

Torrance, California
March 19, 1947

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

AB6943

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Ad-
journed Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance,
California, on Wednesday, March 19, 1947, at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being
Councilmen: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent:
Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Mayor Sherfey announced that the regular order of business would
be dispensed with, and that the canvass of absentee ballots from the
March 18, 1947 election would take place at this time.

Clerk Bartlett opened seven (7) sealed envelopes, containing one
ballot each. Results of the canvass of absentee votes were as follows:

FOR MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

	VOTES CAST
Evelyn L. Carr	5
Bernard Lee	1
James L. Lynch	7
Margaret O'Toole	1
Cecil W. Smith	1
Carl D. Steele	2
George P. Thatcher	4
Howard A. Wood	6
Grace Wright	6

BOND PROPOSITION NO. 1
(Fire Station)

Yes	4
No	2

BOND PROPOSITION NO. 2
(Police Station & Municipal Court)

Yes	3
No	2

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Adrian L. Thornberry, 1308 Hickory Avenue, addressed to Police Chief John Stroh, tendering his resignation as Patrolman with the Police Department, effective April 22, 1947, in order to take a position with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be instructed to extend Mr. Thornberry a vote of thanks for his past services. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Arthur Taylor of the Engineering Offices of Taylor and Taylor, 725 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, addressed to Mr. W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of the Water Department, directing Mr. Stanger to send a letter to the County Road Department, Hall of Records, Los Angeles, containing the following in connection with plans for construction of Municipal Water District No. 1 in WALTERIA:

"In compliance with Section 20, Ordinance 3597, N.S. of the County of Los Angeles, the City of Torrance hereby guarantees the payment of all costs for which the said permittee may become liable to the County of Los Angeles in connection with permits issued to the permittee on County Roads and Highways."

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council authorize Mr. Stanger to write the letter in accordance with Mr. Taylor's instructions. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Grover C. Whyte, Publisher of the Torrance Herald, tendering his resignation as a member of the Torrance Aviation Commission, due to the advice of his physician to "slow down" and the increasing pressure from his business and other duties.

Mayor Sherfey moved that Mr. Whyte's resignation from the Aviation Commission be accepted and that the City Clerk be authorized to tender Mr. Whyte a letter of regret and extend to him a vote of thanks for his past services. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, bearing the signatures of eleven (11) housewives living on Portola Avenue, was read submitting a complaint against the water they are receiving in that district, stating that it is polluted with a reddish-brown sediment which makes it unusable for washing clothes and unpalatable for drinking purposes.

Councilman Tolson moved that this matter be referred to the Water Superintendent, Mr. Stanger, for a solution. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, addressed to Mr. Dale Riley, Recreation Department Superintendent, was read from Reverend C. J. Wood, Pastor of the St. Josephs Church, Pueblo, stating that the American Rock-Wool Insulating Company located on Arlington, near the Pueblo District has offered a portion of their unused land for use as a soft-ball diamond for the children in that area, requiring, however, that the City give them a release from liability in the use of the land. He asked that the Recreation Department be authorized to aid in preparing this field for soft-ball use.

Clerk Bartlett stated that, in a recent discussion with Reverend Wood, he was informed that the Pacific Electric Railway Company has also offered a piece of ground for playground use and that Reverend Wood was desirous of including this matter in his request.

Councilman Gilbert moved that these requests be referred back to Mr. Riley for recommendation to the Council. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Charles T. Rippey, Attorney, making claim in behalf of Captain J. J. Benner of the Fire Department for wages withheld by order of the Civil Service Board, Captain Benner having been suspended from duty by the Board for a period of forty-five days.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the City Attorney for check and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Charles T. Rippy, Attorney, requesting that Mrs. Margaret Fordice, City Treasurer, be allowed to handle City receipts, deposits and payment of funds, in accordance with Section 1, Article 14 of the City Charter, as she has heretofore been unable to file a written report, accounting for all receipts disbursements and fund balances with the City Clerk and the City Council.

Mayor Sherfey moved that Mrs. Fordice be supplied with the essential materials and equipment; that the Deputy City Treasurer and the City Clerk be authorized to assist Mrs. Fordice in learning the routine of the office procedure in connection with her duties; and that she and Attorney Rippy and the City Attorney be notified of the action taken by the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that this request has been made on several occasions before, and that he would be perfectly willing to assist Mrs. Fordice in any way possible.

With reference to the above matter, Clerk Bartlett also read a memorandum from Charles Curtiss, Chief Accountant and Deputy Treasurer of the City of Torrance, stating that Mrs. Fordice made this same request about the middle of December, 1946, at which time she was notified to come into the office on January 6, 1947. A day or so after this date, Mrs. Fordice declined to take over her books, stating that she was satisfied with the way her records were being handled and that she would make no change in the system.

ABC943

A communication was read from the Regional Planning Commission, 205 South Broadway, Los Angeles, submitting one (1) print showing proposed Amendment No. 84 to the Master Plan of Highways of Los Angeles County for approval by the City, as it affects highways within Torrance.

City Engineer Glenn Jain recommended that the proposed amendment be approved by the Council.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council approve this proposed amendment. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Shell Oil Company, Inc., Shell Building, San Francisco, stating that the amount arising from the use, operation or possession of their Franchises granted by Ordinance Nos. 1356 & 1503 (L.A. County)-116, 121, 174 & 328 is \$461.66, for the twelve month period ending December 31, 1946. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Texas Company, 929 South Broadway, Los Angeles, enclosing a check for \$20.10 in full payment of all amounts due or claimed to be due under Franchise Ordinance Nos. 117, 884, 1129, and 1377, for the period of twelve months ending December 31, 1946. However, they stated, no gross receipts have arisen from the use, operation or possession of the above-mentioned ordinances, and the check is offered only by way of compromise.

Mayor Sherfey moved that, since there is some question regarding this payment by the Texas Oil Company, the matter be referred to the City Attorney for checking and recommendation to the Council; and that the communication from the Shell Oil Company, Inc. also be referred to the City Attorney, as he is working on various franchise problems at this time. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Office of the Coroner, Hall of Justice, Los Angeles, submitting a copy of the verdict covering the inquest into the explosion at the O'Connor Electro-Plating Corporation, 926 E. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, for examination by the Councilmen. Matter of record.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Engineer, Glenn M. Jain, be authorized to sell the Fordson Roller, which he claims he will be

**He stated that Mr. George was to have received \$2500.00 in compensation for his part in the celebration but has not received any of it.

able to sell for \$165.00 or \$200.00. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Council reject the bid of \$1225.00 from the Mayfair Creamery for the purchase of the City's ambulance. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City's ambulance be transferred from the Fire Department to the Painting Department for use as a paint truck; that an appropriation of between \$175.00 and \$200.00 be made for the reconversion of the ambulance; and that the Painting Department be used and reconvert this equipment for painting purposes. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the request of the Kiwanis Club for the return of the ambulance which was donated by them during the war emergency be denied and that the City Clerk be authorized to notify them of the action taken by the Council and give them the explanation that the City still has urgent need for the equipment. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

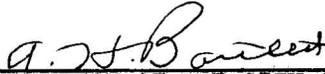
Mr. John C. Miles, Attorney, requested that a compromise be made in the payment of his client, Mr. Dell George, who supplied bleachers for the celebration held in July, 1946 for homecoming World War II servicemen, which was sponsored by the Torrance Area Projects, Inc. ** He stated that he came here tonight in the hope of settling the matter without presenting a lawsuit.

Mayor Sherfey told Mr. Miles that the Council denied any responsibility for the deficit of \$6,697.37 which was found during an audit of the expenditures incurred by the Torrance Area Projects, Inc., and that such denial is a matter of minute record of the City Council.

Mr. Miles stated, that since the City of Torrance derived a certain amount of benefit from the celebration, it should be held responsible for these debts; which statement brought forth protests from the whole Council.

Mayor Sherfey informed Mr. Miles that the Council underwrote the Torrance Area Projects, Inc., in the amount of \$2500.00 and that they are not liable for any expenditure over that figure. He also told Mr. Miles that an informal discussion of this kind will bring about no solution, but that if Mr. Miles wished to bring his claim before the Council he would have to do so in writing and present it at the next regular meeting, which will be held March 25, 1947, to which Mr. Miles replied that he would prepare his client's compromise claim for 50% of the total amount due him, and present it to the Council on the 25th of March.

At 8:40 p.m., upon motion by Mayor Sherfey, seconded the Councilman Jackson, the meeting adjourned to Thursday, March 20, 1947, at 5:00 p.m.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:



MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE