

Torrance, California
July 28, 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, July 28, 1953, 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.

Councilman Spelman led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Stanton of the Central Evangelical United Brethren Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

As first order of business Councilman Drale requested the minutes of July 14, 1953, be corrected, as the Democratic Party wanted the use of the Civic Auditorium on Saturday, August 29, 1953, for a dinner in honor of Cecil R. King, instead of Saturday, August 15, 1953.

Councilman Blount moved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 14, 1953, be approved as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the third and final hearing of the 1953-1954 Budget. Oral protests were called for; there being none, Mayor Schwab announced it was the intention of the Council to continue this Hearing until August 11, 1953.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Letter, dated July 21, 1953, from Neil S. McCarthy and Franklin W. Peck, Attorneys for Louis B. Mayer, owner; and Donald Armstrong, Attorney for Don-Ja-Ran Construction Company, Inc., subdivider, demanding a full and complete public hearing before the Council regarding Tracts Nos. 19305 and 19306.

Letter, dated July 28, 1953, from Neil S. McCarthy and Franklin W. Peck, Attorneys for Louis B. Mayer; and Donald Armstrong, Attorney for George Wright and Don-Ja-Ran Construction Company, Inc., requesting a continuance of the public hearing for approval of subdivision maps on Tracts Nos. 19305 and 19306.

Attorney Armstrong said their request for the continuance to August 11, 1953, is necessary for the reason their principal witness is out of town.

Mr. C. W. Key, spokesman for the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners' Association, said a lot of time had been spent on this problem; he believed the Council members were aware of the proposals submitted in regard to these tracts; that the Planning Commission had made their recommendation to the Council for denial of these tracts, and requested the Council to take action on Tracts Nos. 19305 and 19306 tonight.

City Attorney Hall said this appeal is based on certain Code Sections which provide for a hearing. He stated an extension of time is at the will of the Council, but they are entitled to a hearing; otherwise whatever other action the Council takes would be subject to challenge.

Councilman Benstead moved the request for an extension of time on this hearing be granted to August 11, 1953. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Attorney Armstrong thanked the Council for granting the continuance and assured them they would ask for no future continuances.

Councilman Drale said the Council had talked with both interested parties, and in his opinion they should be able to come to some agreement. He stated all the people in Hollywood Riviera wanted was to maintain the building plan established - and if it does not create a hardship on the subdivider he felt the subdivider should carry out the original plans originated in that particular area.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had received a Summons, Victoria Enterprises, Inc., a California Corporation, v. City of Torrance, relative to the validity of Ordinance No. 606, establishing fee for sewer connections.

Councilman Spelman moved this Summons be referred to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association requesting electric red blinker lights be installed at 171st Street and Crenshaw Boulevard - and additional police and fire protection.

Councilman Blount moved the letter be referred to the next Agenda meeting for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request of the California Fuchsia Society to hold their annual picnic at the Torrance City Park on September 20, 1953, and to reserve adequate space and facilities to accommodate the 350 or 400 people expected to attend.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Request of M. MaKieve, dba, The Gift Box, 4933 Verdura Avenue, Lakewood 11, California, for refund of unused portion of business license No. 3687. City Clerk Bartlett recommended the refund of \$12.00 be granted.

Councilman Drale moved the refund of \$12.00 be granted to M. MaKieve. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending approval of Tract No. 19150, consisting of 80 lots, located south of Sepulveda Boulevard and east of Madison Street, to be developed by Hirsch-Victory Enterprises.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission in approving Tract No. 19150. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale suggested the matter of adopting the policy of having street lights installed in new tracts be discussed at the next Agenda meeting. Councilman Spelman requested City Manager Stevens to write a letter to the Planning Commission for their recommendations in regard to this matter.

City Clerk Bartlett requested the Council to authorize him to hire Edith S. Meskimen temporarily as a typist-clerk. She is from the Civil Service list.

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Councilman Drale moved to concur with the request of Mr. Bartlett. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission, regarding Lomita Boulevard in Tracts Nos. 13028 and 17965, together with a print showing the alignments of Lomita Boulevard and Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record and a copy sent to the newly formed Sepulveda Gardens Homeowners' Association. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from Allied Contractors, Inc. regarding adjustment of claims for water system charges in the Allied Gardens subdivision. Councilman Benstead moved this be referred to City Attorney Hall. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from Harold Hensgen & Associates requesting relief for off-site sewer lines to serve Tracts Nos. 19150, 19462 and 19463. Councilman Blount moved this be discussed fully at the next Agenda meeting, and requested City Manager Stevens to have available the number of feet of off-site sewer required to serve these tracts. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending denial of Tracts Nos. 19305 and 19306, consisting of 350 lots, situated Westerly and Southerly of Via Monte d'Oro, Southeasterly of Calle Mayor, and Easterly of Palos Verdes Boulevard, to be developed by Don-Ja-Ran Construction Company, 8660 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California.

Councilman Spelman moved that action on these tracts be delayed until after the Hearing to be held August 11, 1953. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of the Water Department, recommending main changes on Border Avenue between Mullin Avenue and Engracia Avenue.

Councilman Blount moved this be referred to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Request of A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of the Water Department, for authorization to make refunds to subdividers for water main installations.

City Manager Stevens said these are past agreements and must be paid off.

Councilman Spelman moved the communication be filed as a matter of record, and Mr. McVicar be authorized to make these refunds. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of the Water Department, for authorization to transfer funds from the City General Fund to the Bond Interest & Redemption Fund, to meet interest and principal payments due.

City Manager Stevens recommended these funds be transferred to meet obligations due.

Councilman Blount moved Mr. McVicar's request to transfer funds be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Claim of Frank S. Selover for \$560.00, representing financial loss suffered July 3, 4 and 5, 1946, for the Veterans of Torrance Welcome Home Celebration.

City Attorney Hall said sometime ago he ruled this could be paid as a promotional expense through the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Spelman moved Mr. Selover's claim be referred to the Chamber of Commerce, with the request they report to the Council the action they will take - and pointing out Mr. Hall's opinion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Statement from Standard Gas Company, together with their check in the amount of \$18.30, for the amount due as of July 10,

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1953, under Franchise Ordinance #389.

Councilman Blount moved this report be referred to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

A general discussion followed on ways to collect more money under the franchise ordinances.

At 9:00 p.m. Mayor Schwab declared a ten-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Letter from Aetna Life Insurance Company regarding rates under Group Policy H-40186.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be referred to City Manager Stevens for reference at a later date. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from City Engineer Bishop recommending the City accept the subdivider's offer, by Grant Deed, of Lots 188 to 191, inclusive, of Tract No. 19108, located northerly of the center line of Future Lomita Boulevard and westerly of undedicated Earl Street, to be used for drainage purposes.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Engineer Bishop, with the provision these lots belong to the City of Torrance without qualifications - and so stated in the Grant Deed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Copy of agreement between the City of Torrance and the Torrance Sand & Gravel Company.

Councilman Blount moved City Attorney Hall be instructed to process this agreement. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

- 1. That the following personnel be appointed to serve their probationary period as Firemen, on the dates indicated and at the first salary bracket:
 - (a) Wesley Christian -- July 16, 1953.
 - (b) Ernest Katzorke --- July 17, 1953.
- 2. That Henry J. Herman be temporarily employed as a Bus Operator, effective July 17, 1953, at the first salary bracket, service to be terminated on September 6, 1953. (No eligible list available for the position.)

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one and two, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1. That the time for construction of an Armory by the California National Guard, on the site provided by the City, be extended for a period of one year.
- 2. That the contract for auditing services for 1953-54 be awarded to Logan R. Cotton and Myron E. Francisco, in the amount of \$3,550, as the lowest firm bid for the services.
- 3. That the City Manager be authorized to initiate proceedings for the taking of a Special Federal Census.
- 4. That the Street Superintendent and Park Superintendent be authorized to prepare an over-all plan for the improvement of major parkways in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendations City Manager Stevens, items one through four, under Miscellaneous. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick regarding the 15-foot setback on Tract No. 15569, requested by the Palisades Builders, stating the Planning Commission had approved this setback on July 22, 1953, with the recommendation that the City of Torrance serve this tract with water; also a letter from the Seaboard Engineering Company advising the developers of Tract No. 15569 plan to install sanitary sewers to serve this tract.

After a lengthy discussion regarding this tract, Councilman Drale moved all information pertaining to Palisades Builders Tract No. 15569 be referred back to the Planning Commission, with the request their recommendations be submitted to the Council on a regular transmittal form. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending approval of Case No. 266, initiated by the Planning Commission, for Change of Zone on property bounded on the North by a line 50' north of Maricopa Street, on the East by Maple Avenue, on the South by Torrance Boulevard, and on the West by Madrona Avenue, from M-2 to A-1; and requesting the third and final hearing be held before the City Council.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission on Case No. 266 and that the Mayor set the date of August 25, 1953, for the third and final hearing. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab set August 25, 1953, as the date for the third and Final hearing on Case No. 266.

Transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending approval of Case No. 267, Variance for 18-Unit Bungalow Court to be developed by the Middle South Development Company at the southeast corner of Garnet Street and Hawthorne Avenue.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission in approving Case No. 267. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Letter from Earle A. Lloyd, Secretary of the Planning Commission, advising the Planning Commission had unanimously referred the following petition to the City Council for immediate attention:

"We, the undersigned residents of Maple Avenue and vicinity, in Torrance, respectfully request that the City of Torrance take whatever action may be necessary to alleviate the health hazard caused by the flies and odors from the hog farms and dairies to the West of us."

City Manager Stevens said there is a meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 29th, with the Committee from the Planning Commission, owners of the hog farms, owners of the dairy farms, a member of the County Health Department, and Mr. Powell. He said Mr. Powell has been working on this problem with the County Health Department.

Mr. Austin, from the Torrance Gardens area, and also Chairman of the Smog Committee in that area, asked that something be done immediately to alleviate this health hazard. He said he has been invited to attend the meeting on Wednesday night.

A general discussion followed - with the Council members stating they were unaware of these conditions, and insisting they be informed of any such conditions in the future, as they are the ones who are questioned on these problems and they are the ones who have to take action.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2422

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND SHELL OIL CO.

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. 2422. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2423

A 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 CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY.

Councilman Benstead 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. 2423. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2424

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, THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED FROM THE SEPULVEDA BUILDING COMPANY, INC.

Councilman Spelman moved Resolution No. 2424 be held over to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 650

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. 258.

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. 650 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 651

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. 260.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 651 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Spelman inquired if anything had been done about the type of trees to be planted in these new subdivisions. City

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Manager Stevens said a list of trees is sent to the subdivider and he must conform to the type of trees on the list; they are restricted to a certain type.

City Attorney Hall said he would like to recommend the salary of Boris S. Woolley, City Prosecutor, be increased to \$250.00 per month, for the fiscal year 1953-54, which will place him on a comparable basis with the City Prosecutors of Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Attorney Hall. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Herrin, representative of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce, requested permission to sell beer in the booths for the street dance to be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

City Attorney Hall advised the Council there was an ordinance prohibiting this. The Council denied the request.

Commander William A. Mason requested something be done about supervising the Torrance Beach. He said the drinking parties and carousing at all hours of the night were making life miserable for residents of this area. He said this is County territory and our Chief of Police has no jurisdiction over the area.

Chief of Police Stroh advised he has taken it up with the Sheriff's office and they are supposed to look into the matter and report to him. Chief Stroh said he would like to get this cleared up.

Councilman Drale moved a letter be written to Mr. Burton W. Chace, Supervisor of the 4th District, and make him aware of the facts - stating that our Chief of Police has contacted the Sheriff's office for information, and suggesting he also contact them-- to see if something can be done about supervising the Torrance Beach, which is in County territory - and moved the letter be signed by City Manager Stevens and Mayor Schwab. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Mr. Ray McCann, Mindora Drive, Sepulveda Gardens, inquired if Truman Browne was going to sewer the eighty new homes he is building in their area, or if they were going to have cesspools.

After a general discussion City Manager Stevens was requested to contact Mr. Browne about sewerage these homes and report to the Council at the next Agenda meeting.

Mr. McCann said as soon as their Homeowners' Group was organized they would have a petition for a sewer district assessment.

Mr. Schoonover thanked the Council for their action on the letter from the Pacific Hills Homeowners' Association regarding the Torrance Sand & Gravel Company.

Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:10 p.m. Councilman Blount moved the meeting adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE