

Torrance, California  
January 21, 1930.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Torrance, was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, January 21st., 1930, and was called to order at 7:45 P. M. by Mayor Dennis.

The following Trustees were present: Trustees: Nelson, Steiner, Wolfe and Dennis.

Absent: Trustees: Maxwell.

Trustee Steiner moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7th., 1930, be adopted.

Trustee Wolfe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Dennis called for bids for furnishing gasoline to the City of Torrance for twelve months, beginning on February 1st., 1930, and ending January 31st., 1931. The Clerk opened and read the following bids:

UNITED STATES REFINING COMPANY - 4¢ below the posted cash retail price of the Standard, Union, Shell, Richfield, Associated and Texas Companies' gasoline in the City of Los Angeles; maximum price not to exceed .15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon f.o.b. our tanks at Torrance.

GENERAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION - Flat price of .15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon, including the State Tax of 3¢ per gallon, deliveries to be made into the tanks at the Torrance Fire Station. Bids made on Violet Ray Gasoline.

SEABOARD PETROLEUM CORPORATION - De Luxe Gasoline to be .14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon, tax included, but at no time shall price be less than .12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon, tax included. Delivery to be made into the tanks at the Torrance Fire Station.

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA - Shall not exceed .15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon net, f. o. b., Torrance, including State Tax. In the event of a reduction in Seller's posted tank wagon price, the Buyer shall receive a like reduction from price named herein during period reduction is in affect.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA - The Seller's current posted wholesale price for Red Crown Gasoline at time and place of delivery, less 4¢ per gallon, except that the price to be paid by the Buyer, at any of the points of delivery named, shall at no time be higher than the maximum price hereinafter specified for said product at said point, plus any increase in the present State Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax. Point of delivery, Moneta, California.

The awarding of the gasoline contract was held over till the next regular meeting.

At 8:05 P. M. Trustee Maxwell arrived at the meeting.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Pan American Petroleum Company, Los Angeles, under date of January 2nd., 1930, advising that said company laid no pipe lines under Ordinance No. 92, City of Torrance, from July 1st., 1929, to December 31st., 1929. This communication was ordered filed.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Torrance Woman's Club, under date of January 8th., 1930, addressed to the Honorable John Dennis, petitioning the City of Torrance to plant during the month of January, 1930, a tree suitable in size and variety and in a favorable spot, to be used in the years to come for the Christmas festivities.

Trustee Wolfe moved that this communication be laid over for further consideration.

Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Torrance District Garden Club, under date of January 20th., 1930, addressed to the City Council, petitioning said Council to secure, as soon as possible, and plant permanently in a suitable spot, a growing, living tree of such

size and variety as will not only be a thing of beauty for all time but will fittingly express the attitude as a community on the important principals involved and serve the citizens of our city for all time as a Community Christmas Tree. Mr. Carleton B. Bell, President, also added that he had found that 18' to 20' trees (Cedrus Deodara) may be purchased for \$75.00 or less. 30' trees for twice that amount.

Trustee Wolfe moved that this communication be laid over for further consideration.

Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the City of Redondo Beach, under date of January 11th., 1930, addressed to the City Council of the City of Torrance, protesting against the permit granted by the City of Torrance at a previous meeting, to operate a hog farm in the City of Torrance near the boundary line of the City of Redondo Beach.

Trustee Maxwell moved that this letter be laid over for further investigation.

Trustee Wolfe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, under date of January 18th., 1930, addressed to the Honorable City Council, inviting them to attend a dinner meeting with their Board at 6:30 P. M. Monday, January 27th., 1930, at Earl's Cafe.

Trustee Steiner moved that the invitation be accepted.

Trustee Wolfe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At this time Mayor Dennis introduced Mr. H. W. O'Melveny, President of the Dominguez Estate Company, Los Angeles, who came down to enlighten the taxpayers of Torrance on the project known as "Acquisition and Improvement District No. 15 of the County of Los Angeles" - which project is for the acquisition and construction of a parkway and pleasure drive extending from the southerly limits of the City of Los Angeles to the beach in the City of Torrance, and thence on into Palos Verdes.

Mr. O'Melveny stated that the County Surveyors office had prepared certain cost estimates of this project which he wished might be presented before he entered into his discussion of the matter, and he introduced Mr. F. W. Pore, a Deputy Los Angeles County Surveyor, who outlined the proposed improvement which included 7" to 9" concrete pavement 60' wide between the curbs, grading to a width of 225', planting along the paths and between the edge of the right of way and in the center park. This particular project does not include the paving of the two service roads as contemplated in the original plans for this parkway project.

Mr. Pore stated that while the exact figures on the cost of the project had not been definitely reached the investigation showed the cost to be about \$1,023,992.00 as affecting the City of Torrance. That the average cost of the improvement per acre over the proposed assessment district, not including interest, would be about \$129.00, figures arrived at according to Mr. Pore by dividing the entire cost of the improvement by the acreage in the assessment district, that this \$129.00 an acre would not, however, apply to the Alondra Park District where the assessment would be approximately \$32.00 an acre. That the County contribution to the entire project as contemplated would be \$252,000.00 or \$253,000.00 for the grading and paving of a portion of the road. Mr. Pore stated that on a valuation basis cost worked out approximately \$12.00 per \$100.00 valuation, not including interest.

In reply to questions from the audience, statement was made by Mr. Pore that while the average expense was approximately \$129.00 an acre, the district would extend about a mile on each side of the improvement and would be zoned in such a way that frontage would pay a much higher proportion of the expense than remote sections, but stated that the County had not gotten far enough along with estimates of this part of the cost to make a definite commitment as to the expense of the various zones.

Mr. James D. Moore, representating the General Petroleum Corporation, desired to know how much of this improvement was through the General Petroleum property.

Mr. H. W. O'Melveny stated in reply to this question that the parkway did not go through the General Petroleum Corporation property.

Mr. Moore stated that the General Petroleum property abutted on the improvement and the expense on the General Petroleum property would be very great, and that under the plan proposed they have to bear a large part of the expense and would not be able to use the improvement but would have to construct the side roads for their service.

Mr. Pore was asked by someone in the audience if he had the amount already paid out on this project, but stated that he did not have these figures available.

There was some discussion about the cost of paving which was referred to Mr. C. W. Sprotte, one of the Construction Engineers of the County Road Department who was present, who stated that it was very difficult of course to set a price on the cost of pavement, these costs being governed by conditions at the time bids were asked.

The discussion was taken up by Mr. O'Melveny who stated that probably many of the questions in the minds of the people would be answered by him in his discussion of the subject.

He treated to some length the early history and growth of the City of Torrance, and of the efforts that had been made toward providing a parkway boulevard from Los Angeles through Torrance to the Beach, that his interest in the matter was an unselfish one, feeling that it was a project tending to build up Torrance and the area through which the project was planned, that he had no interest in the Palos Verdes Estate land investments and proceeded to give ideas of the benefits to accrue to the City of Torrance by carrying on the proposed project. He stated that he felt the City of Torrance was not looking to its best interests if it did not get behind this project, and while Torrance had a very low tax rate it is possible that this low rate does not always redound to the best advantage of the City and often holds back improvements without which a city cannot properly advance. He called attention to the survey which had recently been made by the Eberle Economic Service Corporation in which comparisons were shown of advancements made by the different cities basing these comparisons on conditions at Beverly Hills, which showed Torrance and Inglewood very much at a disadvantage, stating that these differences were directly chargeable possibly to lack of push on the part of various cities.

Mr. O'Melveny referred to the high valuation of the City of Torrance and said that as the representative of the County had stated, \$129.00 an acre for the cost of the improvement would figure approximately \$30.00 for the ordinary residential lot in Torrance, and that as this improvement would go in under the Mattoon Act and would spread over a period of (30) thirty years with deferred payments for (5) five years, at no period for (30) thirty years would these lots be called upon to stand payment in taxes of more than (\$3.00) Three Dollars a year.

Mr. O'Melveny stated that 8,800 acres of the Palos Verdes Estate property are included in the district. That they have agreed to an assessment approximately the same as that of the City of Torrance. That the assessed valuation of the City of Torrance is approximately \$9,000,000.00 and that the assessed valuation of the portion of the Palos Verdes included in the district is approximately \$3,000,000.00 which causes the Palos Verdes rate to be (3) three times as high as the rate in Torrance, or about \$36.00 per \$100.00 valuation.

Mr. O'Melveny stated that if the City of Torrance preferred to build a 125 foot road from Redondo Boulevard to Madrona, it would be perfectly acceptable with those interested in the project. He also continued that along the portion of the 125 foot Boulevard through Torrance, probably no service roads would be necessary.

Mr. O'Melveny read letters from the Dominguez Estate Company, the Del Amo Estate Company, Clifford F. Reid Company, Inc., and the Huntington Land & Improvement Company, requesting the Council to grant jurisdiction to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to make necessary acquisition and improvements and to assess the lands in the City of Torrance benefited thereby.

Mr. O'Melveny stated that if the City Council is to turn down this proposition at this time, that it will probably end, as he does not know of any alternative.

Trustee Steiner reminded the audience that when they had paid the \$129.00 per acre for this improvement, their bill was not entirely paid, as there are to be service roads put in on both sides of the present contemplated pavement, and that any questions he had asked of those who had presented the matter in the interest of the parkway were solely with the idea of making the matter clear to the taxpayers, and that as far as he was concerned the citizens would have to indicate to him that they were satisfied that the improvement should go in before he would sanction it.

Oral communications were next in order.

Several persons present in the audience protested against a dairy farm in Walteria. This dairy is a menace to the community, and the Council was asked to take immediate action to eliminate this nuisance.

Trustee Maxwell spoke on behalf of the council, and assured the citizens of Walteria that action would be taken right away.

Trustee Steiner moved that the City Clerk be instructed to advertise for bids for a new four cylinder Ford Standard Coupe "Model A" with a trade in of a 1926 Chevrolet Roadster as part payment.

Trustee Wolfe seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Maxwell, Nelson, Steiner, Wolfe and Dennis.  
 NOES: " None.  
 ABSENT: " None.

The City Attorneys report with reference to collection of moneys from the County paid as franchise Tax by the Southern California Edison Company was continued till the next regular meeting.

The City Engineer stated that he believed the sewer connection for the Coast Insulating Company should be put in if the Columbia Steel Company of the United States Steel Company could be induced to pay for it. This will cost around (\$675.00). This matter was laid over till the next regular meeting.

Trustee Nelson called the attention of the Council to several old bills that are being carried on the books of the City, some of which claims are against various Oil Companies, and instructed the City Engineer to look up the status of these claims and report to the City Council at the next regular meeting.

No action was taken on the Resolution offered by Mr. O'Melveny.

Trustee Wolfe moved that all bills, properly audited, be paid. Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Maxwell, Nelson, Steiner, Wolfe and Dennis.  
 NOES: " None.  
 ABSENT: " None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 P. M.

*A. H. Barclay*  
 City Clerk of the City of Torrance.

Approved:

*John Dennis*  
 Mayor of the City of Torrance.