

Torrance, California
September 23, 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, September 23, 1952, 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.

Councilman Spelman led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10th and the Adjourned Regular Meeting of September 16th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Mayor Schwab announced the time had arrived for the awarding of the contract for the Seaside Ranchos Sewer District. The City Engineer presented his analysis of the sealed proposals submitted to him for analysis, reporting that minor discrepancies were disclosed in two of the bids and naming Economy Sewer Construction Company as the lowest responsible bidder in the sum of \$78,104.77, and recommended that the contract be awarded to Economy Sewer Construction. Councilman Blount moved that the Engineer's analysis and recommendation be received and filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. The Engineer presented and Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2310

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVING OF DORIS WAY AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS IN SAID CITY, IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE SEASIDE RANCHOS SEWER DISTRICT, BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AND ALL OTHER ITEMS OR WORK INCIDENTAL OF APPURTENANT THERETO AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF SAID AWARD.

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. 2310. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter from William H. Tolson requesting a meeting with the City Council relative to certain phases of the development of the second Weston Ranch Tract. City Manager Stevens stated the requested meeting was the one which the Council had with Mr. Tolson at the last agenda meeting. Councilman Spelman moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Discussion arose as to whether or not a decision should be given Mr. Tolson on his question of sidewalks. The motion received no second.

Councilman Drale moved the subdivision ordinance be complied with. Councilman Blount stated the subdivision was not before the Council at the present time and therefore could not be acted upon. The motion received no second.

After further discussion, Councilmsn Blount moved the Mayor write a letter to Mr Tolson advising that the Council would permit no deviation from the Subdivision Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Petition bearing 28 signatures calling attention to the uncurbed, unpaved condition of the south half of Opal St. adjacent to school property and requesting correction of the condition. Discussion followed as to whether or not the situation should be remedied by the Board of Education, and Councilman Benstead moved the petition be referred to the Board for its immediate attention. Motion was seconded by Councilman Blount. Councilman Drale suggested possibly an ordinance could be drawn to cover such matters, as the Council "feels the obligation belongs to the School Boards". City Attorney Hall stated the Council could not compel the School Board to install curbs and sidewalks; that possibly they would do so voluntarily; that the City could, but did not have to. Motion carried.

Petition bearing 25 signatures requesting a completely paved street on 190th St. between Crenshaw and Ermanita. Councilman Drale moved the request be referred to the Engineering Department for study. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Four letters (Riviera PTA, Las Vecinas, Hollywood-Riviera Homeowners' Assn, and Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club) requesting some type of sidewalks from Via Colusa to the Riviera School, and suggesting the bridle path be made into a sidewalk, City Manager Stevens stated he believed there was a need for sidewalks in the area referred to, and that it was being done at the present time. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Petition bearing 190 signatures requesting the removal of the drainage hole from the corners of Maple, El Dorado and Florwood Avenues. City Manager Stevens advised there was no possibility of removing the sump until such time as an underground drainage structure will hook into it and drain the water away; that the sump was required by County Flood Control; that if the bond issue for drainage passes in November, the sump will ultimately be drained, but not in the near future. He advised the Council that the City does spray it in an effort to keep down mosquitos; and that by use of a crane, the City plans to break through the impervious layer of clay soil below the bottom of the sump so that the water might drain through. He also stated the City could pump out the existing water. Councilman Drale moved the Council approve the recommendations of City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Richfield Oil Corporation submitting bond in the amount of \$1,000 to cover a 4" oil line under County Franchise No. 1358. The bond being satisfactory to the City Attorney, Councilman Spelman moved the bond be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission requesting approval of the following expenditures:

(a) TORRANCE PARK:

(1)	Tearing down present grandstand and fencing enclosure of ball field.....	\$ 800.00
(2)	Replacing grandstand at new location with backstop and fencing for softball.....	3000.00
(3)	Building tool shed and equipment shelter with lumber salvaged from grandstand.....	1000.00
(4)	Renovating grounds, seed and rebuilding diamond.....	500.00
(5)	Replacing toilet facilities in area close to picnic grounds in place of restrooms at present grandstand.....	2000.00
(6)	Constructing 2 tennis courts, concrete, with fencing, net posts and lighting.....	7500.00

(b) McMASTER PARK:

(1) Fencing and patio..... \$ 4500.00

City Manager Stevens advised he had recommended the tearing down of the present grandstand as, due to dry rot, portions of it are not safe for use by the public; that he did not recommend rebuilding at the present location as he understood some day the ball-field and grandstand would be at the old dump site. Councilman Benstead concurred in the dangerous condition of the present grandstand and suggested that portions of it be condemned. Following further discussion as to the revamping of the Commission and the pending civil service examination for Recreation Director, Councilman Benstead moved the dangerous portions of the grandstand be removed and that all other recommendations of the Commission be tabled pending the revamping of the Commission and the Civil service examination for Director. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager:

(a) The following personnel are appointed to serve their probationary periods or as temporary employees in the classifications, on the dates and at the compensations as indicated:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Step</u>
<u>TEMPORARY:</u>				
City Clerk	Marie B. Whitacre	Typist Clerk	9-8-52	1st
Building	Jeannette Gorchester	" "	8-26-52	1st
City Clerk	Cyril N. Weber	License & Tax Inspector	9-4-52	1st
Street	Marvin J. Tylor	Laborer	9-17-52	1st

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Step</u>
<u>PROBATIONARY:</u>				
Police	James E. Davis	Police Officer	9-16-52	1st
Bus	H.C. Litzinger	Bus Operator	9-16-52	1st
Bus	W.T. Boskovich	Bus Operator	9-16-52	1st

(b) Walter E. West to be reinstated from military leave to start his probationary term as Captain in the Fire Dept., effective Sept. 16, 1952, at the compensation set forth as the 4th step for the classification.

In answer to inquiry by Councilman Benstead, Mr. Stevens stated all temporary appointments were taken from the civil service list, where there was a list, and that all probationary appointments were made from the eligible list. Councilman Spelman 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. 2311

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAID CITY AND THE TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING AND PROMOTING THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1952-53.

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. 2311. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2312

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

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. 2312. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2313

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION BY THE SAID CITY OF TORRANCE OF A CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT, TO WIT: THE INSTALLATION OF A DRAINAGE STRUCTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ACROSS THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED STORM AND RAIN WATERS AND FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SANITARY SWERES IN, UNDER AND UPON SAID REAL PROPERTY; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION 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. 2313. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens stated the League of California Cities urged the defeat of Proposition #10, which will appear on the November ballot, as the League considers it dangerous to the activities of the cities and threatens their entire organization. He explained the benefits received from the League by the cities; and that if Proposition #10 is adopted, the League would not be permitted to represent the cities at the Legislature and cities would have to send their own representative in behalf of any legislation they wished passed, thus losing the effect of combined effort. Councilman Drale stated he did not believe the Council should take a stand on any one proposition; that if they were going to endorse one, they should endorse the others. Councilman Benstead stated he did not believe the Council should do any "politicizing" but that he would not like to see the City lose any revenue; however, that he did not believe the Council should talk about any proposition on the ballot. Councilman Blount, at some length, stated "If the people enact this legislation, it means the death of something very dear to my heart --the League of California Cities. Our City has prospered in dollars and cents in no other way that they could have but by the efforts of the League. If it is dabbling in politics, then it is." Councilman Blount then moved the Council go on record as opposing Proposition #10. In seconding the motion, Councilman Spelman stated he felt very strongly that it is the duty of the Council to support the League in opposing this proposition. Mayor Schwab stated that in the six months he has been connected with City government, he has "a warm support for the League" and "as a member of the Council, I don't feel I would be doing my duty if I did not support them." Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Spelman and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Stevens stated a matter had come to his attention late this afternoon which needed immediate Council action; that Mr. Armstrong, who represents the City in its suit against Torrance Sand & Gravel, has requested permission to employ an engineer, experienced in the operation of gravel pits to make a survey of the operation and testify for the City as an expert witness; that the case was about ready to be filed and that such testimony would be helpful to our case. In answer to inquiry, Mr. Hall stated Mr. Armstrong "has a shot-gun approach from every point of view and he needs testimony as to its existence as a nuisance as well as a violation of the Variance". Mr. Hall stated, further, his only question would be as to the cost. After some discussion, Councilman Blount moved the request be granted and the expense of such expert testimony be limited to \$250. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Stevens also asked the Council to give some thought to proposed legislation by the City to prohibit occupancy of residences before completion of work and the "hooking up" of utilities, stating that in one tract approximately 35 families have moved in prior to final inspections, without gas, lights or water. He stated that sales agents, not contractors, were largely at fault. The problem is to be discussed in more detail at the next agenda meeting.

Councilman Blount asked if the next meeting could be held on October 8th rather than the 7th, as he would be unable to attend on that date. Notice of public hearing having been published for October 7th on the Land Use Ordinance, and bids having been called for on the water project for the same night, Mr. Blount withdrew his request.

Councilman Drale reported that the Traffic Commission has reconsidered the request of the Ford agency, Shultz & Peckham, for an opening in the center parking on Cabrillo to permit entrance to its place of business and that the Commission recommended the request be granted. No action was taken.

Councilman Spelman asked if any word had been received from the State as to line markings on Pacific Coast Highway at Newton. Mr. Stevens replied that he had received the usual answer -- they thought it was being taken care of but would check into it and let him know.

Councilman Benstead asked what progress was being made on the problem of lots protruding into Ashley Street and Mr. Stevens replied that a cost analysis would be ready for the next agenda meeting.

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

At 9:00 P.M. on motion of Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Spelman, meeting was adjourned until October 7, 1952, at 8:00 P.M.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE