

Torrance, California  
February 23, 1949

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 Wednesday, February 23, 1949, at 8:01 p.m.

Councilman Haggard moved that, in the absence of Mayor Sherfey, Councilman Jackson serve as Mayor Pro tem. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson called the meeting to order.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. Absent: Councilman: Sherfey.

Councilman Haggard moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 9, 1949 and the Minutes of a Special Meeting held February 16, 1949 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson announced that this is the time and place for hearing written and oral protests against the proposed Walteria Sewer Assessment District.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss presented Affidavit of Publication of Resolution of Intention No. 1957, Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of Hearing.

The Street Superintendent presented his Affidavit of Posting Notices of Improvement.

Councilman Powell moved that the three Affidavits above-mentioned be received and filed. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss reported that the number of written protests against the proposed Walteria Sewer District is as follows:

1. Virginia F. and Forest Wilson, 3820 Newton St.  
Lots 16, 17 and 18, and the northwesterly one-half of Lot 15, in Block 16, Walteria Tract.
2. George Tomajic, 4129 Pacific Coast Highway  
Lot 8, Meadow Park Tract.
3. Fred E. Griesmer, 3933 So. Hill St., Los Angeles  
Lots 16, 17, 18 and 19, Block 5, Walteria Tract.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Biederman, 24490 Hawthorne Blvd.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson called for protests from the floor. There being no oral protests, Councilman Powell moved that the hearing be declared closed. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that all protests and objections against the proposed work be overruled and denied. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss presented and read title to:

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RESOLUTION NO. 1960

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING THE WORK OF IMPROVING THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS IN SAID CITY, KNOWN AS THE "WALTERIA SEWER DISTRICT", BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AND APPURTENANT WORK; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO POST AND PUBLISH A NOTICE INVITING SEALED PROPOSALS.

Councilman Haggard moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1960 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Councilman Haggard moved that Resolution No. 1960 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1961

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ASCERTAINING THE PREVAILING RATE OF PER HOUR WAGES FOR EACH TYPE OF CRAFT OF WORKMAN NEEDED TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE "WALTERIA SEWER DISTRICT" IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER AND APPURTENANT WORK THEREIN.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1961 be dispensed with. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Councilman Drale moved that Resolution No. 1961 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1962

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA DIRECTING THAT THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER AND APPURTENANT WORK IN THE "WALTERIA SEWER DISTRICT", IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, BE MADE BY THE CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Haggard moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1962 be dispensed with. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Councilman Drale moved that Resolution No. 1962 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson announced that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the operation of fertilizer dumps in the Terrance Manor district.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss read a communication, signed by 12 residents in the vicinity of the disputed fertilizer dump located at 166th and Crenshaw Blvd., which declared that said fertilizer dump does not constitute a public nuisance.

City Manager Stevens explained that there are three fertilizer dumps in question. Two, each separately owned, are located at 170th and Casimir Streets, which are immediately adjacent the homes in the Terrance Manor Tract, and the other is located at 166th Street and Crenshaw Blvd. Mr. Stevens voiced his opinion that the two dumps at 170th and Casimir Streets should be eliminated immediately.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson called for oral protests.

Henry F. Lush, 2715 W. 174th Street, protested the establishment of the fertilizer dumps for the reason that they are definitely a contributing factor toward breeding of flies in hot weather, and he urged their removal.

Alfred W. Thompson, 17010 Wilkie Ave., argued that the fertilizer dumps, which breed flies and are a direct cause of polio, are a health menace; that the odor emanating therefrom is extremely obnoxious; and that they lower the value of the property.

Ernest Thornton, 17304 Wilkie Ave., corroborated the statements made by Mr. Lush and Mr. Thompson.

Jack Klee, residing at 2209 Inglewood, owner of the fertilizer dump located at 166th Street and Crenshaw Blvd., denied that it is a health menace; that this is a breeding place for flies; and that it constitutes a public nuisance. He declared that the location of his dump is far enough removed from homes and places of business to comply with the legal requirements; that there have never been any complaints about his place; and that he has a right to be there. With reference to the odor, he claimed that there are odors emanating from different kinds of businesses, such as chemical plants, oil wells, refineries, slaughter houses, etc., yet these establishments are not considered a public nuisance. He pointed out that there are approximately fifteen dairies in the vicinity of his fertilizer dump, which contain manure and this cannot be removed unless the dairies are removed.

Mr. Zieser, 17103 Casimir Ave., objected to the odor which penetrates the Terrance Manor district.

Mr. James F. Lessey, 17024 Atkinson, entered his protest regarding the fertilizer dumps at 170th and Casimir Streets. He explained that he represents the Guaranty Development Company which is planning on building a number of homes in the vicinity of 166th and Arlington, that it will be difficult to obtain F.H.A. Loans if there is anything detrimental in the proximity of the proposed development, and for this reason he also entered a protest on behalf of said company.

Mr. Blount, 17036 Wilkie, claimed the fertilizer dumps are a public nuisance and that the odor therefrom is obnoxious.

Mr. H. R. Barry, 17013 Wilkie, understood that an elementary school is to be established in that area and for this reason the fertilizer dumps should be removed.

Mr. D. W. Colfelt, Supervisor of the Terrance area for the County Health Department, reported that he had inspected the fertilizer dumps at 170th and Casimir and found that a lot of flies are breeding in the manure. He stated that on December 10, 1948 Inspector Davidson served notice on Mr. Mike Vartanian to move his fertilizer at once as it was creating a nuisance, but nothing was done about it. He also stated that he himself wrote to Mr. G. Doghyan, operating in the same location without a city license, informing him that unless he moved out immediately he would refer the matter to the City Attorney for court action. He further stated that, in his opinion, the fertilizer dumps at this location are a potential health nuisance because of fly breeding.

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Mr. Alfred J. Schultz, 17304 Atkinson, was aware of the fact that zoning laws permit the establishment of fertilizer dumps in that area, but it was his opinion that zoning changes should be made, and the dumps, which are detrimental to health, should be removed.

Mr. Peterson, 17025 Wilkie, protested the fertilizer dumps, as well as the operation of the trucks used in connection with said business, which constitute a danger to children.

Mr. Ralph M. McBee, 17315 Atkinson, protested the establishment of a dairy, which adjoins the fertilizer dumps, because of the breeding of flies and mosquitos.

Councilman Haggard asked Mr. Colfelt if he has investigated the fertilizer dump at 166th and Crenshaw.

Mr. Colfelt replied that he has not.

Councilman Haggard then asked Mr. Colfelt if, under ordinary circumstances, the same conditions would prevail there as in the other location.

Mr. Colfelt replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Colfelt explained that the dump at Crenshaw Blvd. has been there for years, the other has not. It was his opinion that the situation is worse now, and when the winds come up and the manure is screened the conditions are probably bad. With regard to the dairies, he explained that the corrals are supposed to be cleaned every ten days or two weeks to prevent breeding of flies, which breed within that period, but during the rains it has been impossible to do this. He stated that the dairies have been there a long time and it would be difficult to remove them.

Councilman Drale moved that the fertilizer dealers in question, who are operating without a permit, be ordered to move within ninety days, and the one who has obtained a city license for the current year shall have his license revoked and ordered to move within ninety days, the motion to be complied with subject to the opinion of the City Attorney. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

At 8:45 p.m. a short recess was declared.

The meeting reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Mayor Pro tem Jackson announced that this is the time for a hearing on the operation of a hog ranch at 2310 - 166th Street.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss read a communication from F. J. Russ, 3009 W. 166th Street, protesting the hog ranch for the reason that it is a breeder of flies and filth.

Mr. James Lessie, representing the Guaranty Development Company, declared that the hog ranch is detrimental to the development of that area for residential purposes. He made this statement for the reason that said company is having difficulty in obtaining F.H.A. approval for a residential project at 166th and Arlington because of this hog ranch.

There were numerous oral protests from the floor regarding the hog ranch, namely:

Mr. Kurtz, 16601 Arlington Ave.  
Mrs. Martha Quinn, 1986 W. 166th St.  
Mrs. Ada Hegg, 16945 Arlington  
Mr. Claude W. Bell, 1860 W. 166th St.  
Mr. Charles R. Bell, 2085 W. 166th St.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. Schmid be ordered to cease operation of his hog ranch within a period of ninety days, the conditions in this motion to be subject to the opinion of the City Attorney. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from Robert E. Lee, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, was read advising that at a meeting of the Commission, held February 16, 1949, the following recommendations were passed for the Council's consideration:

1. That the contract for American Legion Tournament be extended for one year.
2. That the Council authorize a memo ordinance to be drafted by the City Attorney establishing the existence of this Commission and prescribing its powers and duties.

Councilman Powell moved that the request for extension of the American Legion Tournament Contract for a period of one year be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation, and that the drafting of a memo ordinance establishing the existence of this Commission and prescribing its powers and duties be referred to the City Attorney for study. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from J. Crawford was read claiming that while making a left turn traveling south on Cravens Avenue, a police car, also going south on the wrong side of the road and without giving any warning, ran into his automobile. He submitted three estimates on repairs to his car.

Councilman Haggard moved that the claim be referred to the City Attorney and Chief of Police. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication signed by W. B. Hickcox, Escrow Officer, Torrance National Bank, was read enclosing Policy of Title Insurance No. 190086 covering portions of Lots 9, 23, 24 and 34, Strawberry Home. Matter of record.

A communication from G. T. McCoy, State Highway Engineer, was read advising that, based on the special census showing a population of 17,450 as of December 29, 1948, for the City of Torrance, the estimated gas tax revenue for the 1949 fiscal year is \$35,740. Matter of record.

A communication from the State Compensation Insurance Fund was read advising that, under the California Experience Rating Plan, they have obtained permission from the California Inspection Rating Bureau to reduce the City's basic rates 33%, effective February 14, 1949. Matter of record.

A communication from Floyd Crutchfield, Chairman, Los Angeles County Farm Bureau, was read with reference to Bill No. 551, which would restrict the feeding of garbage to swine. It was the opinion that if this Bill is adopted the hog feeders would not be interested in the purchase of garbage from the various cities. The elimination of feeding of garbage to swine would force the cities to turn to some other method of disposal which would result in a greater cost to the cities as well as loss of revenue. The writer suggested that this district's assemblyman be contacted on the matter.

A communication was read from Ruby Clere, Program Chairman, Torrance Educational Association, extending an invitation to members of the City Council to be their guests at a book review on Tuesday, March 8, 1949, at 7:30 p.m. at the Torrance High School Auditorium.

A communication from The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company was read submitting their application for a franchise for a track across Lomita Boulevard, which track is an extension of the

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existing oil spur and is to be constructed to serve the National Electric Products Corporation, which is erecting an industrial plant.

Councilman Drale moved that the application of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for a franchise be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to Mayor Sherfey, signed by Robert W. Walker, General Attorney for The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company was read reporting that they have secured the materials necessary for the repairs to the track along Madrid Avenue, and that such repairs will go forward immediately.

A communication addressed to Mayor Sherfey from Charles H. Wortham, Mayor of the City of Redondo Beach, was read advising that S. V. Cortelyou, State Highway Engineer, had informed him of the existence of a contract between the City of Los Angeles and the State Highway Commission regarding the building of a subway underneath the runway at the Municipal Airport, this subway to consist of a 6-lane highway. The writer advised further that the City of Los Angeles was making an effort to break the contract and have this changed to a 4-lane highway. It was the writer's opinion that this will be a serious detriment to the entire South Bay District, and urged that every effort be made by this district to combat this change.

Councilman Haggard moved that the City Council go on record as opposing any 4-lane highway through the subway to be constructed underneath the runway at the Municipal Airport, as proposed by the City of Los Angeles. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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

**PERSONNEL:**

1. That John V. Agapito, having successfully passed the Civil Service examination, be appointed to serve his probationary period as Fireman, effective February 24, 1949, at a compensation of \$242.00 per month.
2. That Kenneth G. Kirkruff be temporarily appointed as Mechanic's Helper, effective February 5, 1949, at a compensation of \$221.00 per month.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. That a fire hydrant be installed on Lomita Boulevard, near National Electric Products Company property, in accordance with the recommendation of the Fire Chief.
2. That the application of K. J. Freeman to operate a used car business at 2030 Torrance Boulevard be granted, subject to compliance with City Ordinances. The Police Chief has made the necessary investigation and approved the application.

**BIDS TO BE INVITED:**

1. For the installation of acoustical ceiling in the Civic Auditorium.
2. For installation of sound system for Civic Auditorium.
3. For the purchase of street signs for Central Section of City.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of City Manager Stevens. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Deputy City Clerk Curtiss presented for first reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 447

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 376 AND RESCINDING THE FRANCHISE THEREIN GRANTED.

Councilman Haggard moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 447 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Councilman Haggard moved that Ordinance No. 447 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

Councilman Drale asked City Manager Stevens if he had anything to report on his survey with regard to putting members of the Police Department on a forty hours a week basis.

City Manager Stevens replied that he has made a survey of the various cities to determine what is being done along this line. He advised that while attending the meeting of City Managers at Santa Cruz he made inquiries concerning the working hours of both the Police and Fire Departments of comparable cities of the State. He was informed that in the Police Departments about 85% are working forty-eight hours a week, and in the Fire Departments about 79% are working the same number of hours, and he learned that in about five cities the Police Departments are on a forty hour a week basis. He stated that the League of California Cities is working on this kind of a survey, and that he will continue to obtain reports on this subject.

In reply to Councilman Drale's inquiry concerning a lighting system for the outlying districts within the City limits, City Manager Stevens informed that he is working on a plan to provide some type of ornamental lighting system, the cost to be subsidized by the property owners, which will be much cheaper to the homeowners than the creation of an assessment district. He hoped that within the next week or two he will have more information on this system.

Councilman Powell asked if the eligible list for City Attorneys is available.

While City Manager Stevens left the Council Chamber to obtain the list, Councilman Powell announced that due to his vacation he will not be present at the Council Meeting of March 8, 1949.

City Manager Stevens read the results of the examination for City Attorney as reported by the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission. There were four applicants who took the examination, each one receiving a passing grade in the following order:

1. T. B. McNary
2. C. Douglass Smith
3. W. E. Kalbfleisch
4. James M. Hall

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A copy of a communication, addressed to the Civil Service Commission, from T. B. McNary was read withdrawing his name at this time from consideration by the City Council for the position of City Attorney, but requesting, however, that his name be retained on the eligible list.

Councilman Powell moved that C. Douglass Smith be appointed to the position of City Attorney, effective this date. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Young asked when the ordinance regulating the operation of the Santa Fe trains within the City of Torrance will be brought up, action on this ordinance having been delayed for a period of sixty days, which time has about expired.

Councilman Powell explained that because of City Attorney Smith's absence the matter will be postponed until he is present.

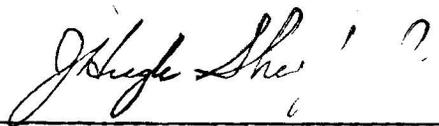
Councilman Powell moved that a transfer be made from the Un-allocated Reserve Fund to pay for the Special Census of the City of Torrance taken as of December 29, 1948. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

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

At 9:45 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Haggard, seconded by Councilman Drale, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE