

Torrance, California  
January 24, 1956

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 January 24, 1956, at 8:00 P. M.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were:  
COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab, and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall were also present.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Ray Dudley led the salute to our Flag.

Reverend Milton Sippel opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 17, 1956, with the following correction: Paragraph 12, Page 9, should be corrected to "Civil Service Board" instead of "Civil Service Commission".

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

HEARING ON ASSESSMENT:

239th STREET SEWER DISTRICT

The Hearing on the Assessment for the improvement of 239th Street was opened.

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place fixed for the hearing of appeals from or objections to any act or determination of the Street Superintendent or Engineer, or the quality of work performed, or the legality of additions to or omission from the contract or the correctness of the assessment.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented the affidavits of mailing, posting and also publication (twice) of notice of Hearing.

Councilman Benstead moved that the affidavits be received and filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor then inquired if any written protests had been filed with the Clerk. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger reported that he had received a petition and two letters in protest.

Mayor Isen requested Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to read these in full.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the petition first, and the list of signers, there being 30. The petition asked for an itemized bill.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone who had signed this petition was present and several responded.

City Engineer R. W. Bishop distributed copies of the price breakdown to those residents of the area who were present and asked for them.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger then read a letter from Mrs. Callie Roomsburg, who was not present.

The Deputy City Clerk then read a letter from Bob L. Watson, of 23927 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Watson protested being assessed on the grounds that he could not use the sewer.

Mr. Watson was present, and spoke to the Council, saying his house was too low to utilize the sewer.

The Council discussed Mr. Watson's protest, and it was agreed that he should try to get an easement to join the sewer at another point.

Councilman Blount went on record as saying that he felt the person who sold Mr. Watson his property, and who owns the lot next to him, has a moral obligation to allow Mr. Watson to have an easement.

City Attorney Hall suggested that the Hearing be continued to give Mr. Watson time to try to secure the easement he will need.

Mayor Isen suggested that Mr. Watson contact City Engineer Bishop and that they contact Mr. Rippy, owner of the property where Mr. Watson needs an easement, together. Mayor Isen said that City Engineer Bishop and Mr. Watson could report back on this to the Council next week. The Mayor added that if Mr. Watson does secure the easement, there will be no necessity for him to appear at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Isen then asked if the persons questioning the cost of the sewer wished to speak to the Council.

Roland L. Jones of 2311-239th Street came forward. He said the group had no argument with the total cost of the sewer, but that they had been under the misapprehension that the property owners were being charged more than the sewer actually cost.

City Engineer Bishop explained to Mr. Jones that the actual cost of the sewer is \$9,000, more or less, below the original estimate.

After a short discussion, the Mayor told Mr. Jones that the Hearing was being continued to the next meeting, and that if the interested persons so wished, they might appear at that time to protest. He suggested that they carefully study the breakdown of the cost which the City Engineer had given them this evening.

Councilman Blount moved that the Hearing be continued to 5:30 P. M. January 31. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen said there were several matters he wished to take out of order on the Agenda, the first being the proposal by one of the Councilmen that all future Council meetings be held at 5:30 P. M., dispensing entirely with the 8:00 P. M. meetings.

Councilman Benstead said he agreed that this would be more practical than the present arrangement, but said he did not agree that any meetings be discontinued, as had also been suggested.

Councilman Blount withdrew his suggestion that the Council dispense with the fifth meeting of the months in which there are five meeting days.

Councilman Schwab moved the City Attorney be authorized to present a Resolution at the next regular meeting of the Council changing the meeting time to 5:30 P. M. for all Council meetings.

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

Mayor Isen then requested that the next item be Item 10G under the Planning Commission Matters, being the vacation of a portion of Bluff Street, and setting a Hearing date therefor.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a letter from City Engineer Bishop relative to the vacation of a portion of Bluff Street recommending such vacation.

Mayor Isen instructed Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to correct the time shown in Paragraph 5 of the Resolution to 5:30 P. M. from 8:00 P. M.

City Attorney Hall asked City Engineer Bishop if there were any easements on the property being vacated, and Mr. Bishop said there were not.

Mayor Isen asked if Mr. Gray, owner of the property, was prepared to bear the necessary expenses of this vacationing, and Mr. Gray replied affirmatively.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2864

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF BLUFF STREET IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2864 as corrected.

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

Mr. Gray was told by City Engineer Bishop, in reply to his question, that this would be a normal 60-foot width street.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter dated January 17, 1956, from Mrs. F. A. Bergon, Safety Committee, Howard Wood School PTA, requesting asphalt apron on 235th Street and center stop sign on 236th Street.

City Manager Stevens said he understood the apron is now under construction.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen ordered the matter of the apron requested be referred to the Street Department and the request for a stop sign be referred to the Traffic Commission.

2. Letter dated January 14, 1956, from the Palos Verdes Hills Co-operative Nursery School, signed by Beatrice T. Spurgeon, Secretary, re solicitation for advertising in their non-profit directory.

Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

3. Transmittal dated January 12, 1956, from Thomas P. Foye, Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, with copy of Resolution attached.

There were no objections, and this was referred to the City Attorney for his study and recommendation. He was asked to have this on the Agenda of the next regular meeting of the Council.

4. Suggestion from Mrs. Frank Risica of 4015 West 174th Street, dated January 17, 1956, on white traffic lines at street intersections.

There were no objections and this was referred to the Traffic Commission.

5. Complaint from M. L. Hoffenberg of 365 Calle Mayor about street lights, this being under date of January 13, 1956.

Mayor Isen instructed City Manager Stevens to prepare a reply for the Mayor's signature, and said he would come in to sign the letter when it is ready.

6. A request for street repairs in front of their home from Mrs. Bessie Ball of 2308 Gramercy Avenue, dated January 9, 1956.

City Manager Stevens reported that this is presently under repair. The letter was ordered filed.

7. Request dated January 18, 1956, signed by J. H. Hull, Secretary of the Board of Education, from the Torrance Unified School District that the City Council take action to make the city and school district boundaries coterminous in Tract No. 20889 and Tract No. 17985 in event lot lines are straightened out.

Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed, with a copy being sent to the Planning Commission for their information and consideration.

There were no objections and it was so ordered, with Mayor Isen asking Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to forward copies to the Planning Commission.

8. Undated letter from Robert H. Jackson, Capt., U. S. Signal Corps, thanking the Council for their recent action which allowed his wife and family to move into their new home before the streets were completed in that area.

There were no objections and the letter was ordered filed.

9. A letter of thanks from the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Foundation for a contribution through the Land Title & Insurance Company, in the name of the City of Torrance. The letter, dated January 11, 1956, was signed by Kenneth B. Wilson, President.

There were no objections and the letter was ordered filed.

10. Franchise report from General Petroleum Corporation and subsidiaries, Pipe Line Division, with check in the amount of \$703.64, covering the period from November 1, 1954, to October 31, 1955.

There were no objections and the letter was ordered filed with the check to be accepted.

11. Copy of letter to Geo. W. Stevens, City Manager, from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, dated January 6, 1956, and enclosing copy of a letter from the Pacific Electric Railway Company asking that the City of Torrance participate in the construction of an asphaltic berm along westerly side of their tracks on Border Avenue.

City Manager Stevens said that, in compliance with the request of the Council, he had called and made an appointment to talk to the proper people about paving the right-of-way of the Pacific Electric Company on Border Avenue, and suggested that this matter be discussed at the same time.

There were no objections, and the request was referred to the City Manager for his study and recommendation at his convenience.

12. The matter of the application of Dominguez Water Corporation to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, relative to servicing Kauffman tract.

The Council discussed this with the City Attorney.

Councilman Benstead moved that this be referred to the City Attorney and that he be authorized to take any action he deems necessary.

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

13. Request of Cub Scouts, Pack 201-C, for free use of the Civic Auditorium February 2, 1956, signed by Robert L. Hagenbaugh and dated January 23, 1956.

Councilman Blount moved the request be granted with the stipulation that the usual custodial fee be paid.

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

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. Isa M. Korn was employed December 5, 1955, as a Typist-Clerk in the Recreation Department at the first salary step, from the Eligible List. Notice of appointment was overlooked.
2. Jessie Pauline Greer, Typist-Clerk in the Engineering Dept. was transferred to City Clerk's Dept. and promoted to Account Clerk, effective January 18, 1956, at the first salary step. (From Eligible List).
3. William R. Bowers, employed as Painter commencing January 16, 1956, at the first salary step. (From Eligible List).
4. Jesse D. Cahill employed as Bus Attendant in temporary capacity commencing January 12, 1956, there being no one available on the Eligible List. It is expected that Bill Disario, who is on military leave, will be discharged soon and return to his former position as Bus Attendant.

- 5. John V. Agapito and Donald M. Minor will begin serving their probationary periods as Fire Captains, February 1, 1956.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with recommendations 1 through 5 of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION

1. Recommendation of the Recreation Commission that the Harbor District Girl Scouts be granted free use of Civic Auditorium on Thursday, January 26, with the provision that the usual custodial fee be paid.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission.

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS

1. Case No. 372: Transmittal form from Planning Commission, submitting without recommendation the request of MacDonald Brothers for Change of Zone from R-3 and C-1 to M-1 at 2410 Carson Street.

Mayor Isen commented that this requires that a Hearing date be set, and that with the consent of the Council he would like to appoint a Committee of six to discuss this and try to work it out before the Hearing date. The Mayor suggested that Planning Commissioners Mulvihill and Beasley, two property owners (one of whom, Mayor Isen suggested, should be Councilman Benstead), and two representatives of MacDonald Brothers form the proposed Committee.

Councilman Blount asked to point out that at the Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Lynn had made a request for a similar Committee and had been turned down.

Mayor Isen said if there were no objections he would appoint such a Committee.

Planning Commissioner Mulvihill said he had received a call this evening from one of the parties concerned asking to set up a meeting, so perhaps this can be worked out.

Mayor Isen set February 14, 1956, at 5:30 P. M. as the date and time of the Hearing on Case 372.

2. Letter from Planning Commission, dated January 20, 1956, and signed by George C. Powell, Director, submitting recommendation of the Commission that Bert Lynn be appointed Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Isen called for a poll of the Council before making the appointment, and the Councilmen all voted affirmatively.

Mayor Isen then made the appointment of Mr. Bert Lynn as Chairman of the Planning Commission.

3. Letter from George C. Powell, Director of the Planning Commission, dated January 20, 1956, presenting recommendation for adoption of Ordinance amending Paragraph "K" of Ordinance No. 791, Land Use Ordinance.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 792

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING PARAGRAPH "K" OF SECTION 15 OF APPENDIX I (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791) OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, 1954" RELATING TO ACCESSIBILITY TO BUILDING SITES AND LIVING QUARTERS.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 792 at its first reading. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Letter from John Patrick, Assist. to City Engineer, submitting easement for street and highway purposes given by John J. Sullivan, Jr. to the City, to complete the right-of-way for Crenshaw Boulevard from Highway 101 to Rolling Hills Road. Attached: Location sketch, Resolution accepting easement.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2865

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 EASEMENT DEED FROM JOHN J. SULLIVAN, JR.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2865. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Vacation of portion of Via Colusa:

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 793

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 785.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Ordinance 793 at its first reading.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Letter dated January 20, 1956, from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, submitting Resolution of intention to vacate portion of Via Colusa, Tract 20772.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2866

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF VIA COLUSA IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2832.

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 adoption of Resolution No. 2866. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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7. A letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, submitting Resolution of Intention to vacate a portion of Florence Avenue, and repealing Resolution No. 2856. Attached: Location sketch. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2867

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF FLORENCE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2856.

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

Mayor Isen asked that the time of the Hearing on the 14th day of February be corrected to 5:30 P. M. instead of 8:00 P. M.

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2867 as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

8. A letter dated January 18, 1956, from Duane W. Wheeler, containing original and four copies of Resolution relating to special services to be rendered by the County Registrar of Voters to this City for the General Municipal Election to be held April 10, 1956.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2868

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO PERMIT THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OF SAID COUNTY TO RENDER SPECIFIED SERVICES TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE, RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY ON APRIL 10, 1956.

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 adoption of the Resolution with the amount spent not to exceed \$125.00.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2869

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT PROVIDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale. Roll call vote as follows: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Blount said he was voting no because this is a "blank check", and he said it was not clear to the Legal Department and it should be.

Councilman Benstead withdrew his motion, and Councilman Drale withdrew his second to that motion.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this to the Legal Department for the preparation of a proper recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 2870

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CHANGING THE NAMES OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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 adoption of Resolution No. 2870. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2871

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN STREET NAMES UPON THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED IN THIS RESOLUTION.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2871. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2872

A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION IN CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE, DESCRIBING SAID TERRITORY AND DESIGNATING IT BY THE NAME OF DOMINGUEZ-HAWTHORNE (VICTOR PARCEL) AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARING PROTESTS IN CONNECTION WITH SAID PROPOSED ANNEXATION.

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

Mayor Isen asked to have the time of the Hearing corrected to 5:30 P. M. from 8:00 P. M.

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2872 as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:00 P. M. Mayor Isen declared a 5-minute recess, and the Council re-convened at 9:05 P. M.

REPORTS:

1. City Engineer Bishop reported that he had dictated a letter to the City Attorney on the matter of the pipe-lines on 239th Street. The City Engineer reported further that he had gone to 239th Street with representatives of the oil company who laid the pipe-lines on the street. He said the company realized that they had ruined the street, and that they have agreed to put everything back in apple-pie order.

Mayor Isen said that in that case, there would be no need for calling in the Legal Department on the matter, but that the City Engineer should make up a written report of the recommendations he has to make on the street, and what the oil company has agreed to do, and give it to the Council at their next regular meeting for their action.

There was no objection and it was so ordered.

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2. City Attorney Hall reported that it was his opinion that, with reference to the Certified Grocers' protest at paying a license fee, which had been referred to him from the last meeting, this is a matter of policy of the Council.

There was a short discussion of the request that this fee be waived. Councilman Blount moved the Certified Grocers Co-op be required to pay a license fee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

3. The City Attorney said it was his opinion that in the matter of the benches which the Council was asked to let an advertiser place at the bus stops, as referred to him at the last meeting, that the City should insist upon a 'hold harmless' clause and ample insurance to protect the City.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a letter from the company in question, United Bench Advertisers, Inc., dated January 23, 1956, and signed by R. T. Cooke, saying they have instructed their insurance company to send the City Attorney a copy of their insurance policy which fully covers all benches owned by them, and which hold the City of Torrance harmless.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed, and to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

At this time, Councilman Blount read a petition to the Council. The petition bore 110 signatures, and read as follows: "We, the undersigned, residents of the City of Torrance, respectfully petition the acceptance and vacation of the dedication for an extension of Lomita Boulevard, namely that portion situated between Milne and Mindora Drives and extending southeasterly from Palos Verdes Boulevard to Anza Avenue".

Councilman Blount moved this be referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation, and that they contact the Regional Planning Commission for their "master plan" on the matter.

Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full the following: "Mr. Bartlett, City Clerk, respectfully requests the City Council to rescind the action of the City Council at the January 17, 1956 meeting wherein Section 3 was deleted from Resolution No. 2863, which deals with the Charter Amendments.

This request is based on the fact that he had no opportunity to study the Resolution prior to its adoption and therefore was not aware of its wording. He has no objection to Section 3 of the Resolution, as it was worded, and asks the Council to reconsider its action.

He desires Section 3 of Resolution No. 2863 to be placed on the ballot."

It was the general consensus of opinion of the Councilmen that any action open to them at this time would be open to the Council at the time of Mr. Bartlett's term's end, and so the letter was ordered filed.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 794

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954"

Mayor Isen directed that "203rd Street", as shown in Item 19(c) and 19(d) should be corrected to "Del Amo Boulevard".

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Urgency Ordinance 794 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 795

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 24 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW CHAPTER 24 TO SAID CODE RELATING TO SIGNS.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 795 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that the rental for the month of January from Store Properties, Inc., for the "Airport Lease", in the amount of \$2250 had been received.

City Attorney Hall made a short report regarding the publication of proposed Charter amendments in pamphlet form to be mailed to each registered voter in the City.

Councilman Blount moved that the City Attorney be authorized to proceed with ordering these pamphlets printed and distributed.

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

City Attorney Hall said that a Watt tract is being held up for the reason that the City insists they have the right to service this tract and so does the Moneta Water Company, claiming the right under certain easements. The City Attorney asked if it would be possible for the Council to meet with representatives of those involved at 5:00 P. M. tomorrow to discuss this, and it was agreed that the Council should adjourn to that time.

Councilman Blount spoke briefly about the last Planning Commission meeting. He said a secret election had been held, and questioned the letter from the Planning Director which said Mr. Lynn was "unanimously" elected, and challenged the fact that the Minutes did not show that a secret ballot had been taken. He also challenged the fact that Councilman Benstead's remarks at that meeting had not been reported in full.

Mayor Isen asked Planning Commissioner Lynn, who was present, about these complaints of Councilman Blount.

Mr. Lynn replied that in order to maintain a certain unity of action, a secret ballot had been taken with the understanding that the winner of the secret ballot would be nominated to the Chairmanship of the Planning Commission, and that he would not have described this as a "unanimous" vote, but as a "majority" vote.

Mr. Lynn said the Commission had moved into another room for a short while because a group of high school students was expected to come into the Council Chamber.

Councilman Benstead told Councilman Blount that he had not spoken to the Commission; he added that he had been asked if he wished to speak, and had replied that he had nothing to say.

Councilman Blount held that all of this should have appeared in the

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Minutes of that meeting. He asked that the record be corrected to show all the action mentioned here tonight.

Mayor Isen referred this back to the Planning Commission for correction as they see fit.

Councilman Blount said he asked only for the facts.

Councilman Drale asked if any definite action had been taken on the property on Marcellina Avenue which has been offered to the Parking Assessment District. He said that he feels the people next door to this property should be notified of the intention of the City to have an alley between the parking area and their house if it is decided to take the property.

City Manager Stevens said he had discussed the option with the owners as instructed to do at the last meeting of the Council. He said that a 30-day option could be obtained.

Councilman Drale moved City Manager Stevens be given authority to proceed with taking the option and that the people next door be notified of the plan.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Chief of Police Haslam reported that the Police Commission recommended adding another prowl car for the Southwood area between the hours of 8:00 P. M. and 4:00 A. M. as soon as the Policemen now working at the Motor Vehicle Department are released, which will be during the first week of February.

Mayor Isen discussed the need of the Department of Motor Vehicles for another location in the City. City Manager Stevens said he had directed the responsible people of that Department to builders who would erect a building for lease by the Department. Several ideas were discussed, and it was agreed by the Council that all that can be done should be done to help keep the Department of Motor Vehicles in Torrance.

Councilman Schwab said sidewalks are needed on 182nd Street at Prairie and in the immediate area of that corner for the school children, and asked that the Street Department see what can be done to provide walks here.

Councilman Drale agreed, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Schwab commended the Police Department and Courts on the action being taken in the "Litter-bug" campaign, and spoke of the fines in several cases.

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

The meeting adjourned to 5:00 P. M. January 25, 1956, at 9:50 P. M.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance