

Torrance, California
January 27, 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 27, 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 Gilbert moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 13, 1948 and the Minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held January 16, 1948 be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. R. W. Mayer, President of Sunhaven Properties, Inc., confirming his promise to provide, without cost to the grantees, from lands now owned or to be acquired by him in the City of Torrance, approximately fifteen acres of land, for the erection of reasonable facilities for schools; police and fire protection, and post office requirements.

Councilman Jackson moved that Mr. Mayer's communication be referred to Administrative Officer Stevens and that he be requested to confer with the Legal Department for their approval. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization requesting that a survey of the WALTERIA streets be made, as they are badly in need of repairs; and also requesting light replacements at Hawthorne Boulevard and Newton, Newton and Madison, Hawthorne and 242nd Street, 244th Street and Los Codona, and Newton and Park Streets.

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

A communication was read from the California Highway Commission with reference to Resolution No. 1880 of the City of Torrance requesting the improvement of a portion of Hawthorne Boulevard between Redondo Boulevard and Palos Verdes. The letter advised that the State Highway Budget for the ensuing fiscal year has already been prepared and adopted, based on engineering reports and consideration of requirements on the entire highway system; and that a study of the needs on the State Highway system as shown by the critical deficiency report, compared with funds that will become available within the next few years, immediately indicates that all of the necessary construction work cannot be accomplished within any short period of time. They advised that the City's request will be called to the attention of the California Highway Commission at its regular meeting held in Sacramento on January 22, and subsequently made a matter of record for future consideration in the allocation of State Highway Funds.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read a Notice of Claim filed by G. A. Kelly, 8805 - 4th Avenue, Inglewood, against the City of Torrance, et al, for damage suffered on public property on October 23, 1947, in the sum of \$707.83; \$35,000.00 and \$29.00 for personal injuries and medical care.

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Councilman Gilbert moved that the claim be denied and that the communication be referred to the City's insurance carrier. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Administrative Officer George W. Stevens submitting for the Council's consideration and approval the following recommendations:

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. That Apple Avenue from Lincoln Avenue north to the railroad tracks, be improved; the necessary material to cost \$500.00.
2. That the property owners at the following locations be allowed to remove shade trees which are either dead or detrimental to the property. The Cost of removal and disposal to be borne by the property owner.
 - (a) American Land Company at S.E. corner of Lincoln Avenue and Cabrillo Avenue.
 - (b) Mr. August Macan at 2413 Torrance Blvd., two trees.
 - (c) Mr. Gaston Arcq at 1223 and 1225 Arlington Avenue, two trees.
 - (d) Mr. H. C. Barrington at 2368 Torrance Blvd., two trees.
3. That street lights be installed at the following locations:
 - (a) 401 Arlington Avenue - mast arm installation.
 - (b) Highway 101 at Paseo de las Delicias - mast arm installation.
 - (c) Highway 101 at Paseo de Gracia - steel pole.
 - (d) Carson Street at Crenshaw Blvd. - mast arm installation.

MISCELLANEOUS:

4. That the following purchases be authorized for the Fire Department:
 - (a) 550 lin. ft. of 2½" hose for \$847.50 plus tax.
 - (b) Curtains for Fire House in the amount of \$124.96 plus sales tax.
5. That the City subscribe to the "Management Information Service" conducted by the International City Managers Association, at a cost of \$50.00 per year.
6. That a deposit in the amount of \$100.00 be returned to Milstein and Mellinkoff, for the reason that proposed condemnation of an alley has been abandoned.
7. That a 90 day permit be granted Dr. M. W. Hughes to park a house trailer at 1428 Post Avenue.
8. That the Agreement between the City and Post No. 170 of the American Legion, for the exclusive concession rights at the Baseball Park, be continued for the period Jan. 1, 1948 to Dec. 31, 1948, and that the payment for such rights be at the rate of 10% of the gross sales.

9. That the request of the Columbia Employees Hospitalization Plan, Inc. for grading parking lots be denied, unless lots are to be used as public parking areas.
10. That the City enter into temporary leases with the following named organizations for space on the Torrance Municipal Airfield. Said leases to be contingent upon receipt of title to Airfield by the City and subject to approval by the City Attorney and the Civil Aeronautics Administration:
 - (a) Jamison and Hatch Flying Service.
 - (b) Houson Aircraft Company.
 - (c) Neo Air, Inc.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of Administrative Officer Stevens and that the requested appropriations be made. 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.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council authorize the payment of \$4,188.05 to the Los Angeles County Public Library for service rendered from July 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947, as per contract. 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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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

At Mr. Nuckles request, Mayor Sherfey reread the recommendation for the improvement of Apple Street. Mr. Nuckles then asked if the Council is considering making Apple Street a through Street.

Mayor Sherfey replied that not beyond the railroad crossing.

Administrative Officer Stevens explained that it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the Railroad Commission in order to establish a railroad crossing and that the Commission is endeavoring to eliminate as many as possible because of the great expense. Mr. Stevens added that when Apple Street becomes a more important thoroughfare, it will then be time to consider the establishment of a railroad crossing.

Mr. Chas. T. Rippy informed the Council that the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce suggested that they discuss with the Council three measures which have been before the Citizens Committee, an organization consisting of the principal service clubs and other organizations, for the purpose of placing these measures on the April ballot.

1. Mr. Rippy explained that his Committee recommends that the City Charter be amended to establish a City Manager form of government by submitting the measure to the qualified voters, and that this recommendation has been approved by the Citizens Committee.

2. Submit to the qualified voters an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 200 fixing compensation to members of the City Council. Mr. Rippy explained that the General Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the Citizens Committee also approved this amendment.

3. Amendment to Article X of the Charter of the City of Torrance prohibiting the conduct and licensing of gambling businesses.

Mr. Rippy asked that the City Council discuss with the City Attorney, or City Administrator, these three measures with a view to placing them on the April ballot.

Mr. Downing of 1511 Crenshaw Blvd. stated that he approved the Citizens Committee's proposal to amend the Charter to establish a

City Manager form of government; that he was emphatically against licensing of gambling businesses in the City of Torrance; but that he was not in favor of repealing pay compensation to members of the City Council.

Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion.

After some discussion pertaining to the three proposed measures, Councilman Gilbert withdrew his motion and Councilman Jackson withdrew his second.

Councilman Tolson explained that it was agreed between the Council and the Citizens Committee that something would be done about placing on the ballot a proposed amendment to the City Charter for the establishment of a City Manager form of government.

Councilman Tolson moved that the proper person be authorized to place on the April ballot the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Torrance to establish a City Manager form of government. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson declared that the other measures should be discussed by the Council and action taken by them at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Rippey requested that consideration be given at tonight's meeting to the question of salaries and anti-gambling in order to avoid circulating petitions, and he declared that if no action was taken tonight by the Council, an initiative petition would have to be circulated.

There was considerable discussion on these two measures, with particular emphasis on the question of gambling in the City of Torrance. Councilman Tolson agreed that the anti-gambling measure should be placed on the ballot; Councilman Gilbert requested that something in writing be submitted by the Citizens Committee before taking any action; and Mayor Sherfey suggested that the Council adjourn for further discussion of the matter.

Mr. Grover Whyte stated that it was not the intent of the Chamber of Commerce to ask the City Council to pass on the anti-gambling amendment verbatim; they wished to know if it is the intention of the Council to submit such an amendment at the April election.

There was further discussion on whether to adjourn for the purpose of discussing these matters, it being the consensus of opinion that the members of the Council should have an opportunity of discussing these measures more fully before taking immediate action.

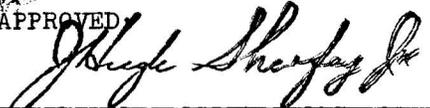
Councilman Jackson inquired of Mr. Rippey if there would be sufficient time if the matter were decided at the next meeting. Mr. Rippey replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Jackson then moved that the two measures with respect to gambling and pay compensation to members of the City Council be referred to the Council as a whole for decision at the next regular meeting to be held February 10, 1948. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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

At 8:35 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE