

Torrance, California
May 12, 1953

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, May 12, 1953, at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Schwab presiding.

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

Councilman Blount led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 28 and the special meeting of May 6, 1953, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by those present.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Milton Kauffman Construction Corporation requesting permission to delete the curb and gutter on the south side of 174th Street just west of Prairie Avenue, in their TRACT NO. 18882, in view of the fact that the California State Highway Department is putting in improvements on 174th Street.

Councilman Drale moved their request be granted with the condition they post a bond with the City, for the amount of installation, until the job is completed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

Councilman Drale requested City Manager Stevens to communicate with Property Management to see if they will agree to do this.

Request from C. N. Weber, License Inspector, to refund license fee, in the amount of \$5.00, to Caledonia Quintana, 1913 Carson Street, Torrance, license No. 3912, covering a cigarette vending machine.

Councilman Benstead moved the refund be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Letter from the South Bay Humane Society advising the addition of Mr. Francis V. Fallon as a partner in the Society.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter or record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Letter from the Division of Highways forwarding copies of an agreement covering City-State participation in the installation of temporary traffic control signals and intersection lighting on Hawthorne Avenue at Sepulveda Boulevard.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger told the Council there was a Resolution covering this agreement that would be read later.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Letter from the Nativity School, Torrance, requesting the use of the Civic Auditorium on May 10, 1953, free of charge.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted and the rental fee waived. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by those present.

Letter from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company reporting no franchise earnings under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1014, within the City of Torrance for the twelve months preceding April 30, 1953.

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Councilman Blount moved the communication be referred to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Councilman Drale asked the City Attorney if there was not some way the City could collect more revenue from these companies. City Attorney Hall advised he has been protesting all these reports in the hope the City of Los Angeles would come up with a case. He said the League of California Cities is also working on this matter.

Letter from the South Bay Humane Society requesting renewal of their contract for the next year, and enclosing report of work done for the City in the past ten months.

Councilman Drale moved that City Manager Stevens call for bids for this particular contract. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by those present.

Request of Mrs. Marie Hanna, 3435 Emerald Street, Torrance, for refund on unused portion of business license No. 3660, in the amount of \$12.00

Councilman Benstead moved the refund be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Report from the Recreation Department covering the summer program, in the amount of \$15,639.40, giving a breakdown of the required hours and rates, and special assignments.

Councilman Benstead moved that Recreation Director Carpenter be authorized to hire two people for each playground area, that is, one man, and one woman for arts and crafts, and that he bring the amount down to \$14,000.00 - then - if it is shown the area needs more people the Council will authorize it.

Councilman Drale seconded the motion and suggested that Mr. Carpenter act as an over-all director of all playgrounds. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That vacation pay be granted to Donnie H. Cook, who missed his regular vacation in 1952, due to a transfer from the Water Department to the Police Department.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens under item one, Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

2. That the following personnel be employed to serve their probationary period, effective May 1, 1953, at the first salary step and in the classification indicated:

- (a) Frank Cannon, Janitor.
- (b) Arlie W. Duncan, Bus Operator.
- (c) James M. Martinez, Jr., Bus Operator.
- (d) Harry L. Klinger, Jr., Fireman, effective May 16, 1953.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens under item two, Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For motor replacement on North Torrance Station fire truck, the approximate sum of \$5,400.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens under item one, Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

2. For purchase of two-way Mobile Radio for Fire Department, the sum of \$450. (A budget item)

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens under item two, Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

3. For purchase of projector and screen for Fire Department, the sum of \$503. (A budget item)

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens under item three, Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

4. For purchase of 600 lineal feet of 2-1/2" fire hose, the sum of \$930. (A budget item)
5. For purchase of 1,000 lineal feet of 1" fire hose, the sum of \$460. (A budget item)

Councilman Benstead moved that City Manager Stevens call for bids on items four and five under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Letter of Transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending approval of TRACT NO. 17838, consisting of 98 lots on the northeast corner of Yukon Avenue and 190th Street, to be developed by Watt Construction Company, with the condition proper drainage be provided.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving TRACT NO. 17838, subject to the special condition. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Councilman Blount requested the Engineering Department to look this drainage problem over very carefully.

Request of the Planning Commission for the Council to hold the third and final hearing on CASE NO. 258, petition of C. H. Lebow for a Change of Zone on property located south of Sepulveda Boulevard and east of Hawthorne Avenue, being Lots 102 to 106, inclusive, and Lots 112 and 117, inclusive, of Tract No. 2200, from M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) to R-1 (Single-family Residential) Zone.

Councilman Drale moved the third and final hearing on CASE NO. 258 be held on Tuesday, May 26, 1953, at 8:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE NO. 259, petition of Frank D. McEwen for a Variance and Conditional Permit to divide property located at 3962 West 171st Street into two lots for residential construction, each having a width of forty-one (41') and a depth of one hundred and fifty feet (150').

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval of CASE NO. 259. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Request of the Planning Commission for the Council to hold the third and final hearing on CASE NO. 260, petition of William H. Campbell for a Change of Zone on property located at New Grenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway, as shown on Exhibit A.

Mayor Schwab set Tuesday, May 26, 1953, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber as the time and date for the third and final hearing on CASE NO. 260.

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Recommendation by the Planning Commission, at the request of Torrance Gardens Homeowners' Association, to initiate a Change of Zone on the property bounded on the North by a line fifty feet (50') north of Maricopa Street, on the East by Maple Avenue, on the South by Torrance Boulevard and on the West by Madrona Avenue, to A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone.

After a discussion regarding the location of this property Councilman Benstead moved this be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried. Councilman Blount objected.

Recommendation of the Planning Commission to adopt amendment to Ordinance No. 612, Section 14, Paragraph E, Sub-Paragraph 1, regulating the height of fences.

Councilman Drale moved this amendment be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

City Manager Stevens advised the Council that by error TRACT NO. 19108 was not put on the agenda. This tract is the one that was up for final approval previously and action postponed to a special meeting held on May 6, 1953, at which time action was postponed until the Council meeting May 12, 1953, because the interested parties had not come to an agreement regarding the Earl Street problem. Mr. Stevens advised this should have been on the agenda and rightfully should be taken up tonight.

Councilman Benstead inquired what the Court's decision was on this case.

Mr. Arnold Oppenheim, representing the Omega Construction Company, advised the case has been continued until May 15, 1953, to give the plaintiffs a chance to accept what has been offered.

One of the residents from Earl Street stated Mr. Armstrong, their attorney, was unable to be at the meeting tonight but that they were still fighting the case.

Mr. Henry Griswold, a subdivider, advised the Council he was being held up on construction on his tract, which is adjacent to TRACT NO. 19108, until this tract is approved.

Councilman Benstead said it was his opinion that approval of this tract should be held up until the Court has decided the case.

After a general discussion Councilman Drale moved to withhold approval of TRACT NO. 19108 until the temporary ruling of the Court is received. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2385

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND
CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF TORRANCE COVERING
ENGINEERING FEES FOR DESIGN OF BOND ISSUE
STORM DRAINS.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2385. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2386

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2386. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

At 8:55 p.m. Mayor Schwab declared a five minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2387

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING BILL INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE NAME OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE SOUTH BAY JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2387. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2388

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING RESOLUTION NUMBER 2373.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2388. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2389

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN QUITCLAIM DEED TO REMCO-REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2389. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2390

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN QUITCLAIM DEED TO TORRANCE MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2390. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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ORDINANCE NO. 638

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 612, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 248.

Councilman Drale moved this be referred to the next Agenda Meeting because of the previous recommendations of the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

ORDINANCE NO. 639

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 612, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 249.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 639 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 640

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE FIRST ALLEY LYING NORTH OF NEWTON STREET AND EXTENDING WEST FROM WINLOCK DRIVE.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 640 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 641

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING THE REMOVAL OF MANHOLE COVERS FROM PUBLIC SEWERS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 641 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 642

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING THE KEEPING OF PIGEONS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 642 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount asked that an ordinance covering the tethering of horses be written.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Benstead moved that the Mayor set the time and date for a meeting with the School Board, to be held in the City Hall, in regard to recreation, to discuss facilities, and requested City Manager Stevens to write the necessary letters. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by those present.

Councilman Blount said one of the Commissioners at the Recreation meeting held on May 5, 1953, moved that the City Council place on the ballot a bond issue for a swimming pool.

Councilman Blount moved the City Attorney be instructed to take steps to place a bond issue in the amount of \$300,000, limited to the construction of a swimming pool, on the April ballot.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount advised that sometime ago a communication was received from the Fire Chief requesting the Council to take cognizance of the fact that he had requested the present ordinances controlling fireworks be replaced with one prohibiting it. Councilman Blount moved to concur with the request of the Fire Chief.

Motion lost for lack of a second.

City Manager Stevens advised the Council there were two very important bills that are before the Legislature and suggested they both be opposed very strongly:

1. A semi-constitutional amendment No. 26 which would propose to tax all municipal property. This would affect the Bus Department and the Water Department, and they would be subject to taxation, as well as any private property.
2. Proposed Assembly Bill 817 in which the State proposes to add a $\frac{1}{2}\%$ increase in the State sales tax. Any city that does not have a sales tax would get 90% of the additional $\frac{1}{2}\%$ State sales tax to be expended for "state purposes", and any city that does have a sales tax, or a business license tax, would not get the additional increase.

Councilman Blount moved that City Manager Stevens be instructed to send wires opposing these two bills. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

City Manager Stevens said there was one other matter that failed to get on the agenda; a letter from the City Engineer asking that residence requirements be waived for one of the Construction Inspector positions which is open so that he could hire one temporarily. There was also a letter from the Civil Service Board which stated it was their opinion that the requirements could not be waived, but if the salary schedule was raised it would attract residents of Torrance.

Mr. Stevens explained that they have made every effort and have utilized all the available help in the organization; and that it was impossible to cover inspections on twenty-five subdivisions with the present help. He said they had called for an examination but out of four applications received only one qualified; they have extended the closing date for the filing of applications in the hopes of receiving additional applications.

City Engineer Bishop said one applicant who qualified was very interested in taking the job, and was perfectly willing to take it on a temporary basis, pending the outcome of the Civil Service examination.

After a general discussion, Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the request of City Engineer Bishop in waiving the residence requirement for the hiring of one Construction Inspector on a temporary basis, and that the Civil Service Board be advised of the Council's action, and why such action was taken. Motion, seconded by

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Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

Mr. Coleman, Secretary of the Little League, requested the use of City bleachers to be used during the summer season at the Little League ball park.

City Manager Stevens advised there were two sections of portable bleachers at the Torrance Park which would not be used by the Recreation Department in its summer program. He said they needed painting and repairing but structurally the bleachers were in good shape. Councilman Drale inquired if the City would paint and repair these bleachers. Mr. Stevens said he assumed the City would put them in shape for the Little League.

Councilman Benstead moved the request of the Little League for the use of bleachers be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Spelman.

Councilman Drale inquired if there was anything the City could do about raising the water pressure at the Little League ball park. City Manager Stevens said the present supply of water at the airport was through the courtesy of a county water district. He said he did not know how to help them in regard to water pressure at this time; ultimately there will be water in a 24 inch line; however, there is no water in that line now and there will not be for some time. Councilman Blount said if the City has to continue helping this organization they might as well take over the ball park.

Councilman Drale said he had a petition signed by sixteen residents and taxpayers of Pueblo, 203rd Street and Arlington, requesting the American Rock Wool Company be stopped from releasing the water from their plant into their homes.

City Manager Stevens said he had visited the plant and advised them they must discontinue this practice. He said he also wrote them a letter, as a matter of record, but had not received a reply.

Asst. to City Engineer Patrick said this company was trying to get approval from the County to discharge clear water into the sewer, and it was his understanding they had their application filed with the County.

Councilman Drale moved that City Attorney Hall be ordered to use whatever power is necessary to abate this nuisance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Mr. Patronskey stated he had served on the Recreation Commission for over four years and wanted to call attention to the fact that in no instance has the City been refused the use of any school facilities when they have been available.

Mr. Sues inquired if the City had a legal agreement for the use of the school facilities.

Mr. Patronskey told him that under law the school property is available to the youths, and all the people of the City, when they are not in use by the schools; he advised Mr. Sues no agreement was necessary or needed.

Mr. Schoonover inquired what was being done about the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company. Asst. to City Engineer Patrick told him the Planning Commission is investigating this matter.

Mr. Schoonover also stated there is a safety hazard on Newton Street, and about half a street is blinded by an avocado orchard. He requested some action be taken by the Engineering Department to eliminate this hazard. Asst. to City Engineer Patrick said he would investigate this matter; he was not sure whether this was in County or City territory, but assured Mr. Schoonover the matter would be taken care of.

Councilman Blount moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

At 10:15 p.m. Councilman Blount moved the meeting adjourn until 5:30 p.m., May 15, 1953, to take action on Tract No. 19108. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

A. H. Bartlett

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

J. M. Schurb

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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