

Torrance, California  
August 26, 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, August 26, 1952, at 8:05 P.M., Mayor Schwab presiding.

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

Councilman Spelman led the salute to the Flag.

Mayor Schwab stated that in confirming the appointment of Mark Wright to the Civil Service Commission at the last meeting he had neglected to state that the appointment was to fill the unexpired term of Everett S. Rowan, expiring January 15, 1957, and that Mr. Wright would serve on both Civil Service Boards. Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of August 12th be approved as amended. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Statement from Pacific Coast Gasoline Company reporting earnings under Franchise Ordinance No. 389 in the amount of \$846.00 for the period ending July 10, 1952. Councilman Drale moved the statement be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Statement from Union Oil Company reporting earnings under Franchise Ordinance No. 417 in the amount of \$294.36 for the period ending June 30, 1952. Councilman Benstead moved the statement be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Metropolitan Water District transmitting copy of resolution levying the 1952-53 tax -- 28¢ as against 30¢ last year. Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Torrance Unified School District advising the Board of Education could make no additional financial contributions toward recreation; and that while the Board felt a 7-man Recreation Commission was too large, suggested that 2 members be recommended by the PTA Council. Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred to the Recreation Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Letter from Schultz & Peckham protesting "center parking" on Cabrillo and requesting that approaches to their place of business be opened in the parking island. Councilman Drale moved the letter be referred to the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Torrance Area Youth Bands requesting the City grant a parcel of city-owned land to the organization so they could begin a drive for the construction of a music building. The letter expressed appreciation for the use of the Auditorium but stated that since the building wasn't available to them all the time, they needed their own quarters, both for rehearsals and for the storage of instruments and uniforms. Discussion followed, with Councilman Benstead stating that if the City made property available to this organization, he believed other organizations would be entitled to similar consideration. Councilman Drale concurred, stating that if the group wished to purchase a City-owned parcel, he would have no objection, but that they should be informed the City was not in a position to give any private organization any land. Councilman Spelman, stating the Council was in accord, moved a letter be written to the Torrance Area Youth Bands explaining the City's position and refusing the request but that it could purchase City property at the market value. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from M. L. Hoffenberg, requesting the removal of excess mud on Via El Chico. Councilman Drale moved the request be referred to the Street Department for its recommendation and consideration. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Letter from R. G. Miller, Home Loan Realty, urging that City-owned lots to be disposed of be listed with the Torrance Realty Board rather than by public auction. Clerk Bartlett advised the list was not yet completed, due to some questions of title, and suggested that the City advertise for bids on the lots to be sold rather than list them with the Realty Board or sell them at auction. Councilman Drale moved the matter be discussed at the agenda meeting when the list is completed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Petition signed by 12 homeowners requesting one-hour parking limit on Elm Avenue between Carson Street and Monterey Street, and the prohibition of heavy traffic. Councilman Benstead, stating he had received several calls on this matter and had personally investigated the conditions, finding that private driveways are being blocked, moved the matter be referred to the Traffic Commission for its recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request from Mr. Hallanger for the transfer of \$50,000 from Motor Vehicle Licenses In Lieu Tax Fund to General Fund. Councilman Spelman so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from C. T. Rippy (read previously on July 22nd) protesting the proposed sub-division tax of \$25 per lot. Councilman Spelman moved the matter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Ass'n urging installation of sewers, advising that 60% of the homeowners in District No. 3 have petitioned for sewers; that because of the many vacant lots in Districts 1 and 2, and ownership by heirs of estates scattered across the country, circulation of a petition has been practically impossible; that of the 862 families living in Hollywood Riviera, 65% have petitioned for sewers. Mr. Whitney, President of the Association, orally amplified his letter by stating the health of the community was being endangered by cesspool failures and lack of space, in many instances, for the digging of new cesspools. Commander Mason confirmed the statements made by Mr. Whitney. After discussion by the Council, Councilman Spelman moved that proceedings be started immediately for the installation of sanitary sewers in Hollywood Riviera. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Letter from Sunset Oil Company protesting "center parking" on Cabrillo as retarding business at its service station on the southeast corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy. Councilman Drale moved the letter be referred to the Traffic Commission for its recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the County Assessor's office advising they had no authority to make a re-assessment of the General Petroleum property, the 1952 assessment roll having already been completed, and setting forth a comparison table for the years 1950-51-52. Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the Torrance Area Youth Bands requesting a permit for the conducting of a carnival on "Kettler Knolls" corner (Narbonne and Sepulveda) during the third week of September. City Manager Stevens suggested that if the permit is granted, a "clean-up" deposit should be placed with the City. Councilman Spelman expressed concern as to the effect of carnival noise and music on the surrounding residents, stating he would not like to see a delegation of homeowners marching on the City Hall in protest. Clerk Bartlett stated the owners of the property had given their permission. Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted and that a deposit of \$100 be required to guarantee proper clean-up. City Manager Stevens advised the Council that the group, in the past, has received its permit without the required fee of \$50 per day, stating the City has waived the fee for this and several other organizations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Water Superintendent McVicar advising the Torrance Unified School District has requested service to the proposed school on 235th Street, between Narbonne and Pennsylvania Avenues. Councilman Drale moved the request for service be granted, subject to the conditions of our regular water service ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Dominguez Water Corporation advising of the proposed sale of a parcel of land at 190th and Western to Harvey Machine Co. and requesting permission to service the property although it is wholly within the City limits of Torrance. Discussion was held as to whether or not the City was in a position to serve the property. Councilman Drale stated he believed some provision should be made so that if and when the City was in position to serve the property, we wouldn't have to pay an exorbitant fee to get it back. Councilman Benstead moved the matter be held for the next agenda meeting for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from the Chamber of Commerce requesting \$2500 for Christmas decorations and specialized promotion stunts. Councilman Spelman moved the request be denied for the reason that the City could not afford it. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Benstead, Mr. Stevens stated that last year the City participated by making the power installations and paid a flat rate for the use of electric energy during the period, and that we would do the same this year. Councilman Spelman amended his motion by adding: "and that the City cooperate to the extent they did last year." Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from the Chief of Police that the 1-year residence requirement be waived for the next examinations for Patrolmen, File Clerks and Matrons. City Manager Stevens advised the Civil Service Board had concurred in the request. Councilman Benstead stated they should be qualified voters of the City of Torrance. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the request, provided that residence in the City be established for a period of 90 days, or that the applicant is a qualified voter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

The following personnel have been appointed to serve their probationary periods in the classifications, on the dates and at the compensations indicated:

DEPARTMENT	NAME	CLASSIFICATION	BEGINNING	SALARY STEP
Water	M.G. Turner	Laborer	8-18-52	1st
"	A.N. Thompson	"	"	"
"	H.B. Kidner	"	8-16-52	"
"	R.S. O'Cain	"	"	"
"	W.J. Dietlin	Sr. Water Ser- viceman	8- 1-52	"
"	D.R. Fulton	" " "	"	2nd
"	G.D. Weber	" " "	"	"
Park	K.D. Camp	Park Maint. Man	8-16-52	1st
"	M.D. Young	" " "	"	"
"	J.W. Loughridge	" " Ldmn.	7- 1-52	3rd
Garage	F. Elliott	Bus Attendant	8-16-52	1st
Street	E.R. Russell	Laborer	"	"
Fire	V.E. Newman	Engineer	8- 1-52	5th
"	F. Tuttle	"	8- 2-52	4th
"	J.D. Warren	"	8- 3-52	"
"	D.M. Minor	"	8- 4-52	5th
"	J.V. Agapito	"	8- 5-52	"
"	B.C. Slonecker	"	8- 6-52	4th

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Donald Armstrong for legal fees in connection with the City of Torrance v. Leech, the sum of \$880. (From Water Bond Funds)
2. To Willard B. Guimont for the purchase of radio equipment for Civil Defense, the sum of \$3,150. (From Unappropriated Reserve -- 75% of the cost will be refunded by the State and Federal governments)
3. To the Department of Traffic Engineering, City of Los Angeles, the sum of \$2,342.08 for the operation and maintenance of traffic signals on Western Ave., in accordance with the agreement between the City and the City of Los Angeles.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. As to item 2, Councilman Benstead asked what would happen to the equipment in the event we should do away with civil defense. Mr. Stevens replied that as the State pays 50%, it would revert back to them, however, that he believed negotiations for its acquisition could be made as the State would have no need for all the sets which will be in operation. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Drale, Mr. Stevens advised that the "bell-and-light" system was being installed and a demonstration would be held in September. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That a contract be entered into by the City of Torrance and the Torrance Herald for legal advertising for the period July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953, at the same rates paid under last year's contract. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Drale, Mr. Stevens stated the rate was \$1.56 per column inch for the first publication and \$1.20 per column inch for the second publication. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:08 P.M., Mayor Schwab declared a short recess. Meeting reconvened at 9:18.

Request from the City Clerk for the temporary appointment of a typist-clerk for the City Clerk's office, effective September 1, 1952, and for the temporary appointment of an accountant, effective September 6, 1952. Councilman Drale stated he believed this matter should be held over to the agenda meeting for a recommendation from the City Manager. Clerk Bartlett stated he "was not trying to pull anything" and that he was only asking for what was necessary. Mr. Stevens explained that as to the accountant, Mr. Hallanger had given the City notice today that he was quitting as of the close of business September 5th. It was explained that there was one applicant on the eligible list and that he would be interviewed first; that both temporary appointments would be made from the eligible lists, if possible. Mr. Bartlett explained that the typist-clerk was necessary because of vacations, etc., within his department. City Manager Stevens stated he approved the requests. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from City Manager submitting proposed schedule for advertising, receiving bids and awarding contracts for construction of projects in Municipal Water District No. 3 and advising that special meetings of the Council will have to be held on September 16th, October 7th and October 21st. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the proposed schedule. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the City Manager submitting the final budget figures for 1952-53 and advising the tax rate for the fiscal year will be \$1.12½. Councilman Spelman moved the Council accept the budget and confirm the tax rate. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 615

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIXING THE  
TAX RATE AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
BEGINNING JULY 1, 1952.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 615 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Letter from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick submitting Tract Map 18369, advising of approval by the Planning Commission on June 18th. His letter stated sanitary sewers would not be available; that curbs, gutters and sidewalks would be installed; and necessary arrangements for water mains would have to be made before signing of the final map. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission submitting the following matters:

REQUEST OF JOEL WHITMAN to waive the front yard set-back, which varies from a minimum of 9'0" to a maximum of 24'0", on property located at 637 Border Avenue, which is an irregular shaped lot. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval, in accordance with the plan marked "Exhibit A".

REQUEST OF J. A. TRENEVOST to build an apartment over the garage at the rear of his dwelling located at 2317 Torrance Boulevard, which would have 584 square feet of floor area. The Commission unanimously recommended approval.

AMENDMENT TO SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE: It was the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Commission that the City Council amend the Subdivision Ordinance to require all subdividers and developers to plant one tree, of a type suitable and approved by the Park Department, on each subdivided lot and to maintain said trees until all lots in the subdivision are sold.

REQUEST OF LUTHERN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION to operate a Christian Day School in the 300 block of Hollywood-Palos Verdes Parkway in Hollywood Riviera. This request was referred to the Commission by the Council on August 12th, and the Commission advised that churches, and church schools in conjunction therewith, are permitted in this location, an R-3 zone.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2306

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED AND RIGHT OF WAY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2306. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2307

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED FROM A . LANSDALE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Councilman Drale asked the location of the property and was advised the deed covered the 3 lots requested from the subdividers at 190th and Crenshaw, Steiner & Horne, for recreational purposes. City Attorney Hall stated the grantor now wished to rescind his deed but that he felt the Council should accept the deed as executed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2307. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2308

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CHANGING THE NAMES OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2308. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 616

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 238.

City Attorney Hall suggested this Ordinance be held up for the time being as it might be unnecessary, under the new Land Use Ordinance. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried. The ordinance number was withdrawn.

ORDINANCE NO. 612

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A LAND USE PLAN WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING TEN (10) DISTRICTS; REGULATING THE USE OF PROPERTY, HEIGHT OF STRUCTURES, AND OPEN SPACES FOR LIGHT AND VENTILATION; ADOPTING A MAP OF SAID DISTRICTS; DEFINING TERMS USED; PROVIDING FOR THE ADJUSTMENT, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT THEREOF; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Drale asked if future amendments to the Ordinance could be made by resolution, to avoid excessive printing. City Attorney Hall stated that ordinarily an ordinance had to be amended by an ordinance, but that in some instances possibly it could be amended by a resolution. Councilman Drale asked that the final reading of the Ordinance be withheld until it could be determined whether amendments could be made by resolution, and Councilman Spelman withdrew his motion. Councilman Drale moved that further reading of the Ordinance be withheld until the City Attorney could check the legality of amendments by resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 614

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 614 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried by the unanimous roll call vote of those present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Spelman asked how the "signal situation" was working out at Cabrillo and Carson. Councilman Drale stated that due to vacations, the Traffic Commission had not had a meeting but that there would be a meeting on Wednesday.

There being no other oral comments, Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett requested that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare an ordinance for the auditing of the City's demands. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Three residents of Paseo de la Playa asked that a traffic survey be made of their area, stating hot-rods and motorcycles were using their street as a speedway, that cars park there from early morning until late at night, that "beach picnickers" throw their garbage, cans and bottles on the street and on the lawns, that in the event of fire, the fire engine could never get through because cars park on both sides of the street. It was their suggestion that parking be restricted to one side of the street, and that signs be posted about depositing garbage and refuse. Councilman Drale stated the Traffic Commission and the Police Department would make a survey of the problem.

Mr. Beasley, of WALTERIA, called to the attention of the Council that the "center island" parking on Cabrillo was creating a traffic hazard for pedestrians as parking spaces are allotted to the pedestrian crosswalks and persons are thus obscured from the view of oncoming traffic; that a person taking two steps beyond a parked car is directly in a traffic lane.

One of the gentlemen from the Paseo de la Playa area asked that the City give consideration to a police and fire substation in the area.

There being no other oral communications, at 9:55 P.M., Councilman Spelman moved the meeting be adjourned to September 10th, Tuesday, the 9th, being a holiday. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

*A. H. Bartlett*  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

*W. M. Schaub*  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California