

Torrance, California
January 13, 1948

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, January 13, 1948, at 7:58 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 December 23, 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, stating that no permits were issued and no pipe lines laid or removed during the period July 1, 1947 to and including December 31, 1947, under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1014. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, stating that no permits were issued and no pipe lines laid or removed during the period July 1, 1947 to and including December 31, 1947, under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1351. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Shell Oil Company, stating that no new installations, abandonment or alterations were made on pipe line laid under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 328 during the period ending December 31, 1947. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, stating that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1358-1361 N.S., during the period from July 1st to December 31st, 1947, both inclusive. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, stating that 907 feet of 4-inch oil pipe line were installed in Walnut Street under letter permit dated December 10, 1947; and that no other pipe was laid, removed or abandoned in place under Ordinance No. 92 during the period from July 1st to December 31st, 1947, both inclusive. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California, stating that no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1010 during the six months' period ending December 31, 1947. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California, stating that no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1501 during the six months' period ending December 31, 1947. Matter of record.

Mayor Sherfey suggested to Clerk Bartlett that he forward all of the above communications to Administrative Officer George Stevens for study as soon as possible.

A communication was read from John A. Shidler, Attorney-at-Law, 1308 Sartori Avenue, making claim for Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in behalf of his client, Adrian G. Tatum, who was seriously injured in a collision between his motorcycle and a Santa Fe locomotive at the intersection of the Railroad and Crenshaw, between Maricopa and Dominguez, last October 9th.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Council deny any liability on the City's part in connection with the accident, and that the matter be referred to the City Attorney, who, in turn, will turn in the claim to the City's insurance carrier, Lund Company. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, expressing the Chamber's appreciation for the City Council's cooperation in its activities in promoting and advertising the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, requesting that the rental fee of \$45.00 per night for the Civic Auditorium be reduced in their case in order that they may carry on the Veterans' sponsored teenage dances on Friday nights.

Councilman Jackson moved that no change in the Auditorium rental rates be made at this time, and that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the Veterans of Foreign Wars of this action. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Columbia Employees Hospitalization Plan, Inc., Columbia Steel Company, requesting that the City Street Department grade two lots which they have recently purchased at 911 Border Avenue for the purpose of constructing a small office building and a parking lot for employees.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter 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. Calloway S. Jolly, 340 Harbor Hills, Lomita, requesting permission to occupy a trailer at 2357 - 237th Street until his house can be completed.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Jolly be granted a ninety-day, temporary, permit to occupy his house trailer. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from H. Wesley Roloff, Acting Chairman, Torrance Committee for Weekday Christian Education, requesting the use of the Fern Avenue Recreation Center Building for a period of one hour each week for the purpose of conducting a Released-Time Class in Religious Education.

A communication in this regard was read from Dale Riley, Recreation Superintendent, recommending that Mr. Roloff's request be granted as it will result in practically no expense to the City.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Roloff's request be granted, subject to the approval of the School Board. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joseph E. Marsh, 106½ W. 79th Street, Los Angeles, requesting a refund for Building Permit Nos. 7751 and 7750.

Councilman Tolson moved that a refund of \$24.00 be made on the Building Permits; a reduction of \$2.00 having been made for Engineering Office charges. 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 the Torrance Van & Storage Company, 1916 Border Avenue, with reference to its classification under Ordinance No. 381 for payment of business license fees.

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Following some discussion, Mayor Sherfey moved that City Attorney Smith be authorized to take this matter up with the Manager of the Torrance Van & Storage Company and inform Clerk Bartlett of his findings so that a new license may be issued. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the General Petroleum Corporation submitting an Excavation Bond in the amount of \$500.00 with the Fireman's Fund Indemnity Company as Surety to replace last year's Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company bond; this bond to become effective January 1, 1948, if approved and accepted by the City Council.

Councilman Tolson moved that the new bond be approved and accepted by the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Law Offices of Oliver O. Clark and Robert A. Smith, 706 L. A. Stock Exchange Building, Los Angeles, with reference to the request for vacation of a portion of the Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway, and advising that the City's proposal to vacate a strip of land 105 feet wide along the westerly side of the Parkway is satisfactory to the Sunhaven Properties, Inc. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Huntington-Redondo Company, stating that the plan to vacate a strip of land 105 feet wide from the westerly side of the Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway is acceptable to them. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. William Pirk, 3513½ Edgemoor Drive, Los Angeles, requesting temporary permission to live in his garage located at 17360 Gramercy Place.

Councilman Jackson moved that Mr. Pirk's request to live in his garage for a period of one month be granted. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the League of California Cities, submitting a statement in the amount of \$350.00, 1948 annual service charge to the City as a member of the League of California Cities. Last year's bill was for \$225.00.

Mayor Sherfey explained to the assemblage that the increased charge is based upon the increase in the City's population, as well as an increase in the schedule of annual League charges.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council authorize the payment of this statement. 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.

A communication was read from Mrs. Dorothy H. Jamieson, Librarian, Los Angeles County Library, Torrance Branch, advising of the need for repair work at the Library, the cost for which is estimated at a little over \$500.00.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council authorize the expenditure of approximately \$500.00 from the Library Fund for repairs at the Library. 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.

A communication was read from the American Legion Park Concession, tendering a check in the amount of \$373.39, covering the second half of the year 1947 for rental of the Torrance Ball Park. Matter of record.

Councilman Tolson moved that last year's contract with the American Legion Park Concession for rental of the Ball Park be referred to Administrative Officer Stevens for study. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from William A. Mason, President of Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, requesting the installation of street lights at the principal intersections of Highway No. 101 and entrances to Hollywood Riviera.

Councilman Tolson moved that this matter be referred to Administrative Officer Stevens for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, Administrative Officer, concurring in the recommendation of Chief Stroh, for the establishment of one-hour parking limits at certain points on Carson Street, Acacia, Beech and Border Avenue, who approved a recent Petition requesting such.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the recommendations of Mr. Stevens and Mr. Stroh be concurred in. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to Mr. Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, was read from El Camino College, Alondra Park, requesting the use of the Torrance City Ball Park dressing rooms and stands as a home field for their baseball team for the 1948 season.

In concurrence with Mr. Riley's recommendation, Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of El Camino College be granted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Building Inspector, with reference to the request of L. E. Moncrief for permission to place a small two-wheel trailer on his property on Western Avenue, which was recently referred to him for recommendation. He recommended that Mr. Moncrief be granted a ninety-day permit and that he be urged to start construction on additional sleeping quarters immediately. Clerk Bartlett explained that he had received information to the effect that the trailer was to be parked over an underground gasoline tank.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Building Inspector. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Building Inspector, with reference to the request of R. S. Tilton, 2326 - 230th Street, for permission to park a house trailer on his acre of ground, which was recently referred to him for recommendation. He recommended that the request be denied.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Tilton's request be denied, in concurrence with the Building Inspector's recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Assistant City Engineer, advising that the tentative Tract Map No. 13514 of Mr. Ben Haggott for Unit No. 2 of the Seaside Ranchos has been approved by the City Planning Commission.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the action of the Planning Commission be concurred in by the Council. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Assistant City Engineer, advising that the tentative subdivision Tract Map No. 15139 of Mr. Sande Senness has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Councilman Jackson moved that the action of the Planning Commission be concurred in by the Council. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Assistant City Engineer, advising that the request of Mr. Dean Sears to construct an apartment on the rear of Lot 7, Block 29, Torrance Tract, has been approved by the City Planning Commission. This communication also stated that this lot does not have sufficient area to construct the apartment, according to Land Use Ordinance No. 316.

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

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting Secretary, City Planning Commission, stating that the Petition of Sunhaven Properties, Inc. and Huntington Redondo Land Company, for the Vacation and Abandonment of the westerly portion of Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway in a width of 105 feet has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Following some discussion, Mayor Sherfey moved that the Council concur in the Planning Commission's action, with the stipulation that City Attorney Smith, representing the City of Torrance, inform Oliver O. Clark, Attorney-at-Law representing Sunhaven Properties, Inc. and Huntington Redondo Land Company, that the City is desirous of securing fifteen (15) acres for the purpose of constructing police and fire buildings, as well as a recreation building and playground; and that the vacation and abandonment be made subject to the foregoing condition. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the Petition of George C. Byrne, Case No. 101, for Zoning Variance to permit the establishment of a small boat building business at the intersection of 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard has been approved by the Planning Commission, subject to the condition that a fence be constructed to screen the operation from the two highways.

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

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting Secretary, City Planning Commission, stating that the Petition for Change of Zone, Case No. 103, filed by John E. Kettler, affecting all of Tract No. 14838 (known as Kettler Knolls No. 2) has been approved by the Planning Commission.

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

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting Secretary, City Planning Commission, referring to the Council, without recommendation, the Petition of J. Hugh Sherfey, Jr., et al., for Change of Zone, Case No. 104, affecting Lots 4 and 5, Block 8, Tract No. 4070, situated at the southwest corner of Torrance Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Following some discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council make a request to the Planning Commission for a Change of Zone for this particular corner from R-1 to C-1; and that the other three corners at this intersection also be rezoned from R-1 to C-1. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson and Tolson, (Sherfey not voting). NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented a Petition for Zoning, filed by Mr. R. W. Mayer, affecting an area 300 feet wide on the easterly side of Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway, between City limits of Redondo Beach and Palos Verdes, to permit use for Multiple Family Zoning.

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

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board, recommending that Mr. James Dresser be reinstated to the position of Building Inspector, he having been laid off on April 21, 1947, at which time he lacked only two days of completing his probationary period and becoming a permanent employee.

During the ensuing discussion, City Attorney Smith stated that Mr. Dresser is entitled to the position under the present Civil Service Ordinance even though he declined re-appointment approximately six weeks ago, at which time a temporary appointment was made for the job.

After some additional discussion, Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Clerk be authorized to request the Civil Service Board to call for an immediate examination for the position of Building Inspector. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council request the Civil Service Board to call for another examination if the examination for Building Inspector results in an eligibility list of two or less names. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey asked City Attorney Smith to check into the Civil Service rules once again to determine the exact status of Mr. Dresser, and that Los Angeles Civil Service authorities be questioned, due to the peculiarities of this case.

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board, with reference to its desire to call for examinations for the positions of City Engineer, City Attorney, Building Inspector, and School Crossing Guards, and its request for information regarding the salary ratings for these positions.

After some discussion, in which Mayor Sherfey stated that he believes the position of Building Inspector to be the only one for which an examination should be called, the Mayor moved that an immediate meeting be arranged between the Civil Service Board and the members of the City Council to discuss these matters more thoroughly. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board, calling attention to the fact that the term of office of Mr. Armstrong M. Dowell, who is a member of both Civil Service Boards, will expire on January 15, 1948, and requesting that action be taken for appointment or re-appointment to the Boards.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Armstrong M. Dowell be re-appointed to both Civil Service Boards, to be effective from January 16, 1948 to January 15, 1954. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1881

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT
DEED FROM KATHLEEN MARIE DAVIES AND
A. R. BRATTRUD AND VERA BRATTRUD AND
AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1881 be dispensed with. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1881 be adopted. 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.

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Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1882

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT DEED FROM METALCLAD BAKING EQUIPMENT CO., LTD., AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1882 be dispensed with. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1882 be adopted. 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 for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 399

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING ALL OF TRACT NO. 10306, FROM AN A-1 (LIGHT AGRICULTURAL) DISTRICT TO AN R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT; EXCEPTING LOTS 2 AND 3, BLOCK G, AND LOTS 19 AND 20, BLOCK A OF SAID TRACT.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 399 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 399 be adopted for second and final reading. 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.

A communication was read from the City License Clerk requesting the purchase of 400 metal tags for use on licensed oil wells, at a price of \$100.00, plus tax.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council authorize the purchase of 400 metal tags for use on licensed oil wells at a cost of \$100.00, plus tax. 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.

Upon the request of City Attorney Smith, Councilman Jackson moved that the Council accept a Resolution substituting the name of C. Douglass Smith for that of Otto B. Willett in the case of J. J. Benner vs. the City of Torrance, and that the Mayor be authorized to sign said Resolution. 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 \$275.00 be made for the purchase of the following material for street repairs: 20 tons of #4 crushed rock; 20 tons of #5 crushed rock; 20 tons of #3 crushed rock; 20 tons of decomposed granite; and 1000 gals. of L3X Bitumuls. 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 the Council authorize the expenditure of not to exceed \$75.00, being the City's half of the expense for repairs to sidewalk and curb in front of the El Prado

Furniture Store, 1306 Sartori Avenue, Mr. Emmet, the owner, having agreed to pay the other half. 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.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$200.00 be made for the purchase of fertilizer for the Park Department. 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 Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$140.00 be made for payment to Jerry Witt for roofing the Fire Department garage. 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.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$166.16 be made for additional fire and theft insurance premium on six new Reo busses. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Robert Nuckles, 2115 Arlington Avenue, addressed the Council, stating that the people on Apple Street whom he has contacted are willing, with the exception of three parties, to give a portion of their properties to the City for street purposes.

Mayor Sherfey read a portion of the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 23, 1947, in which it is stated that the Street Department is preparing to surface Apple Street with an oil surfacing.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the matter be referred to Administrative Officer Stevens for study and that he be authorized to contact Mr. Nuckles with any additional information he may obtain. Councilman Jackson 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: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:20 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Buxton, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned to Friday, January 16, 1948 at 10:00 a.m.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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