

Torrance, California
July 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, July 27, 1948, at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Before taking action to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 13, 1948 and the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held July 20, 1948, Councilman Powell wished to correct his vote on the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 420, made at the meeting held July 20, 1948, so that it be recorded as a "No" vote.

Councilman Jackson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 13, 1948 be approved as written, and that the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held July 20, 1948 be approved with the requested correction. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for a hearing on Case No. 127, Petition of Luther Mumford for a Change of Zone, affecting Lots 1 and 2, Block 60; and Lot 14, Block 65, Torrance Tract.

City Administrator Stevens read the Notice on the final hearing in said case, and advised that no written communications have been received.

Mayor Sherfey called for protests, written or oral.

City Administrator Stevens read the Planning Commission's recommendation which unanimously denied the Petition for a Change of Zone.

There being no protests, Councilman Jackson moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in denying the Petition of Luther Mumford for a Change of Zone. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for a hearing on Case No. 128, Petition of Hollywood Development Company for a Change of Zone, affecting Lots 9 to 18, inclusive, and Lot 21, all in Block F, Tract No. 10300.

City Administrator Stevens read the Notice on the final hearing in said case, and advised that no written communications have been received.

Mayor Sherfey called for protests, either written or oral.

City Administrator Stevens read the Planning Commission's approval of the Petition and recommended that the Council concur in this action.

There being no protests, Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in approving the Petition of Hollywood Development Company for a Change of Zone. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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Mayor Sherfey announced that this is the time and place for a hearing on Case No. 131, Petition of Riviera Housing Corporation for a Change of Zone, affecting all of Tract No. 14898.

City Administrator Stevens read the Notice on the final hearing in said case, and advised that no written communications have been received.

Mayor Sherfey called for protests, either written or oral. There being none, City Administrator Stevens read the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of the Petition.

Councilman Haggard moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in approving the Petition of Riviera Housing Corporation for a Change of Zone. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Tom F. McGuire tendering his resignation as Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Airport Commission, effective immediately, because of change of position and business.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the communication be taken under advisement by the Council; that the resignation of Mr. McGuire be accepted with regrets; and that a letter be directed to him expressing the Council's appreciation of his excellent service to the City during the many years he served on the Planning Commission. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board was read regarding a proposed amendment to the Land Use Ordinance which was previously acted on by the Council, which concurred in the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the minimum building site area remain at 6000 square feet with a minimum 60 foot width. The letter also stated that this is at variance with the City Charter and the State Constitution, and referred the Council to the City Attorney for a verification of this statement. It was requested that the matter again be reviewed, and the City Attorney be asked for a ruling on the Council's previous action in this case.

At 8:10 p.m. Councilman Drale took his seat at the Council Table.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the City Attorney for a written opinion covering all points mentioned in the letter. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Chester C. Phillips and Harry E. Anderson, 1039 W. Hillcrest Avenue, Inglewood, was read advising that they have purchased one acre of land, being Lot 11, in the Hickman Tract, and requesting permission to live in trailers on said land until a suitable house can be erected. They also asked if it would be permissible to operate a garage or business on this land.

Councilman Jackson moved that the applicants be granted a permit for a period of ninety days to park their trailers on the land in question, and that their inquiry concerning a business on said land be referred to the Planning Commission. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Charles R. Hall and Lester D. Patterson, Seventh-Day Adventist Ministers, 635 W. Rosecrans, Gardena, was read requesting a permit to erect a 40 x 60 flame treated tent on the Southwest corner of Cravens and Marcelina Avenue, for the purpose of holding a series of Evangelistic meetings for a period of twelve weeks, beginning about August 22, 1948.

Councilman Haggard moved that Messrs. Hall and Patterson be notified that the Council cannot take any action on their request until they submit some evidence that they have the owners' permission to use the property. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from J. J. Koshak, Rt. 1, Box 576, Lomita, was read bidding \$125.00 for one of the old busses, less tires, discarded by the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines and now being offered for sale. The bid had the approval of M. A. Chamberlain, Bus Superintendent.

Councilman Haggard moved that the bus be sold to J. J. Koshak for the sum of \$125.00. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication from Mrs. Margaret Fordice, City Treasurer, was read claiming that the City does not permit her to carry out her duties as City Treasurer, namely, to examine all vouchers and checks before they are stamped with her name as City Treasurer, and that a stamping device is being used for this purpose. She declared that unless this right is permitted her and the stamp is delivered to her at once, she will notify the Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America to refuse to honor any further checks bearing this stamp unless they are initialed by her.

Councilman Haggard moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole; that a meeting be arranged with Mrs. Fordice and the City Council for the purpose of discussing and settling the matter to the satisfaction of all parties. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

The following communication from the County of Los Angeles Health Department was read:

"Honorable City Council
City of Torrance
Torrance, California

July 19, 1948

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: Walteria Sanitary Sewer District.

RECOMMENDATION: It is respectfully recommended that sanitary sewers be installed in this district.

ANALYSIS: This department has made a re-survey and investigation of the area of the Walteria Sanitary Sewer District as shown on the attached map. Conditions have not improved since our previous survey of January 16, 1947. The results of our re-survey indicate that 34.2% of the people contacted have had trouble with their cesspool sewage disposal systems or are using caution in the amount of waste water they are discharging into their present systems. The nature of this trouble is inherent with the use of cesspools in areas such as this where the soil conditions do not provide good leaching action, namely: filling up and backing into house plumbing fixtures; overflowing on the surface of the ground; the necessity for frequent pumping and cleaning out, and the construction of new cesspools.

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In view of our survey it is respectfully recommended that proceedings be instituted at once for the installation of sanitary sewers in this district as an improvement necessary to the protection of public health.

This recommendation is made pursuant to the provisions of Section 2808 of the Streets and Highways Code.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Roy O. Gilbert, M.D.
Roy O. Gilbert, M. D.
Health Officer."

In connection with the above subject, Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1920

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN THE WALTERIA DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THIS RESOLUTION, IS NECESSARY AS A HEALTH MEASURE; INSTRUCTING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAID SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AS SHOWN ON HAROLD A. BARNETT'S DRAWING NO. 3913 ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1920 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1921

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING AGREEMENT OF SUBORDINATION FROM J. L. O'DONNELL AND GLADYS O'DONNELL, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1921 be adopted. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1922

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE CITY ATTORNEY OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO INSTITUTE AN INQUIRY INTO THE PROBABLE VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 316 BEING OFFICIAL LAND USE PLAN WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; REGULATING THE USE OF PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT THEREOF; PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1922 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1923

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ABANDON AND DISCONTINUE THAT CERTAIN PORTION OF LAND IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 27, BLOCK 4, TRACT NO. 3758, AS RECORDED IN BOOK 41, PAGE 26 AND 27, IN RECORDS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA; FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION AND THE MATTER OF SALE OF THE AFORESAID PROPERTY.

Councilman Haggard moved that Resolution No. 1923 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 421

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING ALL OF THE ALLEY IN ELOCK F, TRACT NO. 10300 LOCATED IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Jackson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 421 be dispensed with. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried.

Councilman Jackson moved that Ordinance No. 421 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 422

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF THE ALLEY SHOWN AS LOT A-27 OF ELOCK 27, TORRANCE TRACT.

Councilman Jackson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 422 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried.

Councilman Jackson moved that Ordinance No. 422 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

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

PERSONNEL:

- (a) That Donald S. Hamilton and Donald L. Clark, having successfully passed the Civil Service Examination, be employed as Police Officers to serve their probationary period, effective August 1, 1948, at a compensation of \$242.00 per month.
- (b) That a resolution be forwarded to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, requesting that a Planning Engineer be assigned to revise the Land Use Plan and Maps for the City of Torrance.

APPROPRIATIONS:

- (a) For the purchase of a typewriter to be used in the office of the City Attorney, the sum of \$95.02, including trade-in on old machine.
- (b) For refund on Building Permits Nos. 7984 to 7988, inclusive, 7990 and 7992 to 7995, inclusive, to Haddock Engineering Co., the sum of \$208.00, for the reason that the contract to construct the buildings was cancelled. A \$2.00 checking fee on each permit will be retained.
- (c) For automobile allowance for Director of Summer Recreation Program, the sum of \$90.00, one-half of which will be repaid by the Torrance School District.
- (d) For the purchase of two $\frac{1}{2}$ ton Chevrolet pick-up trucks, the sum of \$1366.50 each, plus sales tax and license fees.
- (e) For the purchase of a Chevrolet sedan for the Police Department, the sum of \$1400.00, plus tax and license fees, including trade-in of 1937 Dodge Sedan.
- (f) For purchase of typewriter for Bus Department, the sum of \$134.91, including tax.
- (g) For payment to W. M. Garland the sum of \$50.00 for repairing curb at 1014 So. Hill Street, Los Angeles, damaged by busses.

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) Emma L. Jones, 2027 Andreo Avenue, pepper tree.
- (b) Richard C. Williams, 115 Via Buena Ventura, two cypress trees.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- (a) That the improvement of a portion of Crenshaw Boulevard between 203rd Street and 190th Street and Cabrillo Avenue between Sepulveda Boulevard and 233rd Street, having satisfactorily been completed by the Griffith Company, be accepted.
- (b) That bids be called for the paving of Sartori Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Cabrillo Avenue for a leveling course on Sartori Avenue between Dominguez Street and Torrance Boulevard.

Mayor Sherfey asked City Administrator Stevens if the City's public liability and property damage insurance will take care of the repairs to the curb at 1014 So. Hill Street, Los Angeles, damaged by the City's busses.

Mr. Stevens did not know and said this had not been checked. Bus Superintendent Chamberlain also was unable to answer the question.

Mayor Sherfey suggested that Item g, under Appropriations, be excluded from Mr. Stevens' recommendations.

Councilman Jackson moved that the recommendations submitted by City Administrator Stevens be accepted by the Council, with the exception of Item g, under Appropriations. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Walter Wiitanen, 819 Amapola Avenue, complained about the narrow condition of Amapola Street, between Torrance Boulevard and Dominguez Street. He explained that the street is now 22' wide, and with cars parked on either side of the street it is too narrow for two vehicles to pass, and he added that if there should be a fire a fire truck could not get through. He suggested that the street be widened by eliminating the parkways. Mr. Wiitanen also complained of the deplorable condition of the alley, saying it is full of holes and that it should be resurfaced.

Councilman Jackson moved that the complaint on the condition of Amapola Street and the alley be referred to City Administrator Stevens for a report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Deering spoke on the reduction of the tax rate and implied that this is being done for the purpose of influencing a certain organization to establish its business in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell objected to Mr. Deering's insinuation that the tax rate is being reduced to induce industry to settle in the City of Torrance. He pointed out that the tax rate has not yet been set, but when it is it will be for the benefit of all the people of the City of Torrance and not for any particular individual.

Councilman Powell explained that he wished to clarify City Administrator Stevens' position, whereupon he moved that George W. Stevens be appointed City Engineer, on a temporary basis effective August 1, 1948, at his present rate of salary, with additional & administrative personnel duties as designated by the City Council at its next agenda meeting. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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

At 8:42 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Powell, and unanimously carried the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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