

Torrance, California
April 22, 1947

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

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, April 22, 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 Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 8, 1947; and the minutes of a Special Meeting held April 18, 1947, be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

An invitation was read from the Torrance Post No. 3251 and Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Council to attend the joint installation on Tuesday, April 29, 1947, at 8:00 p.m., in the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

A communication was read from Kathryn Buffington, 1434 Post Avenue, President of the Creative Piano Teachers of Los Angeles, requesting that the yearly license tax for piano teachers of \$24.00 be reduced to \$6.00; and that the piano teacher who comes in from outside the City to teach students within Torrance should be taxed in the same manner as those living here.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be held over and discussed further among the Councilmen for report at a subsequent meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. J. G. Caldwell, Director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, advising that he has been contacted by Mr. Kenneth Fritz, 1563 West 214th Street, who wishes to teach classes in various handicrafts and arts; and recommending that he be afforded consideration in the event the City is interested in forming classes of this type.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be placed on file for future reference. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, bearing the signatures of seven officials of local veterans' organizations, was read with reference to the commemoration of the forthcoming Memorial Day. The letter stated that a meeting of representatives of various civic, church & veterans' organizations will be held Thursday, April 24, 1947, at 7:30 p.m., at the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, 1339 Post Avenue; and requested that a committee be appointed from the Council for attendance at this meeting.

Mayor Sherfey stated that representatives would be appointed from the Council within a day or two for attendance at this meeting.

A communication was read from the Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, stating their desire to obtain the Torrance Civic Auditorium for the joint installation of new officers and the ladies auxiliary on Tuesday, April 29, 1947, free of charge.

Councilman Tolson moved that this request be granted. No second was forthcoming.

Mayor Sherfey moved that this matter be referred to the Council as a whole for discussion and that an answer be forwarded to the Veterans as soon as possible. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, requesting a permit to sponsor non-explosive fire works stands in the City of Torrance for the forthcoming Fourth of July.

At this point, Councilman Powell read a communication from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, recommending that the sale of non-explosive fire works be allowed so long as the seller abides by the State Law governing fire works and that permits be issued only to local citizens and business men.

Councilman Powell moved that the Veterans of Foreign Wars be allowed to obtain a permit for the sale of fireworks upon the recommendation of Fire Chief McMaster. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Sherfey called for the opening of Bids on water mains for Municipal Water District No. 2 in North Torrance.

Clerk Bartlett opened, examined and read the following Bids:

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<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. J. E. Young Pipeline Contractors 8677 Otis Avenue, South Gate	\$2,790.00
2. Hood Construction Company 3332 E. Florence, Huntington Park	3,485.00
3. Pacific Pipeline & Engineers, Ltd. 2268 E. Firestone Blvd., Los Angeles	3,700.00

Councilman Tolson moved that the above bids be referred to the Water Superintendent, Mr. W. H. Stanger, and the Consulting Engineers, Taylor and Taylor, for recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS (Cont.)

A communication was read from J. J. Millard and Mary Jane Millard, Route 1, Box 368, Lomita, requesting removal of a City water line at their property at 23162 Hawthorne Avenue. Also requested was the disconnection of the meter and water line of the A. Gallinger property on Samuel Street from the writers' line and service given direct to the property to avoid confusion in the computing of water bills.

Councilman Jackson moved that this communication be referred to the Water Superintendent for his action and recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Pons Novelty Manufacturing Company, 5914 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles 44, advising that their two lots next to the Cafe at 1610 Cabrillo Avenue are available for parking purposes for \$50.00 per month for both lots, if the City desires to rent them.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, with reference to the widening of Hawthorne Avenue between Redondo Beach Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway, stating that they are willing to cooperate with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the State Highway Division to bring about the improvement if they desire to begin proceedings in that connection.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Bruce Riddle, Jr., of the Riddle Detective Agency, 11478 Copeland Avenue, Lynwood, stating his desire to obtain a permit to operate a Merchant's Patrol Service in Torrance. He stated that he wishes to open an office and do domestic, personal, bodyguard and criminal investigations work in addition to the patrol.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred to the Chief of Police for his investigation and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., Box 548, requesting the use of the Torrance Civic Auditorium on one night each week for the purpose of providing entertainment for the students and parents of their organization and to raise funds for the maintenance of the bands.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be rejected. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Berrell H. Harline, 24255 Los Codonas Avenue, WALTERIA, requesting a refund of \$10.00 for a building permit issued him on March 1, 1946, and his blue prints returned to him, due to difficulty beyond his control regarding escrow of the lot on which he planned to build in WALTERIA.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Blaine Walker, Secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, requesting that the Council fix a date for a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of discussing the proposed charter amendment regarding a City Manager.

Mayor Sherfey moved that a meeting be arranged for Tuesday, April 29th, 1947, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall; and that Clerk Bartlett be authorized to notify Mr. Walker of this motion. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication, bearing the signatures of eleven residents on Madrid Avenue, was read requesting that the renewal of the franchise of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company be denied at this time. It was stated in the letter that in August, 1944, renewal of the franchise was denied and the matter tabled for the duration of the war and six months thereafter.

City Attorney Otto B. Willett advised the Council that, inasmuch as the President of the United States in December, 1946, declared the end of hostilities only, the country is still officially in the state of war and will be until Congress makes a statement otherwise.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the City Attorney for study and recommendation to the Council and that the Council meet jointly for the purpose of discussing this problem further. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance General Insurance Agency, 1407 Marcelina Avenue, with reference to the expiration of the City's insurance on the grandstand, bleachers and office building on May 1, 1947.

Councilman Tolson moved that this \$1500.00 policy be renewed for a period of five years at a cost of \$75.60. 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.

A communication was read from Mrs. D. H. Jamieson, Librarian of the Torrance Branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library, requesting refinishing of the venetian blinds and reupholstering of four library chairs at the Library Building.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be placed on file for future reference. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, with reference to difficulties brought about by Ordinance No. 249, which governs the Police and Fire Departments, stating that the Ordinance should be amended or repealed in order to authorize the five-man Civil Service Board to act as the Trial Board, instead of including the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments, who, in most cases are necessarily disqualified, leaving a four-man and sometimes a three-man Trial Board.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be placed on file in order that the issue may be placed before the people at the next election for voting on either an amendment or repeal to the Ordinance. No second to the motion was forthcoming.

City Attorney Willett informed the Council that there is a possibility that the Council would, under the provisions of the City Charter which was voted in by the people, have the authority to amend or repeal a Civil Service Ordinance.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred to the City Attorney for study and recommendation to the Council as to whether or not this Ordinance can be amended without placing it before the vote of the citizens at the next election. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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A communication was read from Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, requesting the permission of the Council to transfer two General Electric 1500 Watt flood lights from the park to the Electrical Department for sale.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Recreation Superintendent be authorized to transfer these flood lights to the Electrical Department for sale. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A copy of a communication addressed to the Railroad Commission of the State of California and written by City Attorney Otto B. Willett was read with reference to obtaining the installation of railroad crossing signals by the Santa Fe Railway Company at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Dominguez Street without cost to the City. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, City Attorney, with reference to the claim of Mr. James S. Lillywhite for damages to his motor-bicycle at the railroad crossing on Crenshaw Boulevard, north of Torrance Boulevard. The letter recommended that the claim of Mr. Lillywhite be denied by the Council; that a copy of such action and a copy of Mr. Lillywhite's letter be referred to the insurance carrier for the City; and that the City Engineer be instructed to check the condition of the road at the location of the accident, in order to avoid future liability.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendations as set forth in Mr. Willett's communication. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, requesting that the Council draw up a resolution authorizing an extension of a 25-mile zone 1500 feet north on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer and the Chief of Police be authorized to make a traffic check to determine the number of cars traveling the boulevard and submit a report to the Council at its next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Don Lemen, employee of the Street Department who was recently laid off due to the shortage in City funds, requesting pro-rata vacation pay for the eleven months he has been employed by the City.

City Attorney Willett advised the Council that the Civil Service Ordinance states that there shall be no vacation or vacation pay allowed except after twelve months' service with the City.

Mayor Sherfey suggested that this matter, along with any other requests of similar nature that may be received, be kept in mind for discussion at the informal meeting to be held Wednesday, April 23, 1947, at 7:30 p.m.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1833

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING APPLICATION TO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR PLAN PREPARATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE WALTERIA SANITARY SEWER PROJECT, AND DESIGNATING THE CITY ENGINEER AS AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE CITY WITH AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAID DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1833 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1833 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.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, regarding the sale of safe and sane fireworks, which was read earlier in the meeting, be concurred in by the City Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$160.80, plus tax, be made for the purchase of forty (40) tons of #4 rock, and forty (40) tons of #5 rock for street patching; and that an appropriation of \$180.00 be made for the purchase of 2,000 gallons of Bitumuls for street patching. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN:: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell stated that he voted against these appropriations for street patching materials because of the serious fund shortage; and due to the fact that street patches are generally ruined after a few rainy days, therefore creating a waste of effort, time and money.

City Engineer Jain informed Councilman Powell that repair of the streets is necessary due to the fact that the City is liable in a case of accident through the fault of poor streets; therefore, they must be kept in repair at all times.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for the sale of Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 14, Torrance Tract, situated on El Prado Avenue; no bid of less than \$25,000.00 to be considered; and the City reserving the right to reject any and all bids. 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.

Councilman Tolson presented and read a report written pursuant to recommendations received from Logan Cotton, City Auditor, as follows:

"The Council has received recommendations from the City Auditor, Logan Cotton, that in order to operate the City within its legal anticipated income it is necessary that in the various City Departments certain personnel be laid off or positions be abolished for an indefinite period. The Council, acting upon this advice, notified the various departments of the action of lay-offs or abolition of positions in the various departments, effective April 22, 1947, as follows:

City Clerk's Department	1 employee
City Attorney's Department	1 employee
Recreation Department	6 employees and 1 hourly employee
Mr. Riley, Superintendent of Recreation	was instructed to close the arts and Crafts Center.
Electrical Department	1 employee
Painting Department	2 employees
Engineering Department	1 employee and 2 hourly employees
Fire Department	1 employee
Police Department	1 employee; also the Rangemaster
Park Department	6 employees and 1 hourly employee
Street Department	10 employees
City Garage Department	1 employee

and also

1. All overtime pay shall be eliminated.
2. All hourly employees shall be eliminated, excepting school crossing guards.
3. Expenses for the balance of the fiscal year (April, May and June) must be kept to bare necessities.
4. That in the various departments certain personnel be laid off or positions be abolished, for an indefinite period."

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Councilman Tolson moved that the City Council concur in the recommendations of City Auditor, Logan Cotton, and that it concur in and ratify the action of the Department Heads in the lay-offs and abolition of positions that they have made. 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 Gilbert advised that, with reference to a communication dated April 7, 1947, from a representative of a group of citizens of Walteria with a request to erect a building as a veterans' memorial for youth and community activities he would make the following motion:

"That the above request be granted; that a portion of Walteria Park be selected for the site, with the understanding that the building be placed on this site without cost to the City, and providing that the structure meets with the approval of the City Council and the City Engineer." Councilman Tolson 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 Gilbert moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended agreement between Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 of the American Legion and the City of Torrance for lease of the ball park concessions. Councilman Tolson 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 Gilbert requested the approval of the Council to the use of the Civic Auditorium by the Teen-Agers on Saturday night, April 26th, 1947. He stated that everything has been arranged and that when the letter is submitted he would like to obtain the signatures of three Councilmen approving the use.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$138.25 be made for the purchase of 350 ft. 2½ inch Black Standard Water Pipe for the Walteria Subdivision. Councilman Tolson 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 to authorize the transfer of 5110 feet of B & S Class 150 Pipe in the amount of \$6633.98 from Municipal Improvement District No. 1 (Torrance) to Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria). 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief of Police Stroh stated that he tried to contact Mr. Jack Spaulding, whose request for a license to operate a lunch wagon service in Torrance was read at the last meeting, for checking in order to give recommendation to the Council, but found that he had moved from his address in Wilmington, leaving no forwarding address. Mayor Sherfey suggested that the matter be continued over until Chief Stroh has been able to contact Mr. Spaulding.

Mayor Sherfey suggested that the matter of appointing a physician to give all examinations to applicants for City service as per the request of the Civil Service Board, be held over for discussion with the Board at the joint meeting to be held Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Bartlett read in full an amended agreement submitted by Stanley Abel of the Federal Public Housing Authority with reference to conversion of barracks at the Lomita Flight Strip to housing for veterans.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Veterans Emergency Rentals, Inc., with whom the City will enter the agreement, be required to set up a system whereby they will pay into a sinking fund over a period of five years at monthly intervals in order to insure a sum of \$4500.00 for the removal of the temporary housing at the end of the five-year emergency period; and that the payments be made a matter of record for examination by the City Auditor. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

After some discussion regarding the number of buildings to be allotted the Veterans Emergency Rentals, Inc., Mr. J. G. Caldwell, Director of the Veterans Service Center, stated that the number will depend upon whoever has No. 1 priority with the Government, the veterans, or the National Guard, who have been authorized to use a portion of the barracks for their men some time ago.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1834

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE VETERANS EMERGENCY RENTALS, INC. IN AID OF ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, ADMINISTERING AND REMOVING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1834 be dispensed with. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1834 be adopted, subject to the revisal brought about by the motion made by Councilman Jackson which is foregoing. Councilman Tolson 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.

City Engineer Glenn M. Jain reported, with reference to the problem of temporary housing for the Fire Department, that the cost is estimated at around \$2,000 to \$2500 for converting the rear of the Chamber of Commerce Building into housing for the firemen and equipment.

Upon inquiry, Engineer Jain reported that the structural engineer, Mr. Bostock, who examined the present Central Fire Station recently, verbally appraised the amount of work to be done to put it in safe condition at between \$8,000 and \$10,000, and that bids would have to be received for the job.

City Engineer Glenn M. Jain informed the Council that the Final Map of Tract No. 14571 of the Metro Construction Company which was approved by the Council at a meeting on March 11, 1947, has not yet received the approval of the Federal Housing Authority, and requested that the motion approving said Tract be rescinded until approval is secured from the Federal Housing Authority.

Councilman Tolson moved that the action taken by the Council approving Final Map of Tract No. 14571 of the Metro Construction Company on March 11, 1947 be rescinded until Federal Housing Authority approval is secured. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Vernon Coil, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, addressed the Council asking that his organization be given favorable consideration in its written request previously read for the free use of the Civic Auditorium on Tuesday, April 29, 1947, for the joint installation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. He stated that the C.I.O. Hall, which is now being used for a meeting place is not large enough for a presentation of this kind, and that this request for the Auditorium will only be made once a year and only at installation time.

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Mr. Sam Levy, Department Store owner, advised the Council that, after examining the present Central Fire Station, \$2500 would be a sufficient amount of money, in his opinion, to spend for its repair and rehabilitation, due to the 24" walls at both ends and a steel beam down the center, which could be tied into for bracing the side walls.

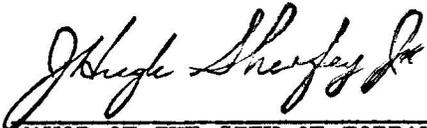
Mayor Sherfey asked Mr. Levy if he would like to submit a written proposal for the repair of the Fire Station. Mr. Levy stated that he would do so at the first opportunity.

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 9:25 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