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Adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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January 9, 1962
Council Minutes

Torrance, California
January 9, 1962

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Torrance City Council was held Tuesday, January 9, 1962, at 8:00 o'clock P.M., in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Whitacre were: **COUNCILMEN:** Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Drale, Vico, and Mayor Isen. **ABSENT:** **COUNCILMEN:** Bradford, who is in Washington on Metropolitan Water District business. City Manager Peebles and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. James Minter led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The Reverend Monrad Bergeson, Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church, opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion of Councilman Benstead, seconded by Councilman Beasley, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 2, 1962 were approved as written, there being no objection.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Beasley moved all bills regularly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Benstead moved that after the clerk has given a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived; reserving and guaranteeing to each councilman the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Mayor Isen gave a brief explanation of Council procedure for the benefit of the audience.

PLANNING MATTERS:

8. Letter from Planning Division by David W. Cleveland, submitting waivers recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, as follows:

W-250, returned from City Council meeting of December 5 for additional information.

Request for waiver of building height limit to construct a new sanctuary 57 feet in height, R-3 zone. Submitted were excerpt from Planning Commission minutes of December 20, 1961, plot plan and brochure of the church.

1.

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Mayor Isen stated a favorable recommendation had been made by the Planning Commission and, at the request of Councilman Drale and Mayor Isen, the Deputy City Clerk read the motion of the Planning Commission, as follows:

That W-250 be forwarded to City Council with recommendation of approval to construct at this time a sanctuary 57' in height with the condition that any future requests for additions be brought before this Commission for approval; motion to include approval of steeple as shown on Exhibit A which is approximately 88' above street level of Palos Verdes Blvd.

No one appeared to speak regarding the waiver and Councilman Benstead moved to close the hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and, there being no objection, the hearing was closed.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation as set out in the Planning Commission's motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

W-256: Harry A. Graef, 115 Via los Miradores, requesting rear yard waiver of four feet to add room which will be six feet from rear property line.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of approval. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

9. Duane W. Wheeler and Company letter dated January 3, 1962, requesting additional \$93 be added to the contract price to cover badges for members of precinct boards, and recommendation of approval by City Manager.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

10. George Kurtz letter dated January 3, 1962 regarding Case No. 738, requesting approval of Change of Zone from A-1 to R-3, on a portion of the south half of Lot 26, Meadow Park Tract, on 230th St between Hawthorne and Madison.

Mayor Isen announced the ordinance on Case No. 738 will be before the Council on January 23, 1962, an eight o'clock meeting, and requested Deputy City Clerk Whitacre to so notify the key people interested in the reconsideration that it will come up at that time.

11. Recommendation of League of California Cities that City adopt resolution urging the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to adopt a policy establishing a more equitable distribution of Highway users tax funds received by the County and the cities within the County, submitted by City Manager Peebles, with form of resolution suggested.

Councilman Drale moved the new formula be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried, there being no objection.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 62-4

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ADOPT A POLICY ESTABLISHING A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY AND THE CITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-4. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM BUILDING DIVISION:

Recommendation of Superintendent of Building Inspection Schlens that bid of Charles H. Schiermeyer & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$40,917 for the construction of the Isabel Henderson Branch Library be accepted, and all others be rejected, with bid summary attached.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre presented Affidavit of Publication and, there being no objection, it was ordered filed.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the Superintendent of Building Inspection. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Vico questioned the City Manager about whether or not all potential bidders knew the grading had already been done and Mr. Peebles and Mr. Schlens said that information was included in the invitation to bid.

Roll call vote on the motion was unanimously favorable (Bradford absent).

13. Recommendation of Superintendent of Building Inspection Schlens for approval of application of Jump 'N Jack Steak House for ground sign at 2900 Pacific Coast Highway.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation of approval. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Drale, Vico, Mayor Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford.

A short recess was declared in order to permit those people who were present for planning matters to leave if they wished.

ENGINEERING MATTERS:

14. Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5 Interceptor Frank Sewer, Section 2. Letter from City Engineer Nollac, approved by City Manager Peebles, submitting resolution authorizing conveyance of two easements to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District to construct sewer through northeasterly section of City. Location sketches and proposed resolution attached.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 62-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST TWO EASEMENT DEEDS CONVEYING TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 5 EASEMENTS FOR SANITARY SEWER PURPOSES WITHIN PORTIONS OF LOTS 65 AND 73 OF THE McDONALD TRACT.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-5. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale inquired whether or not this is the recommendation of the City Engineer and, after ascertaining that it is, asked that the record specifically show that fact. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Bradford absent).

15. Transmittal of street easement from Arthur J. and Ruth J. Olson. City Engineer Nollac transmittal of easement deed dated January 4, 1962, for widening of Prairie Avenue over a portion of Lot 15, R. O. Hickman Tract, approved by City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Manager Peebles.

Councilman Beasley moved to accept that certain street easement deed dated January 4, 1962 for the widening of Prairie Avenue over a portion of Lot 15, R. O. Hickman Tract, given by Ruth J. and Arthur J. Olson. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and, there being no objection, carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING DIVISION:

16. Traffic and Lighting Engineer Whitmer, submitting report requested by Council concerning green, yellow and white zones within our City.

Mayor Isen stated this will be part of a subject of his oral communication later in the meeting and requested this item be held for one week. There was no objection and it was so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM TRAFFIC COMMISSION:

17. Traffic and Lighting Engineer Whitmer, submitting Traffic Commission recommendations, bearing concurrence of City Manager Peebles, as follows:

A. That request to make Watson Avenue a two-way street be denied.

B. That requests for green zones be denied in the following locations: 1. Frank's Liquor Store, 2. The Bottle Shop, and 3. Sabella's T.V. Shop.

C. That Council reconsider its action which approved installation of pedestrian landing on Highway 101 Service Road at Harrlee Lane overcrossing.

D. That stop signs be installed on Zakon Road, Doris Way, and MacAfee Road at Vanderhill Road, with resolution.

E. That channelization of Pacific Coast Highway east of Crenshaw Boulevard be approved.

F. That "No Parking During Peak Hours" be established on the north side of Carson Street from Beech Avenue to Acacia Avenue, with resolution attached.

As to Item A, City Manager Peebles asked that it be held for further study although Councilman Benstead stated he would like to have it acted on at this meeting.

Mayor Isen moved to refer the item back to the City Manager and staff for further study and the motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Mayor Isen asked that Mr. McMullen be notified in advance of the time when a report is to be made to the Council on the subject.

Mayor Isen remarked that Item B would be removed from the agenda as pertaining to the matter which was postponed earlier in this meeting.

Item C was taken care of at the last Council meeting by rescission of the appropriation of \$250 and no further action is necessary.

D., E., and F. - Councilman Blount moved to concur in the respective recommendations set forth and his motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable. (Councilman Bradford absent).

Councilman Drale asked that the action as to Item E, channelization of Pacific Coast Highway east of Crenshaw Boulevard, be expressed stated to be at the expense of the concern benefiting therefrom and at no cost to the City. Councilman Blount and Councilman Benstead accepted that condition as a part of their motion which carried unanimously (Councilman Bradford absent).

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 62-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF RESOLUTION NO. 61-158 WHICH ESTABLISHES THROUGH STREETS IN THE CITY BY ADDING CERTAIN STREETS THERETO.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-6. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 62-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING PARKING FROM 7:00 A.M. to 9: A.M. AND FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M., PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF THE TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE "CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 62-7. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

RESOLUTIONS:

18. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 62-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING WADE E. PEEBLES, KENNETH MACRAE AND CLYDE FRYAR TO ACT AS PURCHASING AGENTS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY.

Councilman Drale opposed the inclusion of the two names other than City Manager Peebles and Councilman Benstead agreed with him. City Manager Peebles stated it is not necessary that these two men be named; that he can carry out the duties involved in purchasing Civil Defense equipment for the City.

Councilman Drale then moved to adopt resolution No. 62-8 after deleting the names "Kenneth MacRae and Clyde Fryar" which would in effect authorize and designate Wade E. Peebles only, as purchasing agent for civil defense equipment for the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

19. Recommendation re combined comprehensive bodily injury and property damage liability insurance.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Pacific Indemnity Company for the first alternate limits, set forth in the report of the City Manager on bids for this item, the cost to be \$33,130.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

20. Junior Civil Engineers and Inspectors.

The recommendation of the City Engineer is to replace a Jr. Civil Engineering position to provide more adequate inspection. Concurrence of the City Manager is noted, stating the net increase in cost would be only \$34 per month and the person to be hired would be from a regular Civil Service examination list.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

21. Weed Abatement problem.

This communication was a query as to whether or not the Council wishes to consider a weed abatement program for the ensuing year.

Councilman Vico moved to file the communication and his motion was seconded by Mayor Isen. There were no objections.

22. Recommendation of temporary adjustment of salary of David Cleveland to the bottom step of Planning Director's salary until such time as a Planning Director is hired.

Councilman Blount moved to concur. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

23. Precinct map on 93 precinct basis for April election.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the 93 precinct map as exhibited. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

24. City car policy suggestion.

City Manager Peebles explained that of the two sheets attached to the agenda, the first is the revision which is now suggested and the second the former recommendation. The one under consideration at this meeting is the revision.

Councilman Benstead said he feels the only ones who should be permitted to take care home after work are: Fire Chief, Police Chief and Street Superintendent, and Councilman Drale added the Water Department which has emergency calls.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur on Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the recommendation of City Manager Peebles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. City Manager Peebles said if the policy is adopted, there will be very strict adherence thereto and Councilman Benstead admonished him to keep a tight rein on the use of City cars.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Vico, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford.

25. MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS:

Expenditures:

1. \$317.99 to Hersey-Sparling Meter Company for one 2-inch model CT Meter for Water Department for K.B.M. Service (a budget item).
2. \$2,000 to League of California Cities for annual service charge for calendar year 1962, a budget item.
3. Audit Report: recommendation that the independent audit report prepared by Cotton & Francisco be accepted by the City Council if they so desire, so that payment may be made.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve Item 1 above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Councilman Drale moved to approve Item 2 above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Councilman Beasley moved to accept the independent Audit Report prepared by Cotton and Francisco that payment therefor may be made. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

26. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre presented for second reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1288

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTIONS 29.12, 29.13 AND 29.14 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" AND ADDING ARTICLE II ENTITLED "VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTIONS" TO CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1288 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Vico. Councilman Drale did not favor adopting the ordinance and Mayor Isen suggested it be held for one week. Councilman Drale so moved as a substitute and the motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Roll call vote carried, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Drale, Mayor Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford.

27. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre presented for second reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1289

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 29A ENTITLED "WALLS, FENCES AND HEDGES", AMENDING THE TITLE OF CHAPTER 29 AND ADDING ARTICLE III ENTITLED "WALLS AND FENCES" TO CHAPTER 29 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1289 at its second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

28. City Manager Peebles had added an item to the agenda, a letter dated January 8, 1961 (undoubtedly intended to be "1962") substantiating the proposal of Adams, Morgan, Latham, Kripp & Wright to revise the Isabel Henderson Library plans and specifications for use at the Walteria branch, including grade design for site adapt and supervising through construction for a "repeat" fee total of 6% of construction costs.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the proposal set forth therein. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blount and carried as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Drale, Vico, Mayor Isen
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

29. Councilman Drale told the results of the meeting which he, City Manager Peebles, City Attorney Remelmeyer and Traffic Engineer Whitmer held with Mr. Findley and his attorneys, Tom Baggett and Don Hitchcock regarding the Carson Street cut through case and moved that the City Attorney and City Manager are hereby authorized and directed to pay Remco-Real-Estate Management Co., a California corporation, the sum of \$7,000 for the acquisition of all right, title and interest of Remco in the land sought to be acquired by

the City in Superior Court Case No. 780402, entitled City of Torrance vs. Remco-Real Estate Management Co., et al. and for the settlement in full of all costs, attorneys fees, and other compensation and damages due said corporation by reason of the filing of said action and the construction of the improvements described in the complaint in said action; and they are further authorized to dismiss said case upon the acquisition of said rights and the settlement of said costs. The \$7,000 is based on 28,000 square feet at 25¢ per square foot.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and it was determined that the money is available.

Roll call vote was:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Drale, Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Vico.
 ABSENT: Bradford.

Thus the matter was left unsettled.

City Attorney Remelmeyer stated the reasons for believing it would be advantageous to settle the case on the terms set forth in Councilman Drale's motion and Councilman Vico asked that his "no" vote be changed to "yes", which caused the motion to carry.

Councilman Beasley moved to instruct the contractor to resume work forthwith and his motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by roll call vote, as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Drale, Vico, Mayor Isen.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount.
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford.

Councilman Blount stated he is not opposed to the project itself but to the manner in which it has been handled and wished the record to show his prediction that the City will spend a considerable sum of money within a year in straightening out what he considers will be a traffic hazard at the location.

Councilman Drale moved, if it is still the recommendation of the Traffic Engineer, that the signal bid which is ready to be awarded be so awarded to the lowest bidder, C. T. & F., Inc., whose bid is \$7,135. Councilman Blount asked about the timing of the signal and was told it can be set up however the City wishes. He warned against stopping traffic just for the sale of halting it such as was done at Arlington and Carson Street. Traffic Engineer Whitmer informed Councilman Blount there will be only one treadle controlling the signal.

Councilman Benstead asked Traffic Engineer Whitmer to check the signal at Arlington and Torrance Boulevard, as well as at Cota and "all of them".

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable to awarding the bid as set forth (Councilman Bradford absent).

30. Mayor Isen spoke regarding traffic problems, including not only the Carson street cut through, but the yellow and green zones, also. He mentioned the Harbor Freeway which will soon enter the central part of Torrance right on Carson Street.

Particularly with respect to the downtown business section, Mayor Isen said the merchants could not help having been hurt by the Council's encouragement of the big shopping centers in and around Torrance, although the damage to the small business man

financially would have been greater if the shopping centers had been discouraged from coming to Torrance. Aside from the sentimental feeling the Council has for the downtown area, there is a duty to see that it does not wither. Such withering would result in the loss of sales tax and a re-evaluation downward of real property values. He urged sparking some sort of redevelopment, and favored permitting green and yellow zones to help those merchants who do not have alleys now that the parking meters are no longer on the streets. Mayor Isen has discussed this situation with Mr. Wm. Tolson, former Mayor, for the purpose of getting together and forming a downtown Torrance redevelopment committee which would have the blessing of this Council. He suggested Mr. Sam Levy and Mr. George Post to work with Mr. Tolson in initiating such a committee to be known as The Downtown Torrance Redevelopment Committee, stating his suggestion is one of policy and asked the concurrence of the Council. In answer to a query from Councilman Beasley, Mayor Isen said the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants Association are city-wide, but would undoubtedly work with this more specialized committee.

Councilman Drale agreed that the Council owes a certain allegiance to the old timers of downtown Torrance who have paid the greatest amount of taxes during the growing years. Councilman Beasley added that the old part of Torrance still brings in \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year sales tax and expressed interest in getting the project started.

Mayor Isen moved as a matter of policy the Council approve the formation of DOWNTOWN TORRANCE REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and urge Mr. Tolson, Mr. Levy and Mr. Post to get such a committee in operation and that the Council help in such ways as the members feel practicable.

Councilman Drale did not feel this should involve the problem of green and yellow and white parking zones, but Mayor Isen said he hopes the committee will make some survey and recommendations on that subject.

Councilman Vico seconded the motion and it carried, there being no objections.

31. Councilman Drale said there is to be a committee meeting of the Directors of the State Board of Education at San Luis Obispo January 18th and 19th and asked permission of the Council to have the members of a local committee which worked on the establishment of a South Bay area college attend.

Mayor Isen moved appropriate expenses be allowed to members of the committee (when that membership has been determined) to attend and represent this section. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

32. City Manager Peebles said as requested by the Council last week, he has sent a telegram to the State College Headquarters asking for re-evaluation of their position with respect to offices and to please consider the All-American City of Torrance. A copy of that telegram will on the informational section of next week's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

10.

Council Minutes
January 9, 1962

A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance

By Gale Whitacre
Deputy City Clerk