

Torrance, California  
December 14, 1954

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 Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, December 14, 1954, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Drale presiding.

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

At the request of Mayor Drale, Mr. Muir led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Bello opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Blount moved the minutes of December 7, 1954, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously.

HEARING

Mayor Drale announced the time had come for the public hearing on the Vacation of portions of 244th Street, as set forth in Resolution of Intention No. 2653.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had the Affidavit of Publication and one letter from Mr. David Hardy, favoring the Vacation. No letters of protest.

Mayor Drale called for oral protests, there being none, Councilman Blount moved the hearing be closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved the City Attorney be instructed to prepare the necessary ordinance ordering the vacation of portions of 244th Street. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

DEL AMO BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Report from City Engineer Bishop, dated December 10, 1954, on the present status of Del Amo Boulevard Improvement District.  
Matter of record.

Communication from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick submitting a Resolution determining the nature, location and extent of the Del Amo Boulevard Improvement District.  
Matter of record.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. <sup>2651</sup>2651

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THE NATURE, LOCATION AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD FROM CRENSHAW BOULEVARD TO 1740.33 FEET EAST, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF CURBS, GUTTERS AND SIDEWALKS; THE GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT DISTRICT; AND THE STATUTE UNDER WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO CONDUCT THE PROCEEDINGS FOR SUCH IMPROVEMENT.

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. 2651. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Drale stated there had been a request to hear CASE NO. 330 at this time. As there were no objections, City Clerk Bartlett presented:

CASE NO. 330: Transmittal form from the Planning Commission recommending denial of petition of Clinton H. Glenny, owner, for a Variance and Conditional Permit to construct and operate a Drive-In Theater on the Northwest corner of 236th Street and Hawthorne Avenue in Land Use A-1 Zone (Light Agricultural), Lot 18, Meadow Park Tract.

Mr. H. W. Hertzberg, representing Mr. Glenny, requested the City Council to refer this case back to the Planning Commission for further study. He stated the Planning Commission had appointed a three-man committee to investigate this case, which they did very thoroughly, and that each member of the committee voted to approve Case No. 330. He stated that Mr. Glenny feels the Planning Commission did not consider everything and they would like a chance to present further engineering data to the Commission so they would thoroughly understand the engineering problems involved.

Councilman Benstead moved this case be referred back to the Planning Commission for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Schwab and Drale.

Mayor Drale advised that it had been the unanimous vote of the City Council that no building be allowed in this area and that if they approved the drive-in they would also have to allow homes to be built in this area.

Councilman Isen said he felt this should go back to the Planning Commission for further study and that also, due to the proximity of this particular project, that it should be referred to the Airport Commission for their recommendation. He inquired if there was a letter from the Airport Commission regarding this matter.

City Manager Stevens said there were letters of protest in the file from the following: Joseph E. Bonadiman, Civil Engineer; Acme Aircraft Company; Vegas Air, Inc.; and Edward Dietrich, Jr., Airport Manager of the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Councilman Isen moved CASE NO. 330 be referred to the Airport Commission for their recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Schwab and Drale.

Mayor Drale called for oral discussion.

Mr. H. W. Hertzberg said he felt the difficulty was due to a misunderstanding as to the water situation. He stated the City Engineer of the City of Torrance has stated there is no hazard. Mr. Hertzberg said they anticipate it will be a great aid in the water situation.

Mr. Arthur Drielsma, architect for Mr. Glenny, stated he has built about 25 drive-in theaters in California. The problems involved in this drive-in are a little different but not completely so. He stated this has been discussed with the City Engineer of the City of Torrance and they feel they have a scheme worked out which will satisfactorily take care of the water. Mr. Drielsma said they were not going to import any fill or raise the ground, they were going to excavate and allow the wells to take care of the water. He felt they would be helping this low area rather than hindering it. He stated they did not feel they had been allowed enough time to explain this case to everybody.

Mr. Hertzberg said there were several people in the audience who were in favor of this drive-in. He asked that they stand. Approximately forty people indicated they were in favor of this project.

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Mr. Hertzberg pointed out that the Century Drive-In Theater was about one mile from the International Airport and that this was one of the most successful drive-ins in California. He said there was a letter in the files from the C. A. A. and he had been informed the letter stated there was no immediate hazard or any objection to the drive-in on the part of the C. A. A. Mr. Hertzberg said that his client, Mr. Glenny, had filed a letter with the Planning Commission stating he will make no protest as far as the noise created by aircraft is concerned.

Mayor Drale inquired how many acres there were in the Walteria Lake District. City Manager Stevens said his rough guess would be between 300 and 500 acres.

Mayor Drale advised it was his opinion if they let the drive-in go in they would also have to allow others to build in this area. He said the County is trying to develop a basin to take care of flood control waters. He said he was not opposed to the drive-in but once the City opens the gates it means everyone can build.

Councilman Schwab read excerpts from the Planning Commission minutes of December 1, 1954, regarding this case and Councilman Blount read excerpts from the City Council minutes of August 10, 1954, in which the City Council unanimously voted to prohibit building in this area.

Mr. Hertzberg requested the Council to refer this matter to a later date in the event they did not see fit to refer it back to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Jack Brown, representing the Walteria Businessmen's Club, stated they felt this theater would be an asset in the spot picked for it. He said that when the time comes for this area to be built up if every business that wants to come in would take care of the water problem, as Mr. Glenny proposes to do, the problem would be licked. He stated they felt this case has not been thoroughly presented to the Planning Commission and they could not understand why they recommended it to the City Council for denial when their committee recommended approval of it. Mr. Brown requested the City Council to refer this back to the Planning Commission for further study.

Mr. B. P. Pendleton said he was speaking as a business man and as a citizen. He stated this theater has been referred to as a building, however, the rest rooms, projector and screen would be the only things that would prohibit water on the ground. Mr. Pendleton said he understood the City Engineer approved the engineering angle of this, with the retaining wall, seepage pits, etc., as outlined by the engineers for Mr. Glenny. He stated that as far as the danger from the planes, there was very little night flying, and in his opinion Clark's Market and the homes in the Meadow Park Tract were in a more direct line with the airport than the drive-in would be.

Mr. Drielsma explained in detail the dike they propose to build, the seepage pits, etc. He said this has been checked with the County Flood Control District. He said that Barnett, Hopen and Smith would be hired so they would have the full benefit of their knowledge. He stated that with the help of Barnett, Hopen and Smith and the City Engineer this problem could be licked. He was sure the Council was not going to leave this land idle and that this was the first step in improving it. Mr. Drielsma referred again to the action taken by the Planning Commission. The three members of the committee appointed to study this project all voted in favor of it, while the balance of the Commission opposed it. He felt if the ones who did oppose it were given the same amount of time and opportunity to investigate this, they would also be in favor of the drive-in theater.

Mr. George Olding stated he was in favor of this theater, he said we have all been interested in improving this district and this concern comes in and is willing to take care of the water on their property and, to a certain limited extent, take care of the other areas. He thought the Council should consider this, otherwise this land is going to be a big tax problem. He also said he did not think this thing could be talked about and decided by laymen as it was strictly an engineering problem.

Mayor Drale inquired if there had been other requests to build in this area.

City Manager Stevens advised that several subdivision had been denied. This area is probably 300 to 500 acres at the highest flood period, and is known to the Flood Control District as the Walteria Lake. The water shed is approximately 3,000 acres so that by just taking care of your own water is not enough. If this area was built up piece by piece and each individual was taking care of the proper drainage he would have to take care of ten times the acreage he was improving. Mr. Stevens said this was a fundamental fact, if you don't do this you are just shoving the water on to someone else.

Mr. Drielsma said they knew they could not take care of 3,000 acres, however, they will take care of their own property and some of the other water that will overflow their dykes. He said they felt they were giving the area a big lift, they would definitely improve property values. He said this would have to be a special use permit, as this was a special use which required a special permit, they would not have anyone living there, in a heavy rain there wouldn't be anyone in the drive-in so there would be no hazard to human life, if any loss occurred it would be their loss.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in denying the Variance and Conditional Permit requested in CASE NO. 330. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

Councilman Isen explained he abstained from voting because he felt a proper presentation had not been made before the Planning Commission. Councilman Schwab stated he felt a proper presentation had been made before the Planning Commission.

At 8:50 P.M., Mayor Drale declared a recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 P.M.

Report of Councilmen Benstead, Blount and Schwab regarding the use of the diagonal parking method in the block of Crenshaw Boulevard, bounded by 171st and 174th Streets, as recommended by the Traffic Commission.

Due to certain protests received regarding this parking method this matter was referred to the above named Councilmen for their recommendation. They all reported they had checked this area and all concurred with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the present set-up, as recommended by the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

Report from Harry B. Van Bellehem, Director of Recreation, on the In-Service Training Institute on Administration of Recreation and Park Services held at Stanford University, November 28 to December 4, 1954.

Councilman Isen moved the report be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the residents of the Crenshaw Elementary School District, accompanied by a petition containing 803 signatures, requesting that an electric signal be installed at the school crossing at 187th Street for the protection of school children crossing Crenshaw Boulevard to attend school. They recommended that the signal be controlled by push button control, operating only when a button on either side of the boulevard is pushed, and stated this signal is intended to aid the crossing guard and is not intended to replace the crossing guard.

Councilman Blount said there was no doubt but what a signal should be installed in this spot, in fact it is essential; however, it is entirely for the benefit of traffic across Crenshaw to and from the school and for no other reason, and that the School Board should participate in this.

City Manager Stevens said there was a letter from Dr. Hull in which he stated they have to use their money for educational purposes.

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Councilman Isen said that assuming the School Board will not contribute and assuming the City feels these signals are necessary, he wondered if a test case would be necessary in order to get a ruling.

City Attorney Hall said he had not completed his study of this but he understood the Superintendent of Schools had requested an opinion from the County Counsel's office.

Councilman Blount said he would like to see this petition addressed to the School Board and see if they would turn it down.

Councilman Isen moved that a copy of the letter and the original petition be forwarded to the School Board for their recommendation.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Mayor Drale requested City Manager Stevens to write an appropriate letter accompanying this petition.

Councilman Blount suggested the City Council meet with the School Board. Mayor Drale said he would arrange a meeting.

Communication from the City Clerk of Redondo Beach transmitting certified copy of their Resolution No. 2672 endorsing the establishment of a Young Men's Christian Association in the South Bay Area, which includes the Hollywood Riviera, and requesting the Council's enthusiastic support in the establishment of this Branch Association.

Councilman Blount moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Duplicate of petition dated November 9, 1954, which was presented to the Planning Commission protesting the proposed Change of Zone in the area South of 242nd Street.

Councilman Isen moved the petition be filed as a matter of record until the matter is brought before the City Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Communication from the Torrance Unified School District opposing the annexation of Rolling Hills district.

Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. recommending John Mulvihill, 3765 West 171st Street, for an appointment on the Planning Commission when a vacancy occurs.

Mayor Drale requested the communication be referred to Councilman Schwab as he would make the next appointment.

Communication from William Barnett inquiring as to the cost of license to sell hand made novelties in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Isen said he thought this was a matter between the City Clerk and the individual. If he wanted to solicit, which he did not state in the communication, it was prohibited by ordinance.

Councilman Blount moved the communication be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried.

Communication from the Civil Service Board advising they approved the request of Police Chief Haslam that promotional examinations be held for the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief, in accordance with requirements submitted by the Chief, copy of which, together with a list of eligible personnel, is attached hereto for your approval.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of the communication. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount carried.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission as to the recommendation of Chief of Police Haslam that promotional examinations be held for the above ranks. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett stated he had received requests for free use of the Civic Auditorium, for their Christmas parties, from the following, and that they had all been cleared with the Recreation Department:

- (a) National Supply Employees' Club
- (b) Longren Aircraft Company
- (c) Shell Employees' Activities Association
- (d) Brotherhood of Operative Potters, Sec. Local 218

Councilman Blount moved the above requests be granted, providing they pay the required janitorial fees. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read the following communication from the Torrance Unified School District:

"This is to express the appreciation of the Board of Education for the cooperation that the City Council and the City Planning Commission have given us with respect to the Don-Ja-Ran school site; and to inform you that the Board of Education, after careful consideration, finds it impossible to divert funds from urgent school-expansion problems."

City Manager Stevens said he had to call the Superintendent of Schools to find out what he meant by this letter. The first part was to advise the School Board will buy the school site, and the last sentence was in reply to the letter regarding the school participating in the cost of school signals.

Councilman Blount moved the communication be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried.

Communication from the State of California Division of Highways advising their office has approved the installation of traffic signals on 174th Street at Casimir Avenue, with the understanding that the cost is to be financed jointly by the City of Torrance and the State.

Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried.

Invitation from Councilman E. W. Linaker of Manhattan Beach for city officials to attend dedication of new fire station in their city.

Matter of record, as the dedication was held on December 12th.

Request of Bob Bosnyak, contractor of North Torrance Sewer District No. 2, for an extension of thirty days on his contract. Asst. to City Engineer Patrick recommended the extension be granted.

Councilman Blount moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That the following personnel be appointed to serve their probationary periods, effective December 1, 1954, as Laborers in the Street Department, at the first salary step: (Selected from Eligible List)
  - (a) Henry Specht.
  - (b) Frank B. Watkins.
2. That Jonathan L. Dunmyer be appointed to serve his probationary period as Laborer in the Park Department, effective December 1, 1954, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List).

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Councilman Benstead moved to concur with items 1 and 2 under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Forsythe Excavators for the improvement of Ashley Avenue, the sum of \$6,695.02, including extras.
2. To Albert Schuh, Assignee of Zavas & Sons, for the installation of sewers on Crenshaw Boulevard from Lomita Boulevard to the industrial tract on the Torrance Municipal Airport, the sum of \$9,885.45.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item 1 and 2, under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from the Planning Commission with various recommendations, dated December 10, 1954.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of communication from the Planning Commission, dated December 10, 1954. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Councilman Isen moved that each item on the above communication be placed on the City Council agenda at an appropriate time, at the discretion of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to the following:

<sup>2662</sup>  
RESOLUTION NO. 2652

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN COMMUNITY  
RECREATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS  
ANGELES AND THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR 1954-1955.

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

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2652. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

<sup>2663</sup>  
RESOLUTION NO. 2653

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND  
CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT BY AND  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND R. E. PAYNE.

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

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2653. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. <sup>2667</sup> 2654

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY 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 CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, TO WIT: THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF A PUBLIC ALLEY-WAY OVER AND ACROSS CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2654. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 715

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

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

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 715 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Blount, Isen, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that one of the police cars had been completely demolished in an accident, that they are trying to collect from the person responsible for the accident, however, as this car was leased from Paul's Chevrolet Company it would have to be paid for. In arriving at how to pay for it the following formula was used: The cost price of the car, less the salvage value, and he recommended this amount be paid to Paul's Chevrolet.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens reported that Chief Benner had been offered \$350, by the AAA Scrap Metal Salvage Company, Inc. of 190th and Normandie, for the purchase of the city's 1927 American La-France ladder truck.

Chief Benner recommended that \$400 be asked for the vehicle. Mr. Leiser, representing the AAA Scrap Metal, Inc., agreed to the price of \$400 and advised the Council his company did not plan to scrap the vehicle but wished to preserve it.

Councilman Blount moved the offer be accepted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens stated that Chief Haslam recommended the fine for over-parking be incorporated in the new parking signs to be installed and recommended the fine be \$1.00. He thought this should be incorporated in the ordinance passed tonight.

Councilman Isen inquired what the fine was in other areas of the city. Chief Haslam said the fine was now \$2.00, but he thought that with the parking meters the fine should be reduced, and he thought the ordinance should be amended.

City Attorney Hall said this was not necessary.

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City Attorney Hall reported that the letter stating the intentions of John Wiley Jones Company to remove their bottling operation from the present Border Avenue location was in compliance with the agreement with the City.

Councilman Isen requested the City Attorney to put his opinion in writing and that each member of the Council be furnished a copy, one copy for the files, and one copy forwarded to Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Hall stated he would comply with this request.

City Attorney Hall reported he has had several meetings with Mr. Parrish of the Michie Publishing Company, regarding the codification of the City ordinances. Mr. Hall said this was a tremendous job but should be completed before long.

Councilman Isen referred to the informal meeting had with Mr. McVicar regarding the switch over from the Moneta Water Company to the Torrance Municipal Water Company in Tract No. 15926.

Councilman Isen moved Mr. McVicar, as Superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Water District, be instructed to take over the services of this particular tract of homes on January 3, 1955. That a letter be issued forthwith and sent registered mail, by the Legal Department, to the Moneta Water Company, return receipt requested, advising them of the action of the Council and the fact that the turn-over, the change, will be accomplished on January 3, 1954, and that between this time and January 3rd the Superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Water District be authorized to give the type of notice he thinks best to the residents, that there will be a slight delay on that date. Lastly, in the event that Mr. McVicar determines the Moneta Water Company is not cooperating and has not read the meters, that he effect a reading of the meters prior to the turn-over, by the meter readers of the Torrance Municipal Water Company, or any independent meter readers he might so choose to hire. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Isen referred to Councilman Blount's previous motion that no refunds be granted on business licenses. He moved it be a policy that the pro-rata sale of city business licenses be halted and that persons applying for a city business license, even in December, be charged for the entire year. He requested this be referred to City Attorney Hall. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Schwab and Drale.

Councilman Isen said he had observed that there was no control or regulation on the City owned parking lot and requested City Manager Stevens to make some recommendations regarding this.

Councilman Isen suggested that the center parking plan on Cabrillo Avenue had been sufficiently tested and suggested that permanent cement curbs be installed, and also the curbs cemented at Five Points.

City Manager Stevens stated that the City crews were scheduled so far ahead he would recommend this be let out to bid.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Isen referred to the fence surrounding the property at 213th Street and Cabrillo Avenue, scene of the Waste Products Company fire last year. He thought the regulating authorities should do something about this unsightly situation.

City Attorney Hall said he would obtain a report from City Prosecutor Woolley and report back to the City Council as to what action has been taken.

Councilman Schwab inquired if they were working on the off-street parking lot. City Manager Stevens advised that they were working on this.

Councilman Isen referred to the minutes of a Special meeting of the Civil Service Board held on Wednesday, December 8, 1954. He read the following: "The Secretary presented Affidavits, prepared by Attorney McCall, in connection with Case No. 635127, J. S. DRESSER vs. CITY OF TORRANCE; and Case No. 635129, C. W. SMITH vs. CITY OF TORRANCE, which were approved and signed by all members of the Board."

Councilman Isen said that this appeared to him to be very, very unusual, if not irregular, conduct.

Councilman Schwab expressed his disappointment at the fact that Councilman Isen concluded his remarks on the subject so abruptly. He said he thought other members of the Council had been giving this quite a bit of thought and they should go a little further.

Councilman Isen said he would go further. He addressed a question to City Attorney Hall, for the records, and asked him whether he was consulted by the Board as their attorney, collectively, or by the personnel of the Board as individuals, for his advice with reference as to their approving and signing the affidavit.

City Attorney Hall said he was overlooked through inadvertence, however, Mr. Mothersell did bring it to his attention. He said he did protest it and explained that he felt he would have no objection to any affidavit that set forth the complete facts and did not agree to innuendo, things that did not occur.

Councilman Isen inquired if he had read the affidavit.

City Attorney Hall said he did read the affidavit but had asked them to present, as he could not attend the meeting, his objections, and asked them that if they were going to sign an affidavit at least to have it include all the facts. Mr. Hall said that Mr. Mothersell agreed with him and said he would present it to the Board. Then he found out they went ahead and signed it anyhow. Mr. Hall stated that he had today prepared a counter affidavit and sent it on in.

Councilman Isen inquired if the affidavit the Board had signed was prejudicial to the City's case. Mr. Hall said yes it was.

Councilman Isen moved the chair of each and every member of the Civil Service Board who signed this affidavit be declared immediately vacant. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount.

City Attorney Hall said that frankly he didn't think the Council could go that far, he said he would have to check it further, he could not give the answer off-hand.

Councilman Blount said it was his opinion the Ordinance read that the Board shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council. Councilman Isen said he thought it would require a four-fifths vote of the Council.

Councilman Isen's motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Isen and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN; Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Isen requested City Attorney Hall to give the Council an opinion as to the legality of the last motion.

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

At 10:30 P.M., Councilman Benstead moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

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