

Torrance, California
March 3, 1931.

MINUTES OF A 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, March 3rd., 1931, and was called to order at 7:45 P. M. by Mayor Dennis.

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

Absent: Trustees: None.

Trustee Steiner requested that the words "we have no objections" be inserted in the 6th. paragraph after Redondo Beach, in the minutes of February 17th., 1931.

Trustee Nelson moved that the minutes of February 17th., 1931, be adopted after the above correction.

Trustee Steiner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Steiner moved that the minutes of the adjourned regular meeting of February 23rd., 1931, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24th., 1931, be adopted.

Trustee Nelson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, under date of March 2nd., 1931, addressed to The Governing Body of the City of Torrance, in which they enclosed a certified copy acknowledging the filing of a certificate setting forth the proceedings for annexation of the City of Torrance to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and stating that the City of Torrance is now an integral part of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Trustee Steiner stated that as a member of The Metropolitan Water District we are entitled to a representative, and moved that the Honorable Mayor Dennis be appointed as such representative for the City of Torrance.

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

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Bell, Nelson, Smith, and Steiner.
NOES:	"	None.
ABSENT:	"	None.
NOT VOTING:	"	Dennis.

Clerk Bartlett read a request introduced by some of the ladies of the Methodist Church in Torrance, asking that permission be granted Mrs. G. H. Newman of 1824 Carson Street, to peddle doughnuts from house to house in this City, as she is very much in need of assistance due to the unemployment conditions.

The City Clerk was instructed to notify these ladies of the existence of an ordinance in regard to the matter.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, under date of February 25th., 1931, addressed to

the City of Torrance, Attention Mr. F. R. Leonard, granting consent to the work authorized by the Del Amo Estate Company, and in addition, authorizing the City to cut the trees on their own property east of Cedar Street and abutting on Sepulveda Boulevard. The wood obtained from the cutting of the trees is to be disposed of by the City and the money received therefor turned into a fund to further employment in this City.

The City Clerk was instructed to acknowledge this letter.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the City Clerk of Los Angeles, under date of February 24th., 1931, addressed to Mr. F. R. Leonard, stating that Councilman Henning introduced a resolution that the City of Los Angeles give jurisdiction, subject to approval of the Board of Park Commissioners, for the topping of eucalyptus trees along Western Avenue at the westerly limits of the Shoe String Strip north of Carson Street, which are within the corporate limits of the City of Los Angeles, the City of Torrance agreeing to pay for the topping of said trees; which resolution was referred to the Board of Park Commissioners for attention and recommendation.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the City of Long Beach, under date of February 27th., 1931, addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council, extending an invitation to the Council to be present at the Thirteenth Annual Relay Championships of the Southern Pacific Association of the A. A. U., to be held at 1:00 P. M., Saturday, March 7th., 1931,

None of the Council members could attend.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Woman's Club of Torrance, under date of March 2, 1931, addressed to the Honorable Board of Trustees, requesting that the name of Cabrillo Avenue be not changed to Eshelman Avenue, because of its historical value.

Trustee Steiner stated that he did not think the ladies of the Woman's Club understood the situation, that the only reason for suggesting the changing of the name was by so doing to make it possible that a through street might be improved from State Street near the south side of Lomita to connect with Cabrillo Avenue.

Mr. Earl Conners and Mr. Sam Rappaport in the audience both stated that if changing the name of Cabrillo Avenue to Eshelman Avenue would be an advantage, they did not think many property owners along that street would object.

A gentleman in the audience from the Planning Commission, stated that there were already seven Cabrillo Avenues in Los Angeles County.

Mayor Dennis stated that there is a great deal of work being done by the County Planning Commission on through streets all over the County, and that probably later on a recommendation would be made in regard to the above street.

The City Clerk was instructed to acknowledge receipt of this letter and state that this will be brought up again for consideration in the near future.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Association of City Planners, Los Angeles, under date of February 25th., 1931, addressed to the Honorable City Council, asking that the Council give favorable consideration to the changing of that route now known as Wilmington Salt Works Road, Weston Street, Reyes Street and "S" Street to Lomita Boulevard, from Hawthorne Avenue, Torrance, to Lecouvrier Avenue, Los Angeles (Wilmington).

Trustee Steiner moved that the recommendation from the Planning Commission be accepted.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Oral communications were next in order:

Judge Rippey in the audience brought up the North Lomita Annexation petitions again. He stated that sometime in May, 1929, a petition was filed by the City electors of Lomita to annex to the City of Torrance. On June 3rd., 1929, a petition was filed in the City of Los Angeles to incorporate Lomita. No action has been taken by this Council. Under the act the Council should call an election immediately after the petition has been filed. An election must be called in order to abandon this matter. It seemed to Judge Rippey that this should be cleared up as soon as possible. The County Council will await the action of this Council before acting on the petition for incorporation.

A general discussion followed, concerning the filing of the said petition in 1929, and the trouble between the people circulating the

petitions and Mr. Kettler, property owner in the territory proposed to be annexed to the City of Torrance.

Trustee Steiner moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up the necessary Resolutions calling the election.

This motion was laid over till the next regular meeting, to give the new members of the Council time to investigate this situation.

Colonel J. W. Sutphen, representative of the bond owners of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, in the audience, stated that in accordance with the Council's instructions of February 9th., 1931, he had forwarded to Chicago the decision of the City Council to turn down the proposition made by the Water Company, and submitted to the bond owners back there the City's offer to purchase the entire Water Company for \$92,500.00 which was also rejected.

Mr. Sutphen requested the Mayor to appoint a small committee to go over the mass of data which he has secured, as he believed he had something that would interest any business man.

Trustee Nelson stated that if the Colonel had anything in mind that would interest the Council it would be worth while looking into it, if not he was for going on with the suit.

Mr. Sutphen stated that he had endeavored to arrive at some figure that would be O. K. with all, and actually believed he had something good to offer the Council.

Mayor Dennis stated that Mr. Sutphen has been very fair, the fairest of any of the representatives either from the Water Company of Bond Company, and he believed that the Council as a whole would have no objections on acting as a Committee and going into this with him.

Mr. Sutphen stated that he thought it would be better form for a committee composed of the City Engineer, Chairman of the Finance Committee and other members of the Council to meet and go into this proposition and investigate it. In regard to the law suit, Mr. Sutphen stated that it made no difference to them if the City started the law suit tomorrow, they could go right ahead and make negotiations.

Trustee Bell asked Mr. Sutphen if there was any reason why the matter could not be taken care of in one afternoon.

Mr. Sutphen replied he did not see why not.

It was decided that the meeting between Mr. Sutphen and the whole Council acting as a Committee would meet Thursday afternoon, March 5th., 1931, at 2: P. M. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Attorney Briney gave the final reading of:

ORDINANCE NO. 213.

"AN ORDINANCE FIXING RULES REGARDING ORGANIZATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE."

Trustee Bell moved that Ordinance No. 213 be adopted for its final reading.

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

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
NOES: " None.
ABSENT: " None.

Trustee Smith reported that the best figure he was able to obtain on an inhalator signal was \$350.00, and believed the City was justified in not spending that amount at the present time. This was laid over for the present time.

Attorney Briney had nothing to report with reference to the extension of Prairie Avenue.

Engineer Leonard stated that authorization be made for the replacing of an overhead light at the intersection of Western Avenue and El Prado Street, also that an overhead light be placed at 182nd. Street between Arlington Avenue and Cypress, light to be suspended

over center of the pavement near the center of the block as possible. Trustee Steiner moved that the City Engineer be authorized to take care of the placing of both the above mentioned overhead lights. Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
 NOES: " None.
 ABSENT: " None.

Engineer Leonard reported with reference to the request from Professor Herbert S. Wood of the Torrance High School, with reference to the City installing sidewalks from the corner of Manuel Avenue and Carson Street around the block to some point south of the High School Auditorium; that the labor can be taken care of out of the unemployment fund, the owners to bear the expense of the material. Engineer Leonard stated that he had heard from all but one of the property owners along these streets, and this person was in Indiana, but the expense for the sidewalk would not be over \$ or 9¢ per square foot, and the property owners are willing to put that in if the City is willing to take care of the labor out of the County unemployment fund. By the property owners paying for the material it would save them quite a bit, as it would not be necessary to call for bids.

Engineer Leonard also requested that authorization be made for the construction of a curb around a park on Madrid Avenue between Sierra Street and Dominguez Street. The labor can be taken care of from the County unemployment fund, and the City will be called upon to furnish the material for the work.

Trustee Steiner moved that the City Engineer be instructed to proceed with this work as outlined above.

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

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
 NOES: " None.
 ABSENT: " None.

The Councilmen and Mayors meeting held in Huntington Park, February 20th., 1931, was discussed, and was stated that the next meeting would be held on March 19th., 1931, in Southgate, at 6:30 P. M.

Trustee Nelson stated that he had a letter from the League of California Municipalities, which was read by Clerk Bartlett, under date of February 18th., 1931, addressed to the Honorable City Councils and Board of Supervisors, urging support to Senate Bills Nos. 52 and 53. These bills are designed to properly protect cities, counties in damage suits for injuries to persons or property resulting from defective or dangerous condition of public streets, buildings or works.

Trustee Nelson moved that Clerk Bartlett be instructed to write to the Senator urging support of this bill.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Leonard reported with reference to the Pacific Electric extension of their line on Redondo Boulevard, that no word has been received from above company, excepting as he had reported before, a request was received asking for a copy of the minutes with reference to the proceedings, which was sent to them.

Trustee Steiner moved that the letter signed by Mayor Dennis to the Pacific Electric Railway Company be ratified.

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Bell stated that the Dodge Inspection car needed some work done on it, as it has been driven 16,000 miles and has never been touched.

Trustee Bell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to have the valves ground on the Dodge Inspection car, washed and polished, and purchase two new tires for same.

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

AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
 NOES: " None.
 ABSENT: " None.

Trustee Smith read the gas report for the month of February, which showed a gain of five gallons during the month. Trustee Smith

stated that he would investigate the amount of gasoline used for Fire Department Inspections, as he believed the amount was to much.

The question was raised whether or not the City should be getting full benefit of the drop in the price of gasoline, and just how our present contract reads. The Clerk was instructed to watch this.

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

- AYES: TRUSTEES: Bell, Nelson, Smith, Steiner and Dennis.
- NOES: " None.
- ABSENT: " None.

Trustee Steiner moved that public interest and convenience require and that the City Attorney and O'Melveny, Tuller and Myers be authorized to file a Petition for Writ of Mandate with the District Court of Appeal of the State of California against H. H. Dolley, City Treasurer, and George W. Dilling to seek an order of such court compelling such City Treasurer to sign and issue the \$400,000.00 of bonds heretofore authorized to be issued by Bond Election of September 25th., 1930, for Act of 1927, Municipal Improvement District No. 1 of the City of Torrance. X

Trustee Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett
 City Clerk of the City of Torrance.

Approved:

John Dennis
 Mayor of the City of Torrance.