

Torrance, California  
December 9, 1952

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Tuesday, December 9, 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/and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Drale led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25th and Special Meeting of November 28th, 1952, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Mayor Schwab announced this was the time set for the public hearing on Land Use Ordinance No. 612. There being no written or oral protests, the hearing was declared closed.

Mayor Schwab announced the time had come for the opening of bids on cast iron pipe for the Water Department, and City Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

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<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount of Bid</u>
Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company	\$3.70 per ft
American Cast Iron Pipe Company	4.10 per ft
Jas. E. Clough & Sons	4.03 per ft
U. S. Pipe and Foundry Company	3.719 per ft

It was recommended the bids be submitted to the City Manager for consideration.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter of resignation from Frank Carpenter, Director of Recreation. Councilman Benstead moved the resignation be accepted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale. The roll call was as follows: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. Councilman Blount stated he was going to vote no, and stated, "I think that Mr. Carpenter under the circumstances has done a very fine job, he has had very few tools to work with, and the matter of personnel, he has not had the cooperation from many people in the City government that he should have had. I might point out to you gentlemen that we have achieved quite a number of parks and buildings. I would like to point out that we perhaps have a chance to better our Recreation Department. We have a chance to get a better Recreation Director and we also have a chance to get a worse Recreation Director." NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Schwab.

Communication from Western Vending Machine Operator's Association requesting change in vending machine fees. Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred to the City Clerk for recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead carried. Mr. Jack Baldwin of the Torrance Herald stated that the Lions have a number of gum machines, the revenue from which they use to purchase seeing eye dogs and white canes, and that this tax is very hampering. He asked that the City give some leniency for those machines that are used for philanthropic purposes. The communication was referred back to the committee.

Request from Chief of Police Stroh for one additional traffic car and replacement of two others. Mayor Schwab asked for comments on this communication. Councilman Benstead asked if there was a contract for police cars. City Manager Stevens stated "I have contacted a man in regard to this matter, his offer is still good, the same conditions prevail, he is willing, or would like, to meet with the Council to discuss it. One local dealer is not at all interested in a rental proposition and one dealer is working on a similar proposition. At the next Agenda meeting I will have one man who offers rentals to the City and

possibly propositions from a local man." Councilman Benstead moved that this matter be held over to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale carried unanimously. Councilman Blount stated he would like to have Chief Stroh present at that meeting.

Request from Mr. and Mrs. Trahan for license to operate gymnasium and Recreation Center at 1953 $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Carson Street. This request was referred to Chief of Police Stroh at the last regular meeting and he advised that he cannot recommend the issuance of this license. Councilman Benstead recommended that the license be issued. Mayor Schwab stated that this should be given some further study in connection with the Chief's recommendation. Chief Stroh stated, "I checked into this and passed on it and recommended that a license be issued until yesterday when another Department contacted me, therefore, I cancelled the recommendation, and cannot recommend a license to those people. I don't care to make public the reason why." Councilman Spelman moved this matter be referred to the next Agenda. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale carried unanimously.

Request of Herbert Goodman to operate Pawn Shop. Councilman Benstead moved the license be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale. Councilman Spelman asked what restrictions the ordinance placed on a pawn shop. City Clerk Bartlett said they are under police control at all times. Chief Stroh stated they are under the same restrictions they have throughout the state, that there has never been a pawn shop in Torrance, only second hand shops. Roll call: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount and Spelman.

Letter of appreciation from Torrance Y.M.C.A. for use of Auditorium November 15th for "Good Neighbor" Breakfast. Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Verified claim of Mrs. F. H. Steinhilber for damages to her car by one of the city's trucks on November 28th. Councilman Spelman moved the claim be denied and referred to the insurance company. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Verified claim of George Martin for damages to his car by street equipment on November 14th. Councilman Blount moved the claim be denied and referred to the insurance company. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Mr. Patrick for subdivision of Tract No. 18141, containing 10 lots to be developed by Bert D. Murphy at 162nd Street, east of Wilton. Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Mr. Patrick for subdivision of Tract No. 18882, containing 113 lots to be developed by Milton Kauffman Inc., at Southwest corner of 174th and Prairie. Councilman Blount called attention to the letter attached to this tract map, he then moved that the City Council concur with the recommendations of the City Planning Commission on Tract 18882, without any exceptions as outlined in Tract 18141. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

A five minute recess was declared and the meeting reconvened at 9:00 pm.

Letter from Bob L. Haggard, addressed to the City Treasurer, requesting refund in the amount of \$37.71 which he paid on Walteria Sewer Bond No. 547 in error. The City Attorney and City Treasurer having approved the refund, Councilman Drale moved the refund be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett recommended that Cyril N. Weber, having successfully passed the Civil Service examination, be appointed to serve his probationary term as License and Tax Inspector, effective December 1, 1952, at the compensation set forth as the first step for the position. After some discussion Councilman Benstead moved the recommendation be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMAN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

- (a) That Glen Kirkruff be appointed to serve his probationary period as Power Equipment Operator No. 1, effective January 1, 1953, and that his compensation be established at the third step for the classification.
- (b) That the classification for drivers of Load Packers be changed from Truck Driver to Equipment Operator No. 1, due to the value of the equipment involved and to the fact that the driver is the leader of the collection crew. Further, that John C. Cox and Robert A. Ernst be appointed to serve their probationary period as Equipment Operator No. 1, effective January 1, 1953. The compensation to be at the third step for John C. Cox and at the first step for Robert A. Ernst.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur with the recommendations under "Personnel". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

- (a) That the 20" and 16" Metropolitan Water District mains located in the City of Torrance be purchased for the sum of \$42,500. (From Water Bond Funds).

Councilman Drale requested to be briefed on this matter. City Manager Stevens stated it was for the acquisition of the 20" line which runs from Western to Crenshaw and the 16" line that runs from Crenshaw to 203rd and is the property of the Metropolitan Water District. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with Mr. Stevens' recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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BIDS:

- 1. That the bid of Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, in the amount of \$41,210, for a One Million Gallon Steel Tank under Specification No. 9, be accepted as the lowest responsible bid, and that all other bids be rejected.
- 2. That the City Council authorize the advertising of bids for Specification No. 7 "Pumping Equipment" under the Water Expansion Program.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur with the recommendations under "Bids". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

TEMPORARY EASEMENTS:

- 1. That temporary easements, for the spreading of water during the testing of the City's new water well on Ocean Avenue, be accepted from the following people:
  - (a) Leo P. Gonzales and Alice J. Gonzales, Lots 43 & 44, Tract 454.
  - (b) Wallace M. Tener and June Tener, Lots 40, 41, & 42, Tract 454.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur with the recommendations under "Temporary Easements". Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Planning Commission setting forth recommendations on minimum square footage of floor area for all dwellings in the City of Torrance to 1,000 square feet and soliciting the Council's opinion on the subject.

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Mayor Schwab asked if it would be agreeable with the Council to have a meeting with the Planning Commission. After some discussion, Councilman Blount moved that the Council meet with the Planning Commission to discuss the subject. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation of Planning Commission for approval of the petition of John E. and Juanita M. Gist to vacate a portion of Illinois Court between 164th Street and 166th Street, based on certain conditions. Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, based on the four conditions outlined. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Torrance Planning Commission recommending adoption of tentative Land Use Ordinance No. 612. Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2342 1/2

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2342 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2343

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2343. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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 USES: 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. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 612 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 622

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, ORDINANCE NO. 446.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 622 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 623

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING THE 1952 EDITION OF THE "UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE" AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 600.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 623 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Councilman Drale brought up the subject of benefits derived from franchises, and asked how the city could receive extra money. City Attorney said he had started with the oil companies, and stated that the League might "pitch" in and help us. Councilman Drale read on "Franchises" from a booklet. City Manager Stevens explained the Edison Company was under the Broughton Act and that they pay \$26,000 instead of \$22,000, and stated that the City is under the most favorable acts of those companies. Councilman Drale said he would like to serve on a committee to study this subject.

Councilman Drale brought up the subject of the use of fluoride in the water, and asked if we are protected if we use this, without due ordinance or a referendum of the people. Councilman Drale was informed by Mr. McVicar, Water Superintendent, that we were not using fluoride in the water. Mayor Schwab stated that several people have written us requesting the use of fluoride in the water; that it is a very controversial subject; that there should be studies made, and with the cost involved it is doubtful whether it is worth it or not. Councilman Drale said he was only wondering if the city was open to liable and law suits, but if the city is not using fluoride, there is no question.

Councilman Spelman said that there were three or four gentlemen in the audience from Seaside Ranchos, representing property owners, one of whom stated that during the recent rains, sand and dirt have washed down on the developed lots. City Manager Stevens explained that we have stopped all final inspections as requested by the Council; that Mr. Browne has been on the job with the Engineering Department; that he will divert the water; and that he has thrown up a bank of earth which will stop the dirt from falling down. City Manager Stevens said that Mr. Browne would plant the bank and dispose of the water so that it does not run down on the property. Councilman Spelman requested a commitment from Mr. Browne as to when he expects to do this, and thought a two weeks time limit would be ample. City Attorney Hall said he had written Mr. Browne on the matter.

City Manager Stevens stated bids for Cast Iron pipe have been checked and it had been found the low bid was submitted by the Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Co., and recommended that the contract be awarded to them at the low bid of \$3.70 per ft., and that all other bids be rejected. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens stated that it was the recommendation of the Consulting Engineer, the Water Superintendent and himself that the drilling and development job under Specification No. 4, for the improvement of our water supply system, contract for which was awarded to John R. Beylik, at the cost of \$11,262.04, be formally accepted. Councilman Elount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Gerald Motion of Seaside Ranchos, said he had heard some of the things that were supposed to have been done regarding the drainage, and so far, two weeks after the rain, nothing has been done. City Manager Stevens said he was not there with Mr. Browne, but Mr. Patrick was there and he stated that they would protect that property.

Mr. James Davis of Redondo Beach said "We are property owners in the City of Redondo Beach, our houses border on the City of Torrance on Avenue "A". The contractor over there has made a wall of sand twelve or fourteen feet high, and with the rain, all this sand is washing off right down on our property. We are over here to protest and to see if there isn't something that can be done so this will no longer exist. We have protested a number of times to the City Council in Redondo Beach, last night they said they were going to write to the City Council of Torrance. This contractor is hauling building equipment over this street and he has this street where we can hardly get in or out of it. I think he should be requested by the City Council to fix this street. We want to ask the City Council of Torrance if they can't help us on this."

Councilman Spelman said he had been expecting this, and saw no reason why our Engineering Department could not meet with this builder and make suggestions. City Manager Stevens informed him we had already done that, and they are working on sections of it. He told the Council the Redondo Beach Manager was over and the matter had been discussed, and they are going to send in a letter. He also said the City has already asked the builder to take care of those slopes. Councilman Benstead said the City Council of Torrance will do everything in its power to prevent any more of this.

Mr. Olson requested street lighting in the new section of the Madrona School. Councilman Drale said there are people who do not like the wooden poles and others who do not like street lights in front of their houses, and he recommended a survey be made regarding the wooden poles. City Manager Stevens also recommended that a survey be made to determine if the people want the temporary poles. Mr. Olson agreed to the survey.

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 adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

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

APPROVED:

*W. W. Schward*  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE