

Torrance, California
April 8, 1947

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

ABG943

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, April 8, 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.

Councilman Tolson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 25, 1947; and the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held April 1, 1947 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. Jack A. Spaulding, Torrance, requesting a license to operate a trailer vehicle for the purpose of selling hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and cold drinks within the City limits.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Spaulding's request be referred to the Chief of Police for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. James S. Lillywhite, 2226 N. Fairfield Avenue, Hollywood 28, requesting that the City pay him \$14.17 for damages to his motor-bicycle, resulting from a collision with a steel rail at the railroad crossing on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the City Attorney for his recommendation to the Council regarding the status of Mr. Lillywhite's claim. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. B. J. Michels, Chairman of the Boy Scout Troop 240 for the Youth Groups, WALTERIA, requesting that the lots owned by the City of Torrance on Park Street between 240th and 242nd Streets, or sufficient area in WALTERIA Recreation Park, be made available for the erection of a building memorializing the veterans of WALTERIA, to be used as a meeting and recreation place for various Scout, Teen-Age, Civic and Veterans groups. The letter stated that the funds needed for this building will be provided by public subscription within the community of WALTERIA and

that, upon completion, it will be turned over to the City Recreation Department as a gift from the community of Walteria.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole, Mr. Dale Riley, Recreation Superintendent, and a representative group from Walteria, including Mr. Michels, at an informal meeting to be held Monday, April 14, 1947, at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. W. F. Fitzgerald, Location Department, Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, Hollywood, requesting the use of the Baseball Park in the City of Torrance sometime during the month of June, for photographing certain scenes in the film, "Off to Buffalo", with permission to paint portions of the grandstand and bleachers; and make temporary additions to the exterior, such as box office, fence, etc., to be removed after their work is completed.

A communication, regarding the foregoing request, was read from Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, recommending that the request be granted.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation for the use of the baseball park during June be granted, upon the recommendation of Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, stating that the Chief of the Police Department, J. H. Stroh, and the Chief of the Fire Department, J. E. McMaster, have recommended that the City designate or appoint one certain physician in the City of Torrance to give the physical examinations for all applicants for employment in the City service, due to the fact that the present system of allowing the applicant to go to the doctor of his own choice has resulted in a lowering of the physical standards.

After some discussion, Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Clerk be authorized and instructed to write all known practicing physicians in the City of Torrance requesting information regarding their fee schedule for complete examination of this type; inquiring as to their interest in an arrangement of this kind; and whether or not they would be willing to take on this extra duty. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, with reference to allocations from the one-quarter cent gas tax resulting from the Special Census recently taken. He stated that the City will make a total gain of \$1,420.00 for the last quarter of this fiscal year on the one-quarter cent tax alone. No report has yet been received from the County, which allocations are made only once a year, he stated. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, with reference to Petition for Change of Zone, Case No. 71, of Mr. James A. Obole, et.al, 1507 Amapola Avenue, for Lots 5 and 6, Block 5; Lots 9 and 10, Block 2, Tract 3757; the east 160 feet of Lot 21, Tract 10185, lying north of Lot 9, Block 2, Tract 3757; and the east 160 feet of Lot 20, Tract 10185, lying south of Lot 6, Block 5, Tract 3757, from an M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) Zone to an R-3 (Multiple-family residential) Zone. This property is located on the west side of Apply Avenue, between Washington Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue. The letter recommended that the above described property be rezoned as requested; and that a Public Hearing be held by the Council not sooner than April 22, 1947; and that notices of the Hearing be sent out not later than ten days prior to the date set.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council order a Public Hearing on Case No. 71 at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22, 1947. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, with reference to Petition for Variance, Case

No. 73 of Alfred W. Hookway and Susan M. Hookway, for permission to construct and operate a trailer camp on the southerly 215.53 feet of Block 4, Tract 2675, located on the northwesterly corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and Jefferson Street, now in an M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) Zone; and recommending that the Council give its approval.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to grant this request. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, with reference to Case No. 75, Petition for Variance of Mr. O. A. McGhan, for permission to construct and operate a trailer camp on the southwest corner of Hawthorne Avenue and Newton Street in WALTERIA; and recommending that the Council concur in the Commission's denial of the Petition, due to the large number of protestants in the immediate vicinity.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, submitting a copy of the letter received by his office from Public Utilities Commission, State of California, in answer to a letter of protest to the proposed increase in rates by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Councilman Powell suggested that this communication be filed for the further consideration of the Council at its informal meeting to be held on Monday, April 14, 1947 at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1831

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ADOPTING THE 1946 REVISED EDITION OF THE PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1831 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1831 be adopted. Councilman Jackson 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1832

RESOLUTION DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF SALE OF FRANCHISE.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1832 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1832 be adopted. Councilman Jackson 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.

At 8:23 p.m., Mayor Sherfey announced that there would be a slight deviation from the regular Council procedure in order to hold a private meeting with Mr. Stanley Abel, Area Management Supervisor, Federal Public Housing Authority, for discussion of the proposed agreement between the Veterans Emergency Rentals, Inc., and the City of Torrance.

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At 9:10 p.m., the Council reconvened and Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Councilman Powell moved that, in accordance with a recommendation from Fire Chief J. E. McMaster, an informal meeting be called for Monday, April 14, 1947, at 8:30 p.m., of the City Council, together with the Civil Service Board, Mr. Eugene Held and Mr. Ernest Lopp of the Fire Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the Torrance Chapter of the American Red Cross that the City wishes possession of the quarters they are now using in the Chamber of Commerce building as soon as they can vacate in order to house the firemen. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$307.52 be made for the purchase of 3882 gallons of Bitumuls for the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$25.75 be made to the Torrance Flower Shop for table decorations at the League of Municipalities dinner meeting held recently. Councilman Jackson 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 an appropriation of \$170.00, less 33.6% (plus tax) be made for 1 cast iron Vault Cover and Frame for Municipal Water District No. 2 as per Mr. Taylor's letter of March 28, 1947, to be charged to the District No. 2 Bond Fund. Councilman Jackson 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, be authorized to place NO LEFT TURN signs throughout the retail district during the heaviest periods of traffic (Friday and Saturday) for a period of thirty days for a temporary try-out of this system. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mayor Sherfey be appointed to the Torrance City Planning Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John E. McCall; the term for which is to correspond with his official tenure as Mayor. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey questioned Chief of Police Stroh with regard to the request of the Chamber of Commerce for extended traffic control on Greshaw Boulevard.

Chief Stroh reported that Greshaw Boulevard, north of Torrance Boulevard, does not have enough industrial and residential structures to warrant a change from a 55-mile zone to a 25-mile zone; and that about the only solution to the problem would be to place a 25-mile zone for a portion of the boulevard (about 1500 feet) which would comply with Section 511 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the C.B.C. Code and extend the zone out past the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation.

Chief of Police Stroh made an oral request for assistance from the Council in ordering the installation of two additional boulevard stop signs at the intersection of Prairie and Redondo Beach Boulevards, making it a four-way stop.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh be instructed to furnish the City Clerk with statistics showing the number of fatal or near-

fatal accidents that have occurred at the intersection of Prairie and Redondo Beach Boulevards within the last year; and that the City Clerk be authorized to make a request on behalf of the City Council to the Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County, for installation of these two additional stop signs at said intersection. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey asked Chief of Police Stroh for his recommendation regarding the railroad crossing signals the Council requested of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for installation at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Dominguez Street.

Chief Stroh stated that, although the Company is asking the City to pay 50% of the cost of the signals, he could see no other course than to put them in, due to the danger of the crossing. He stated that one of our citizens, whose car was struck by a freight train at this crossing recently during foggy weather, was knocked unconscious and was not found for an hour afterward.

During the ensuing discussion, City Attorney Willett stated that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company operates in the City of Torrance under a temporary permit rather than a franchise. He suggested a letter to the Railroad Commission of the State of California advising that the signals are necessary as a safety measure, and requesting that they be installed at the sole cost of the Santa Fe Railway Company.

Councilman Powell moved that City Attorney Willett be authorized to write to the Railroad Commission of the State of California, requesting the installation of automatic crossing signals at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Dominguez Street; and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for their information. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

It was suggested by Councilman Gilbert that the request of Mr. Lowell Spring for permission to sell non-explosive fireworks at his store, The Torrance Hobby Shop, for the coming Fourth of July, be held off until a recommendation on the matter is received from Fire Chief J. E. McMaster.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. George Thatcher of WALTERIA addressed the Council with a request for information regarding the plan for renumbering of houses in Torrance, his community in particular.

City Engineer Glenn Jain informed Mr. Thatcher that plans for renumbering of houses has been temporarily abandoned due to the scarcity of funds to finish up this fiscal year. He stated that the new fiscal year may provide sufficient funds for the execution of plans in this regard.

Councilman Tolson moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert 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.

At 9:35 p.m., upon motion by Councilman Tolson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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