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Torrance, California
June 8, 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, June 8, 1948, at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Drale, Haggard, Powell and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: Jackson.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held May 24, 1948, the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 25, 1948, the Minutes of a Special Meeting held May 27, 1948, and the Minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held June 3, 1948 be approved as written. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. William A. Mason, President, Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, calling attention to the fact that that 4.48 acres of land lying along Pacific Coast Highway, transferred several years ago to the City of Torrance for park purposes, has always been known as "El Retiro", and requesting the City Council to officially designate said park site by the name El Retiro, and that it be so referred to in all subsequent correspondence and official maps and documents.

Councilman Haggard moved that the communication be taken under advisement by the Council as a whole. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Albert Elder, 2325 Carson Street, was read referring to the action of the Council of August 8, 1944, denying renewal of the Santa Fe Railway Company's Franchise No. 57, but that they would be permitted to operate over the streets of the City of Torrance for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. The communication requested the City Council to open negotiations at once with the Santa Fe Railway Company for the removal of the tracks on Madrid Avenue.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Attorney be instructed to ascertain the condition of the expired franchise and report to the Council at the next meeting on the legality of having the above-mentioned tracks removed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from A. E. Palmer, Quartermaster, Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, reporting that the results of a try-out on the discontinuance of pass-outs at their Friday night dances have been very disastrous to them from a financial standpoint. Mr. Palmer asked that they be permitted to have one intermission at which time they may issue pass-outs.

Councilman Powell moved that the sponsors of the dances arrange a meeting with Eddie Cole, Director of Friday Night Summer Recreation Program, and Dale Riley, Director of Recreation, for the purpose of working out some plan that will tie in with the scheduled Summer Recreation Program, and which might be a solution to their problem. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from M. L. Looper making application for a fireworks permit to sell safe and sane fireworks at his place of business located at 1782 Carson Street.

A communication was read from W. C. McFann requesting permission to sell fireworks at his place of business located at 17210 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilman Drale moved that the two requests for fireworks permits be referred to Fire Chief McMaster for investigation and report to the Council at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization requesting that W. J. Crowther be retained as a member of the City Planning Commission in the event changes are made in the Torrance Planning Commission because of a new law governing planning commissions.

Councilman Haggard moved that the request be referred to the Council as a whole for consideration. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. E. Mock, Recording Secretary, Local 360, United Public Workers, urging the City Council to go on record that from date, forty hours will constitute a work week for the Police Department, and any greater number of working hours will be accounted as overtime and paid for at the accepted rate of time and one-half.

Councilman Haggard moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for consideration when setting the budget for the fiscal year, and for attention at its meeting in the near future with the Police Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. E. Mock, Recording Secretary, Local 360, United Public Workers, urging the City Council to provide in the forthcoming budget, effective July 1, 1948, a salary increase for all city employees.

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

A petition, bearing twenty-four signatures, was presented urging the Council to take prompt action to eliminate the hazardous condition existing from the oil sump located on the East side of Border Avenue, said sump being a serious menace to the lives of their children.

Councilman Drale moved that the petition be referred to City Administrator Stevens for investigation and necessary action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Albert J. Trahant, Jr., Commander, D.A.V. #63, Torrance, requesting permission to engage in the sale of fireworks from July 1 to July 5, 1948, both dates inclusive, at the following four locations:

1. Northwest intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard.
2. Southwest corner of Carson Street and Western Avenue.
3. Southeast corner of Narbonne Avenue and 237th Street.
4. Redondo Beach Boulevard, east of Hawthorne Avenue, Tract 14, Lots 4,3,2,1.

Councilman Powell moved that the request for fireworks permit be referred to Fire Chief McMaster for investigation and report to the Council. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Secretary of the City Planning Commission, advising that the Commission has acted on the following matters:

ZONING:

1. Case No. 114, Petition of Wm. J. Fox for a Change of Zone affecting Lots 1 to 46, inclusive, of Tentative Tract No. 15071, being the frontage on Prairie Avenue and Redondo Beach Blvd., with a depth of 100' extending approximately 1370' westerly and 1130' southerly from the southwest corner of Prairie Avenue and Redondo Beach Boulevard. Petitioner requests that this property be rezoned from A-1 to C-2,

The Planning Commission concurred in the action of the City Council by approving 1370' on Redondo Beach Boulevard and 135' south on Prairie Avenue.
Final action required by the City Council.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in approving the rezoning of 1370' on Redondo Beach Boulevard and 135' south on Prairie Avenue from A-1 to C-2, Case No. 114, Petition of Wm. J. Fox for a Change of Zone. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

2. Case No. 121, Petition of Luther Mumford for a Change of Zone affecting the westerly 150 ft. of Lots 17 and 32 of Tract No. 3458, being the frontage on Hawthorne Boulevard and extending from Emerald Street to Spencer Street. Petitioner requests that the property be rezoned from A-1 to C-2.

This petition was denied by the Planning Commission as it was the opinion of the members that action on this type of case should be through Variance rather than through Spot Zoning.

3. Case No. 122, proposed rezoning of Lot 1, Block 90, Torrance Tract, and the east 120 ft. of the south 140 ft. of Lot 1, Tract No. 7873; being the southeast and northwest corners, respectively, of Torrance Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard. It is proposed to rezone these two corners from A-1 and R-1 to C-1.

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This case was referred to the City Council with the approval of the Planning Commission.

It will be necessary that a date be set for a third and final hearing before the City Council on Cases Nos. 121 and 122. This hearing cannot legally be held before June 22, 1948 in order to conform to the Public Notice requirements.

Councilman Powell moved that a Public Hearing be held on June 22, 1948, at 8:00 p.m. on Cases Nos. 121 and 122. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

VARIANCE:

1. Case No. 129, Petition of B. P. Pendleton for a Zoning Variance to permit the use of an existing building at 24456 Hawthorne Avenue, located on Lot 24, Block 5, Walteria Tract, for a Barber Shop and general Variety Store. This property is located in an R-3 Zone.

This petition was approved by the Planning Commission.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in approving Petition for Zoning Variance, Case No. 129. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

VACATION OF ALLEY:

Approval was given the Petition of Hollywood Development Company, for the official vacation and abandonment by the City of Torrance, of the alley running from Vista Del Mar in the City of Torrance to Elena Street in the City of Redondo Beach, in Block F, Tract No. 10300, and referred to the City Council for the necessary action.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare a Resolution of Intention to vacate the above-mentioned alley. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

SPECIAL PERMIT:

A temporary 90-day permit was granted Mr. J. B. Henna, 1554 West 203rd Street, to park a trailer on Lot 24, at the corner of Madrona and Emerald Streets, while building a house at that location.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in granting Mr. J. B. Henna a 90-day permit to park a trailer as above-stated. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from City Administrator Stevens submitting the following recommendations for the Council's consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

- (a) That Mrs. Roberta Stone be temporarily employed as a Stenographer for the City Attorney, effective June 8, 1948, at a compensation of \$184.00 per month.
- (b) That members of the Torrance Civil Service Board be authorized to attend the Civil Service Convention to be held at Long Beach, June 16 to 18, 1948, inclusive.

CONTRACTS:

That bids be invited for the following contracts for the period July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949:

- (a) For the collection and disposal of garbage and rubbish.
- (b) For the purchase of gasoline.
- (c) For legal printing.

APPROPRIATIONS:

- (a) For the purchase of recreation equipment, a sum not to exceed \$800.00.
- (b) For the purchase of guard rails and posts, the sum of \$62.10, plus tax.
- (c) For the purchase of rock and oil for street maintenance, the sum of \$200.00.
- (d) For the purchase of 5000 commutation books for the Municipal Bus Lines, the sum of \$145.55, plus tax.
- (e) For the purchase of a Highway Striping Machine, the sum of \$725.00.

REMOVAL OF TREES:

That permission be granted to remove trees at the following locations, with the provision that the abutting property owners remove and dispose of same at their own expense:

- (a) Esther Z. Maxwell, 1404 Cota Avenue, pepper trees.
- (b) Orral August, 1601 El Prado Avenue, camphor tree.
- (c) Alma E. Schultz, 2012 Andreo Avenue, pepper and palm trees.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- (a) That the United States Army be granted permission to erect Recruiting signs at the following locations:
 1. Narbonne Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.
 2. Torrance Boulevard and Madrona Avenue.
 3. Western Avenue and 190th Street.
 4. Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street.
- (b) That the First Evangelical Lutheran Church be permitted to post standard directional signs at the following locations:
 1. Southwest corner of Acacia Street and Torrance Blvd.
 2. Acacia Street and Carson Street.
 3. Plaza Del Amo Street and Arlington Avenue.
- (c) That a resolution be prepared authorizing the City of Los Angeles to assume the necessary jurisdiction to conduct condemnation proceedings for acquiring certain properties on Western Avenue between 182nd Street and 260th Street.
- (d) That a resolution be prepared authorizing 2-hour parking on Border Avenue as follows:
 1. On the east side of Border Avenue from Carson Street northerly to the railroad tracks.

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2. On the west side of Border Avenue from Carson Street northerly to alley between Double Street and 213th Street.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of City Administrator Stevens, with the exception that the request of the United States Army for permission to erect Recruiting signs be referred to Chief Stroh to determine if the signs to be erected at the desired locations will constitute a traffic hazard. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Jackson.

Clerk Bartlett presented for approval the tentative budget in the amount of \$8,803.96 for the Torrance Branch Library, covering the 1948-49 fiscal year, submitted by the County of Los Angeles Public Library, and explained that this amount is slightly in excess of last year's budget.

Councilman Haggard moved that the 1948-49 Tentative Budget covering County Library Service for the Torrance and WALTERIA Branch Libraries be approved. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Jackson.

A communication was read from Mrs. Dorothy H. Jamieson, City Librarian, recommending that certain improvements in Torrance and WALTERIA Libraries be considered in the 1948-49 Library Budget.

Councilman Haggard moved that the communication be referred to City Administrator Stevens for study. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for approval contract covering public health services to be performed by the Los Angeles County Health Department in the City of Torrance for the fiscal year 1948-49, which was approved by the City Attorney as to form.

Councilman Drale moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute contract with the Los Angeles County Health Department for public health services for the fiscal year 1948-49. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Jackson.

Clerk Bartlett presented Right of Way Contract No. R/W 20868-108.1, between Harvey L. Richardson and Stella R. Richardson and the City of Torrance, for highway improvement on Western Avenue between 182nd Street and 220th Street.

Councilman Haggard moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute Right of Way Contract with Harvey L. Richardson and Stella R. Richardson. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented Right of Way Contract No. R/W 20868-109, between Beatrice Johnson, Anna J. Lechner and Hugh N. Cameron, for highway improvement of Western Avenue between 182nd Street and 220th Street.

Councilman Haggard moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute Right of Way Contract with Beatrice Johnson, Anna J. Lechner and Hugh N. Cameron. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 404

AN ORDINANCE OF INTENTION TO ORDER THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE ALLEY SHOWN AS LOT A-27 OF BLOCK 27, TORRANCE TRACT, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 403.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 404 be dispensed with. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Haggard moved that Ordinance No. 404 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Jackson.

Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for hearing case No. 116, appeal of E. L. Morton from the decision of the Planning Commission which disapproved his petition for a Variance to permit the construction and operation of a Trailer Camp on the south side of 182nd Street, between Yukon Avenue and Crenshaw Blvd.

City Administrator Stevens read the Notice of Hearing on the above case, and advised that the only objection was a communication from Ernest Westhaver, 1817 Rainier Avenue, Norwalk, California, who disapproved the petition.

City Administrator Stevens presented the Planning Commission's reasons for denying the petition, which were based on the fact that the property is located in an A-1 Zone, which does not permit such use, and because of its proximity to a dairy.

Mayor Sherfey called for oral protests.

There being no oral protests, Mr. Morton took the floor. He explained that members of the Planning Commission inspected the location of the proposed trailer camp and were favorable to it, providing he erect a fence, which he intends doing. However, at a subsequent meeting of the Planning Commission, his petition was denied.

There then followed a discussion on the proximity of the proposed trailer camp to a dairy.

Mr. Morton explained that the land is not in a low spot as stated by the Commission, that it has been tested and there is no drainage problem.

Councilman Drale moved that the council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in denying the Petition of E. L. Morton, Case No. 11.

The motion failed to carry for want of a second.

Councilman Powell moved that the appeal be taken under advisement by the Council as a whole; that the members of the Council, together with Mr. Morton, the owner, inspect the location of the proposed trailer camp; and that a decision be rendered by the Council at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried, Councilman Drale voting "No".

Concerning the dust menace caused from plowed farm lands situated at the northwest sections of Torrance Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard, City Administrator Stevens reported that he had conferred with Mr. Dougherty, one of the Vice-Presidents of Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company in charge of land, and explained to him the seriousness of the condition which exists in that location and asked his cooperation in abating this nuisance. Shortly thereafter the Chief Engineer for said Oil Company inspected the property and he pledged they would not till the soil next year but only a cover crop will be planted.

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City Administrator Stevens suggested that, as a temporary measure against the dust menace, a fence be erected, or wires strung along the tree line and fronds used and that the people in that area assist in putting up this protection.

Mrs. Brown declared that the plan was impracticable, and moreover the people should not be called upon to erect a fence on someone's property, this being a matter for the City to handle.

Mayor Sherfey inquired if there were any further oral communications on this question. There being none, Mayor Sherfey suggested that the Council give further consideration to this problem.

City Attorney Smith reported that he had discussed with the District Attorney's office, the existing conditions in that area, and without hesitation he was informed that the District Attorney will give the City immediate cooperation.

After discussing the procedure to follow, it was decided to hold a hearing in the District Attorney's office on the 23rd day of June, 1948, at 10:00 a.m.

Attorney Smith was asked to furnish the names of the lessees and lessor of the property involved, the name of the circulator of the petition, as well as the names of some of the signers to said petition, and it was recommended that some other city official beside himself be present at the hearing.

City Attorney Smith advised that while at the District Attorney's office he discussed the question of the right of a property owner to sell separately, units in a court, reference being made to the Superior Court decision wherein a Los Angeles property owner had been enjoined from such an act.

It was explained that the tenants did not want the action brought, that they wished to keep the property they had purchased, but the Judge set the deed aside because he said if it was unlawful to divide the property then the deed was unlawful.

City Attorney Smith advised that considerable thought be given this matter before bringing an action against the sale of houses on small lots in the Spurlin Court. The question of whether the City or some one of the tenants should bring the action must be determined, also who will stand the expense of the litigation, which will be costly. City Attorney Smith declared that the sale of houses on lots less than 6000 square feet is a violation of the City's non-conformity law.

City Attorney Smith reported that the action brought against Mr. Bernard for erecting a dyke in the Torrance Manor area came up for hearing on the City's demurrer to the answer filed by Mr. Bernard, and the court sustained the City's demurrer, giving the defendant 15 days in which to amend his answer.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Mary Vox, 716 Cota Avenue declared that the tenants living in Spurlin Court were not forced to buy the units, that they were satisfied with the arrangement and she did not see that the law had been violated.

Mayor Sherfey explained that the property is zoned for multiple family dwelling, and that in making the units into individual single homes, it was a violation of the City's ordinance; and he further explained that if one of the homes burned down the owner could not rebuild it because it would not conform with the requirements of the City ordinance.

Mrs. Adene Miller asked that if this transaction were not legal why it had not been stopped before they put their money into it.

Mr. Carl Marsteller, 1314 Amapola, asked regarding the disposition of a letter presented by him to the Civil Service Board.

City Administrator Stevens informed Mr. Marsteller that it was in the hands of the Transportation Committee and is under advisement by that Committee.

Mr. Johnstone, living on Pacific Lane, declared Spurlin Court was a health menace because there were no incinerators, and added that action should be taken on this matter at once.

Mr. Palmer, Quartermaster, Torrance Post No. 3251, V.F.W., referred to his communication, which was read at the beginning of the meeting, requesting permission to have one intermission at which time they may issue pass-outs. He requested that Chief Stroh consent to the plan.

Chief Stroh replied that he agreed with Mr. Palmer, and recommended that, as a trial measure, one five or ten minute intermission, including pass-outs, be permitted.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council approve the recommendation of Chief Stroh. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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

At 9:37 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Haggard, seconded by Councilman Drale, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

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

APPROVED:

Hugh Sherfey Jr.
 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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