

Torrance, California
July 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, July 22, 1947, at 7:55 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.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 8, 1947, and the Minutes of a Special Meeting held July 14, 1947, be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Jacob B. Brock and Addie Brock Bennett, Co-owners at 3840 $\frac{1}{2}$ Newton Street, requesting adjustment by the City's insurance carrier of damages to their garage caused by the Walteria Fire Department.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the above parties to contact the City's insurance carrier, Lund Company, Insurance, regarding the adjustment. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance City School District, signed by Emmett W. Ingram, Assistant Superintendent, requesting that arrangements be made whereby the District might obtain gasoline through the City of Torrance at the same contract price made available to the City.

Clerk Bartlett explained that, in connection with the foregoing letter, he had already requested the Associated Oil Company representatives to submit an agreement; and that he had also advised the School District to contact the Los Angeles County School District ~~to contact the Los Angeles County School District~~ in order to find out whether or not this arrangement can be made legally without first advertising for bids.

A communication was read from the Torrance City School District, signed by J. Henrich Hull, Superintendent, stating that the District will provide an assistant to Mr. Elmer Moon at the Fern Avenue Recreation Park on a six-hour day, five-day week basis if the City will put the plumbing and lavatory in working order and use a scraper on the weeds and grounds.

After some discussion, Councilman Jackson moved that action on this matter be suspended until after the Council meets with the Board of Education, and that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the Board of this action. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, signed by Bessie Slonecker, Secretary, requesting immediate repairs to the streets and alleys in Walteria and additional care for the Park.

Following some discussion, Councilman Jackson moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for his study and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joe E. Williams, 2024 Arlington Avenue, requesting a license to operate a lunch wagon in Torrance.

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

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A communication was read from Messrs. Ed Voltz and Sam Goldfaden, owners of the Torrance Trailer Park, 1820 Torrance Boulevard, petitioning for the oiling of Bow Street, which runs along the east side of their Trailer Park, and also the sidewalk space on 212th Street.

Councilman Jackson moved that this Petition be referred to the City Engineer for action. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Gus D. Weber, 1903 Andreo Avenue, informing the Council of an overgrown hedge next door to his property, and requesting that action be taken.

Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be filed for future reference. No second to the motion was forthcoming.

Following further discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred to the City Attorney for checking into the legal aspects of the question. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Murphey, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that the request of the 20-30 Club for a bus free of charge for transportation of the Ben Bard Players on July 25 and 26, 1947, be granted, with the Club paying the salary of the driver. The communication from the 20-30 Club was attached to Mr. Murphey's letter.

Councilman Tolson moved that the recommendation of Mr. Murphey be concurred in and the request granted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Two communications were read from Mr. Arthur Taylor, of Taylor and Taylor, Construction Engineers, 725 South Spring Street, with regard to extending Municipal Water District No. 2 down as far as a proposed subdivision at 174th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard; and recommending that they be authorized to advertise for bids for this additional work.

City Attorney Willett suggested that, prior to authorizing the advertisement for bids, the matter be held over until Mr. W. H. Stanger, Water Superintendent, returns from a convention in San Francisco, as it is possible that he will use his own crew to install the pipe for the proposed subdivision.

The communications were declared a matter of record for the present time.

A communication was read from Local No. 9, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, signed by W. T. Howell, Executive Secretary, requesting immediate rent legislation to hold rents and stop evictions in the Torrance area.

City Attorney Willett stated that, in accordance with the Federal Government, rents are frozen at the present time on houses and that the hotels and apartment houses are the only accommodations on which rent may be raised.

Mayor Sherfey supplemented this by advising that the ordinance which the Los Angeles City Council is about to adopt will cover hotel and apartment house accommodations, also. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Frank R. Carrell, Judge, thanking Torrance City Officials for the floral piece recently contributed at the occasion of his installation as Judge of the Gardena Township, Los Angeles County. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles C. Moore, Jr., 208 Via Alcance, Palos Verdes Estates, making 3 proposals for the maintenance of Police Radio Equipment for the coming year.

A communication was read from Mr. Bennett Black, who now does the maintenance work on the Police Radio Equipment, offering his services for the coming year at the rate of \$15.00 per week.

Chief of Police Stroh recommended that action on the two foregoing communications be suspended for a period.

Councilman Tolson moved that action on the choice of radio maintenance man be suspended for another thirty days. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Reverend Arthur P. Pedersen - thanking the City Clerk and Officials for their cooperation in behalf of the Torrance Foursquare Church's recently erected Gospel Tent. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. Paul M. Watson, 1328 Acacia Avenue, tendering his resignation from the Torrance Civil Service Board, effective as of September 1, 1947.

Councilman Tolson moved that the resignation of Mr. Watson as a member of the Civil Service Board be accepted and that the City Clerk be authorized to extend to him a letter of appreciation for his past services with the Board. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Walter C. Peterson, City Clerk of the City of Los Angeles, advising that the request previously made by J. H. Stroh, Chief of Police, Torrance, for the installation by the City of Los Angeles of two additional boulevard stop signs at the intersection of 182nd Street and Western Avenue had been granted. Matter of record.

A communication, bearing the signatures of nineteen members of the Torrance Police Department, was read requesting either a fifteen percent increase in salary; or that they be paid for working the sixth day of each week, together with all legal holidays observed by the City.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation by Councilman Gilbert, Councilman Powell withdrew his foregoing motion. Councilman Tolson withdrew his second.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to draw up a letter to be made available to all Department Heads advising that increases in salary for the coming year are not to be granted in any case whatsoever. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, signed by W. C. Bradford, Secretary, with reference to the request by the City Council to call for an examination for the position of "Bus Manager" with the residence requirement waived for this one particular examination. Mr. Bradford advised that the Board has no authority under the existing ordinance to waive the residence clause for any examination for any position in the City of Torrance, and that the Board recommends that the Council amend the present ordinance making it possible for the Civil Service Board to waive the residence requirement.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Civil Service Board and that the City Clerk be authorized to request the City Attorney to draw up an amendment to the present Civil Service Ordinance in order that the residence requirement may be waived by the Board. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, signed by W. C. Bradford, Secretary, advising that, following the Civil Service examination held on July 9th, for the position of "City Attorney (Part time)" there is now an eligible list consisting of one name - that of Mr. Otto B. Willett.

City Attorney Willett requested that action on the matter be suspended until the next regular meeting of the Council.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of the Police Department, recommending that the City Electrician and the City Engineer be requested to investigate the poor lighting at the intersection of Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards which makes it difficult to see the boulevard stop signs and pedestrians at night.

Councilman Powell stated at this point that it has been his observation to find street lamps still burning at the hour of 7:30 a.m. on Arlington; and moved that the City Clerk be authorized to write to the Edison Company requesting that the street lights be turned off

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as soon as they are no longer necessary. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell advised that it would also be a good plan to investigate the reason for the Edison bills remaining practically the same even after approximately half the street lamps were taken out.

With regard to Chief Stroh's communication, City Engineer Jain advised that he and the City Electrician had discussed the lighting problem at Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards and had figured the cost of installing two additional pendant-type street lamps at around \$400.00.

Mayor Sherfey moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer and the Chief of Police to work out a solution to the lighting problem at Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards, and to submit an estimate on the cost at the next regular meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of the Police Department, advising of Mr. Sam Levy's proposal for an addition to the Police Station in the amount of \$500.00, which includes material and labor, plus his \$1.00 per month salary as technical advisor.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Levy's proposal be referred to the Council as a whole for further consideration and report at the next meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A bulletin was presented from The Cancer Prevention Society, signed by its Campaign Director, Michael D. Fanning, urging that a resolution be adopted or a proclamation issued in support of the drive to raise \$2,000,000.00 toward the construction of the Los Angeles Memorial Cancer Hospital.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Mayor be authorized to issue a proclamation in favor of contributing to this drive. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Temperature Research Laboratory, Inc., 465½ West 39th Street, San Pedro, requesting permission to solicit funds in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that this request be referred to the Chief of Police for checking into the background of the Temperature Research Laboratory, Inc., and that he submit a recommendation in this regard at the next meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Petition for Change of Zone, submitted by J. E. Kettler for Tract No. 14016, known as "Kettler Knolls, Inc." was presented.

Councilman Tolson moved that this Petition be referred to the Planning Commission for action. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of the Police Department, with reference to the request of Sidney Lewis, Jack Braydon and Mohr Brothers, Enterprises, So. Bay Recreation 119-21 So. El Paseo, Redondo Beach, for a license and a permit to operate a Billiard and Pool Parlor at 1413 Cravens Avenue, which was referred to him at the Regular Meeting held July 8, 1947. He stated that, after a thorough investigation of these men, he would recommend that their request be granted.

Councilman Gilbert moved that a license and a permit be issued to the applicants. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the proposed Agreement of the National Supply Company in connection with the intended improvement of Western Avenue from 182nd Street to 260th Street which had been approved by the City Engineer and the City Attorney, to whom the Agreement was referred at a Regular Meeting held June 24, 1947.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the Agreement. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. August Macau, 2413 Torrance Boulevard, and Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Jones, 2375 Torrance Boulevard, with regard to the congestion of parked automobiles adjacent to the two four-family unit apartment houses at Acacia and Torrance Boulevard. Mr. Macau stated that he lives next door to the apartments and seldom has an entrance-way to his own home.

Mayor Sherfey moved that this complaint be referred to the Chief of Police for his checking and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., which was read at a Regular Meeting held July 8, 1947, and referred to the Council for consideration after meeting with the Board of Directors of said organization, was presented at this time.

Councilman Tolson moved that the request of the Torrance Area Youth Bands for the use of the Civic Auditorium on Saturday nights be granted, with the City receiving thirty per cent of the entrance fees up to \$35.00 in exchange for the use; that their organization be held responsible for any damages to the building; and that the City Custodian be authorized to check the first and last tickets received each Saturday night in order to ascertain the amount taken in. 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 the California Nevada Properties, Inc., 112 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, signed by L. Blake Baldwin, Vice President, again requesting reimbursement for their expenditures in the installation of fire hydrants in Tract 10306.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Clerk be authorized to direct a communication to the California Nevada Properties, Inc., stating that the City of Torrance under no condition installs or pays for fire hydrants in this district. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that Councilman Powell, upon his written request, be released from attendance at all regular Council meetings during the month of August. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that all of the various organizations now using the Civic Auditorium be notified immediately of the necessity of payment in advance when an admission fee is to be charged, and that the City Clerk's Office will make out the receipts in duplicate so that the applicant may present such duplicate to the custodian of the Auditorium on the date desired for its use. If free use has been granted, the receipt should so state. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that all motions previously made with regard to the use of the Civic Auditorium be stricken from the records. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$162.00, plus tax, be made for supplies for the Bus Department. 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.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$261.50 be made from the Sales Tax Fund, for repairs to the Fire House roof. 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.

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Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Clerk be instructed to obtain a breakdown of expenses of the Civic Auditorium, along with all the income since November 18, 1946, before the adoption of the new Budget. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

In the interest of efficiency, and to keep accounts and records separately, Mayor Sherfey moved that the Council go on record officially as setting the first Monday preceding the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., starting July 1, 1947, as regular monthly meetings of the City Council acting in their capacities as directors of the various municipal water districts, and all business affecting these districts will be transacted at such meetings. The meetings shall open to the public and shall be held at Municipal Improvement District No. 1, 1510 Cravens Avenue. In this connection, he continued, it might be stated that this action is taken upon recommendation of our City Attorney, and had been agreed upon by all members of the Council to take effect with the beginning of our new fiscal year. This will help the City to keep the records of the three water districts completely separate from Council records. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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

At 9:22 p.m., upon motion by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Powell, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned to Wednesday, July 30, 1947, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

A. H. Powell
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

John Sherfey Jr.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE