increase to be granted to all employees. Councilman Blount moved that, inasmuch as the recommendations had just been received, they be referred to the next agenda meeting for discussion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Budget estimate for 1952-53 submitted by City Manager Stevens. Councilman Drale moved that the estimated budget be accepted and that the Mayor designate the dates of public hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Councilman Drale stated he believed an investigation should be made of the assessed valuation of General Petroleum Corporation as each year the valuation dropped considerably even though the plant was constantly being increased. After a rather lengthy discussion as to the proper approach to such a matter, and a motion by Councilman Drale that the City employ someone to make a reassessment, and a withdrawal of that motion, Councilman Blount moved the Council request the County Assessor to make a reassessment of the entire property of the General Petroleum Corporation in the City of Torrance, as soon as practicable, "advising him at the same time that we cannot understand how the assessment can continually go down when the plant continually grows". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission relative to:

Case No. 237: Petition of Southern California Edison Company for a change of zone for property located on the northwest corner of 190th St. and Western Ave., from A-1 to M-2, advising that the second hearing had been held by the Commission; that a third hearing before the Council would be necessary; and that the Commission recommended approval.

Councilman Blount moved the Council not concur and that the matter be returned to the Commission with the recommendation that the property be rezoned to M-1, stating that M-2 would permit heavy manufacturing while all that was required by the proposed manufacturer was an M-1 zone. After brief discussion, it was decided that such a motion was premature; that no action could be taken by the Council until the third and final hearing. Motion was withdrawn.

Case No. 239: Petition of Mercury International Research Co. for a Variance and Conditional Permit to occupy and use the structure at 24463 Hawthorne Ave. for the purpose of specialized engineering, manufacturing and assembly research projects. The Commission recommended approval subject to the following provisions:

1. That the building be beautified and the property landscaped as per Exhibit A;

2. That all operations be conducted within the building and confined to light manufacturing; and

3. That all operations be carried on in such a manner as not to create a nuisance to surrounding residents.

Councilman Drale stated it appeared the Council was not being advised in the communications from the Commission of the number of protests received on these cases and the file was checked for written communications pro and con, following which Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Case No. 240: Petition of R. G. and J.E. Miller for a Variance and Conditional Permit to erect a store building 50' x 70' on the south side of Torrance Blvd. between Date Ave. and Crenshaw Blvd. The Commission recommended approval. No specific recommendations being made as to parking, the Mayor declared a recess to discuss this matter, together with reviewing bids on fire hose.

Meeting recessed at 9:00 P.M. and reconvened at 9:13.

Councilman Spelman moved the matter be referred to the Planning Commission for a clarification of the parking arrangements involved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

With regard to the fire hose bids, Councilman Blount moved the purchase be made from Harvels, the local bidder, at \$1.80 per foot, and that all other bids be rejected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the application of Matt Davis, 162 Paseo de las Delicias, for deviation from the required 20' rear yard requirement to 16', due to the irregular shape of the lot. Commander Mason advised that his Association had also approved the request. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Letter from the Planning Commission, transmitting a copy of a resolution of the Hollywood Riviera Community Association, and recommending changing the name of Hollywood - Palos Verdes Parkway to Palos Verdes Boulevard. Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

The City Clerk commenced reading the title of the Resolution confirming the assessments in the Seaside Heights Sewer District and was interrupted by the City Attorney who stated a committee from Seaside Heights wished action delayed until the committee could meet with the Council at the next agenda meeting. Such meeting was set for Wednesday, July 2nd, at 8:00, with a time limit of 30 minutes -- 8:00 to 8:30.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO.2282

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING APPLICATION TO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR PLAN PREPARATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SEASIDE HEIGHTS SEWER DISTRICT, AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE CITY WITH AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAID DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No.2282. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2283

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDED LAND AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

This matter not having been brought before the Council previous to the meeting, Councilman Blount moved action be held over until copies of the resolution and agreement had been given the Council for study. After a brief discussion, and the City Clerk's statement that the purchase was necessary for the widening of Sepulveda, and would cost the City \$1.00, the motion was withdrawn. Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2283. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2284

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDED LAND AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

Clerk Bartlett explained that this purchase was similar to the one for Sepulveda, and was necessary for road purposes. Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2284. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2285

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP SITE AND THE OPENING OF AN ESCROW FOR THE PURCHASE THEREOF.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2285. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2286

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE INITIATING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ANNEXATION TO SAID CITY OF CERTAIN UNINHABITED TERRITORY IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES CONTIGUOUS TO SAID CITY; DESIGNATING SAID TERRITORY BY THE NAME OF PORTIONS OF THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY LYING WEST OF WESTERN AVENUE BETWEEN TRACT NO. 14421 AND RUNNING SOUTH TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF TRACT NO. 16582; SPECIFYING THE REASON FOR DESIRING TO ANNEX SUCH TERRITORY AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE HEARING OF PROTESTS IN CONNECTION WITH SAID PROPOSED ANNEXATION.

City Attorney Hall asked that the hearing date shown in the Resolution as July 22nd be changed to August 5th. Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution, noting the change in hearing date. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2286, as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 603AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE REGULATING STORING OF COMBUSTIBLE WASTE,
INCINERATORS, BARBECUE PITS AND BURNING.

Deletions previously suggested not having yet been made, Councilman Drale moved the Ordinance be referred to the Legal Department for modification, and that it be discussed at the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Benstead stated the restrooms in the City park were decidedly in need of cleaning up, signs, etc., and moved that immediate steps be taken to remedy the situation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. On inquiry by Councilman Spelman, City Manager Stevens advised the responsibility was, basically, that of the Park Department.

Councilman Drale inquired as to progress on the Redondo-Torrance boundary matter and City Attorney Hall replied that he was "just about ready to go, as far as the resolution is concerned"; that he understood Redondo was going to handle the matter by petition but that he did not know whether or not it had been presented as yet. The matter was discussed briefly.

Councilman Spelman inquired as to whether or not bids had been sent out on the Seaside Ranchos Sewer District, and City Manager Stevens replied that he did not believe proceedings had arrived at that stage; that he thought the plans and specifications were being completed now. He was asked to check into the matter and report at the next agenda meeting.

Mr. Stevens asked that the Council take action on the proposed 5% increase in salary for all employees, so that it would be effective as of July 1st, as set forth in the proposed budget submitted. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Stevens suggested that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare a working ordinance for the next agenda meeting relative to assessing all lots in future subdivisions from \$25 to \$50, the funds derived therefrom to be put into a fund for civic improvements of land or buildings, stating such a practice was followed in other cities. Councilman Benstead so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor set the third public hearing on Planning Commission Case No. 237 for July 8, 1952, at 8:00P.M. He also scheduled the budget hearings for July 8th and July 22nd.

Mr. Jack White inquired as to the status of the completion bond of Property Management, and City Attorney Hall stated he had been instructed to proceed against Property Management with appropriate action.

Mr. Chatten again presented his offer to the City for the installation of 3" alert mortars for civil defense and asked that he be advised whether or not the City was going to make the installation. He reviewed the merits of his device and stated he would like to see Torrance the first to install "complete coverage", advising of the nationwide publicity to be derived through LIFE magazine, NEWSWEEK, and several others. The matter was discussed by the Council, as compared to the "bell-and -light" system to be worked in conjunction with industry. Mr. Chatten was informed that the Council wished to try the bell-and -light system first, for financial reasons, and that if such a system was found unsatisfactory, further consideration would be given his device. Councilman Blount stated that he was not in favor

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of whistles being blown by industry as an alert for the reason that such whistles are heard every day and people pay no attention; that an alert should be something entirely different, something that would instantly let them know it was an alert and not an accident or fire at some plant. Councilman Spelman assured Mr. Chatten that the Council should know within 30 days whether or not the bell-and- light system would be satisfactory.

Mr. Isenberg, of the Chamber of Commerce, displayed the new signs to be installed at the various entrances to the City, giving credit to Councilman Drale for suggesting them.

There being no further business, Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:00 P.M., Councilman Spelman moved the meeting be adjourned.. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE