

Torrance, California  
December 9, 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, December 9, 1947, at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being: Councilmen: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, 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 November 25, 1947, be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, 79 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, stating that no receipts or earnings were derived during the twelve months preceding December 2, 1947, under County Franchise Ordinance No. 1351. Matter of record.

A communication was read from The Metropolitan Water District, 306 West Third Street, Los Angeles, with reference to payment of taxes to be derived from the area of the District lying within the City of Torrance.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City of Torrance will not elect to pay out of municipal funds any portion of The Metropolitan Water District's taxes levied for the fiscal year 1948-49. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1345 El Prado, submitting a copy of a letter which has been forwarded to the State Highway Commission regarding the improvement of Hawthorne Boulevard from Redondo Beach Boulevard to Palos Verdes. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the American Rock Wool Corporation, 401 Arlington Avenue, requesting the installation of a street light on Arlington Avenue, between Dominguez and 203rd Streets.

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

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A communication was read from Mr. Roy Thompson, 2029 Border Avenue, requesting a trailer permit for ninety days.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Thompson be granted permission to park his trailer on his property for a period of ninety days. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schaefermeyer, 23747 Eshelman Avenue, requesting an extension of their trailer permit, which was granted July 8, 1947.

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

A communication was read from Mr. August Macan, 2413 Torrance Boulevard, requesting information with reference to the removal of two trees in front of the apartment house in which he resides.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred to the Street Superintendent for whatever action he deems necessary. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for hearing on the Petition of John E. Kettler for Change of Zone, Tract No. 14016, Case No. 93.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read the Planning Commission's recommendation to grant the Change of Zone.

There being no protests, either written or oral, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the Change of Zone in Tract No. 14016. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for hearing on the Petition of Charles T. Rippey for Change of Zone, Tract No. 639, Case No. 98.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read the Planning Commission's recommendation to grant the Change of Zone.

There being no protests, either written or oral, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the Change of Zone in Tract No. 639. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for hearing on the Petition of James E. Stinson for Change of Zone, Tract No. 10786, Case No. 96.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read the Planning Commission's communication informing the Council that the Commission has taken no action on the Petition and has no recommendation to make.

There being no protests, either written or oral, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council approve the Change of Zone in Tract No. 10786 in concurrence with the applicant's request. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Torrance City Planning Commission, with reference to the Petition of Joseph F. Gorman for a Change of Zone, Meadow Park Tract, Case No. 100. The letter stated that, upon recommendation by the Planning Commission, Mr. Gorman changed his Petition for a Change of Zone to an application for a Zoning Variance, after which the Commission gave its approval, subject to the condition that Mr. Gorman submit a revised plan to conform to all building and zoning regulations, applicable to an R-3 Zone.

Following some discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for checking and recommendation to the Council at the next Regular Meeting, providing that the revised plans have been submitted by Mr. Gorman. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance City Planning Commission, with reference to the Petition of George C. Byrne for a Zoning Variance, McDonald Tract, Case No. 101, and recommending that the Variance be granted.

After some discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred back to the Planning Commission for further study and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey explained to the Assemblage that the foregoing motion was made because of the fact that there had been so much discussion with regard to this particular piece of property, situated at Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street, that the Council feels it is advisable to study the matter more thoroughly before taking action.

A communication was read from Mr. J. H. Mason and Mr. R. K. Palmer, expressing appreciation for the paving of the 238th block of Madison, Ward and Park Streets in WALTERIA. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting an appropriation of \$100.00 to help carry out their plans for a Christmas Party for the children of WALTERIA.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Recreation Superintendent for study and recommendation to the Council. No second to the motion was forthcoming.

After some discussion, in which the need for immediate action on the matter was stressed, Councilman Gilbert withdrew his motion.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council appropriate the sum of \$100.00 to the WALTERIA Civic Organization for this year's Christmas Party. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Application for Taxicab Owner's Permit, filed by John Pierce and B. W. Dowander, 1330 Cabrillo Avenue, which had been approved by the Chief of Police.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Application for Taxicab Owner's Permit be approved by the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Application for Street Stand Permit, filed by John Pierce and B. W. Dowander, 1330 Cabrillo Avenue, which had been approved by the Chief of Police.

Following some discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred back to the Chief of Police for further checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Resolution was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, with regard to the allocation of gasoline tax funds to cities within the County of Los Angeles in an amount of three-sixteenths (3/16) of a cent, effective July 1, 1948. Matter of record.

A Petition was presented, bearing thirty-three signatures, requesting the grading and paving of Apple Street and that it be made a through street from Plaza del Amo to Sepulveda Boulevard.

Councilman Jackson moved that this Petition be referred to the City Engineer's Office for checking and recommendation to the Council at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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A sample Contract was presented from B. F. Goodrich Company, to provide the City of Torrance with fire hose.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, recommending an expenditure of \$1119.00, plus tax, for 900 feet of fire hose.

Councilman Tolson moved that this matter be referred to City Clerk Bartlett, the City's Purchasing Agent, for checking the budget to see if there is any allowance for this expenditure, for checking the current prices of other companies, and for contacting the Fire Chief to find out his exact needs in the matter of fire hose. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that four-way boulevard stop signs be placed at the intersection of Fern Avenue and Eldorado Street, for the protection of school children attending the Fern Avenue School.

Chief Stroh reported that this intersection is becoming more and more dangerous, and that during the past weeks several accidents have occurred there.

Councilman Tolson moved that four boulevard stop signs be placed at the intersection of Fern Avenue and Eldorado Street in concurrence with Chief Stroh's recommendation; and that the Council take immediate action to study the boulevard stop sign situation in Torrance, due to the large number of complaints received regarding, "too many stop signs." Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote:  
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey.  
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of Police, in response to a communication from the WALTERIA Civic Organization requesting the erection of large "School Zone" signs on either side of Pacific Coast Highway where Ward Street crosses; and also that pedestal school crossing signs be placed in the center of the Highway. He recommended that a copy of the WALTERIA Civic Organization's letter be forwarded to the State Highway Commission for action, as the City cannot erect signs on a State Highway without the permission of the Commission.

Following some discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that a copy of the communication from the WALTERIA Civic Organization be forwarded to the State Highway Commission in order to find out if any action may be taken on their request. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, reporting the result of the examination held November 5, 1947, for the position of "Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines." The Eligibility List consists of two names, in the order of their standing as follows:

William H. Murphey, 251 South Norton Avenue, Los Angeles.

Andrew M. Chamberlain, 1040 Mission Drive, Rosemead.

Mayor Sherfey moved that this matter be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A copy of a communication from the Civil Service Board was read, which was addressed to Ralph Perkins, Street Superintendent, with reference to replacing Mr. John S. Tolson in the Park Department, since Mr. Tolson has no civil service status.

Following some discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred to Ralph Perkins, Street Superintendent, for further study and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, requesting that the Council call for examinations for the following positions: City Engineer, City Attorney, Building Inspector and School Crossing Guards. They also wished to be advised whether or not the salary rating for each position will remain the same as it is at present.

Councilman Jackson moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study until the next regular meeting, and that the City Clerk be instructed to write to the Civil Service Board cautioning them not to call for these examinations until the Council has studied the matter more thoroughly. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for first reading and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 398

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 96 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO DRUNKENNESS AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT".

Councilman Jackson moved that Ordinance No. 398 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey explained that the foregoing Ordinance is now in effect in the City of Los Angeles and a great many neighboring cities.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1877

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING AGREEMENT FROM R. C. HOYT AND ELLA M. HOYT AND E. S. HOYT, JR. AND LILLIAN M. HOYT AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1877 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1877 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1878

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT DEED FROM R. C. HOYT AND ELLA M. HOYT AND E. S. HOYT, JR. AND LILLIAN M. HOYT AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1878 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1878 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

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Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1879

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING MEMORANDUM  
OF AGREEMENT FOR ACCUMULATION OF THE  
GAS TAX ALLOCATION TO CITIES.

Councilman Jackson moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1879 be dispensed with. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1879 be adopted. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$290.00, including tax, be made for the purchase of one (1) "Hardie" Power Lawn Renovator for use by the Park Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$319.51 be made for engineering services of Harold A. Barnett for months of September, October and November, 1947, for additional work ordered by the City Engineer on revisions and preparation of modification report on the Vista Highlands District. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$200.00 be made to cover cost of labor for Christmas Street Decorations. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ondus Hill, 2413 Andreo Avenue, addressed the Council stating that he has been unable to obtain a building permit to build a two story residence on a lot adjoining his present home due to certain deed restrictions.

Assistant City Engineer, John Patrick, told Mr. Hill that the City cannot uphold any deed restriction, and that it would be a matter for a civil suit between Mr. Hill and Mr. Pine or Mr. Katz. He also stated that Mr. Hill can obtain his permit if he will stop in at the City Engineer's Office again, providing that his plans are for a single-family residence with only one kitchen.

Mr. Walter Coon, 2427 Andreo Avenue, stated that, although he had been refused a permit to build a house on the back of his lot, he has noticed that other property owners have done so in the same block in which he lives.

Mr. Patrick advised that he would be glad to take any names and addresses of those violating the Building Code in order that the Engineer's Office may check on them.

Mr. Robert Knuckles, 2115 Arlington Avenue, addressed the Council with reference to the Petition from property owners on Apple Street requesting that it be graded and paved. He stated that practically every property owner he has contacted would be willing to vacate a portion of their property for an alley.

Mr. A. M. Bernard, 2411 W. Compton Boulevard, Compton, stated that his property at 17123 Arlington Avenue, is being greatly damaged by drainage which has been directed to flow off a nearby housing project and onto his land. He requested that action be taken before the next rain.

Mayor Sherfey moved that this matter be referred to the City Engineer for an immediate meeting, together with Mr. Bale and the City Attorney for study and recommendation to the Council at an early date. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:05 p.m., upon motion by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Tolson, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

*A. H. Bartlett*

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

*John H. Sherfey, Jr.*

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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