

Torrance, California
January 24, 1950

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 of the City Hall at 8:10 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 1950, Mayor Sherfey presiding.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those responding being: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. Also present was City Manager Stevens.

All persons present joined in the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10th and the Special Meeting of January 12th be approved as read. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following correspondence:

Letter from Shell Oil Company advising no new pipe line installations or abandonments were made for the period ending December 31, 1949, under Franchise Ordinance No. 328. Matter of record.

Letter from Associated Oil Company advising no pipe lines laid or removed during period ending December 31, 1949, under L. A. County Franchise Ordinance No. 1014. Matter of record.

Letter from Associated Oil Company advising no pipe lines laid or removed during period ending December 31, 1949, under L. A. County Franchise Ordinance No. 1351. Matter of record.

Letter from Mrs. Helene Miller protesting the increase in license fee as to wholesale cleaners picking up in Torrance and advising cleaners from other cities were coming to Torrance and soliciting door-to-door. Councilman Powell moved that the matter of soliciting be turned over to the License Inspector for investigation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request from Isadore Sherman for renewal of his junk dealer's license. Councilman Haggard moved request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from American Legion Post No. 170 for a lease on the concession at the Municipal Park for 1950. Councilman Powell moved that the City Manager meet with the Commander to discuss the requested lease and make his recommendation at the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Letter from City Treasurer Margaret Fordice requesting consideration of salary increase for Treasurer and that the matter be put on the April ballot. Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Letter from Todd Construction Co. requesting elimination of sidewalks from their subdivision map on Tract No. 14667 with the exception of 174th St. and Yukon St. Discussion followed. Councilman Drale moved request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Division of Highways advising traffic survey would be made along Pacific Coast Highway to determine lowest speed possible. Councilman Jackson moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Request from the Recreation Commission for an executive meeting between the Council and the Commission. Councilman Powell moved that the Council meet with the Commission immediately following tonight's meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried.

ABRIDGED

Letter from the Secretary of the Planning Commission advising that the terms of H. B. Bolas, John Salm and W. A. Felker expired on January 11th. Mayor Sherfey moved that these gentlemen be re-appointed for another term. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Secretary of the Civil Service Board advising that Mr. Elder's term expired on January 15th. Mayor Sherfey advised several names had been submitted for consideration and that the appointment would be made at the Adjourned Regular Meeting next week.

Letter from the Civil Service Board advising of a Special Meeting held on January 17th recommending, in view of the senior captain's disability, that the next senior captain in the Fire Department be given the appointment of Chief, and that no promotional examination be called until such time as Capt. Winters can pass the physical examination for reinstatement as Captain. Following a short discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the matter be held over until the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried.

Clerk Bartlett read the following recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Arthur S. Moore be temporarily employed, pending a civil service examination, as a Plumbing Inspector, effective January 16, 1950, at a compensation of \$265.00 per month.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At the suggestion of Councilman Drale, items under "Appropriations" were taken seriatim.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the purchase of disintegrated granite for 242nd Street, the sum of \$700.00.

Councilman Jackson moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. For the purchase of crushed rock for 242nd Street, the sum of \$740.00.

Councilman Powell moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. For the purchase of road oil for the improvement of 242nd Street, the sum of \$980.00.

Councilman Jackson moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. For the purchase of crushed rock for the improvement of streets in Hollywood Riviera, the sum of \$505.00.

Councilman Jackson moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. For the purchase of road oil for the improvement of streets in Hollywood Riviera, the sum of \$800.00.

Councilman Powell moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. That the City bring its Fire Insurance protection up to date by changing policies from a specific basis to blanket insurance, with the insurance written for an amount equal to 90% of the total insurable values determined by the valuation survey of Marshall and Stevens and subsequent surveys.

That a plan of future expirations be made, so that eventually 1/3 of the insurance will expire annually and so that the amount of the premiums can be budgeted for each year.

Lengthy discussion followed with Councilman Drale moving that the fire insurance be split equally between Bowen, Lock, Lund and the Torrance Insurance Company. Further discussion followed, resulting in a second to the motion by Councilman Powell. Councilman Jackson expressed the opinion that the matter should be discussed by the Finance Committee before any vote was taken. Motion was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Powell. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Haggard, Jackson and Sherfey. Councilman Powell moved that inasmuch as circulars sent to various insurance agents and brokers by the City Manager were not available for the Council tonight that the matter of determining the insurance companies to be chosen be held over until another meeting of the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Mr. Bowen, insurance agent, addressed the Council from the audience advising that he had been in the business in Torrance since 1925 and had never received any City fire insurance business, nor had he ever been invited to submit a bid, nor been called in on any insurance conferences. He requested that he be given the same opportunities as other agents in the City.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the City Manager as to setting the total amount of insurance to be carried. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NAYS: COUNCILMAN: Drale. ABSENT COUNCILMEN: None

7. For the payment of sewer assessment on City-owned property in the Walteria Sewer District, the sum of \$2,133.38.

Councilman Powell moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That all bids for Street Signs be rejected and that bids be called for new type signs.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale interrupted the routine to state that at last week's agenda meeting, the dismissal of George W. Peterson as Night Watchman had been considered. As Mr. Peterson was an employee of the City, in the Laborer classification, prior to being appointed as temporary night watchman, Councilman Drale moved that the matter be referred to the Civil Service Board for its report as to Mr. Peterson's status. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

Clerk Bartlett then read the following letter from City Manager Stevens reporting on matters previously referred to him for investigation.

"At the last meeting of the City Council the following matters were referred to me for investigation and report:

1. Request of Mrs. Scanlon to remedy sand condition in front of 316 Paseo de la Playa:

I have investigated the conditions existing across the street from the above address and can offer no recommendation for eliminating the sand. The property belongs partly to individuals and partly to the County of Los Angeles. It is contemplated that the County will acquire all of the property eventually and develop it for beach purposes. At such time the condition objected to by Mrs. Scanlon should be remedied.

2. Request of Jack Perry for use of Civic Auditorium for wrestling show:

AB1910

I recommend that the request of Mr. Perry to conduct a wrestling show once a week in the Civic Auditorium be denied at this time."

Councilman Haggard moved that the recommendation be concurred in. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read a letter from the Planning Commission relative to the following matters:

CASE NO. 164: Petition of Frank Celinscak for a Variance and Conditional permit to permit the construction and operation of a cafe situated at 18930 Hawthorne Boulevard, on the corner of 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. This property is located in an A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone. After considering all the facts of the case, it was the decision of the Planning Commission to recommend denial of this Variance, because the erection, establishment and operation of a cafe at this location would be inconsistent with the present zoning.

Following discussion and reading of Planning Commission minutes relative to this case, Councilman Drale moved that the Council overrule the recommendation of the Commission and grant the variance. There being no second, the motion was declared lost. Councilman Powell moved that the matter be discussed at the joint meeting of the Council and Commission on February 1st. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried.

TRACT MAPS: The following tract maps were recommended for approval:

1. Tentative Tract Map No. 13672, submitted by K. Sande Senness, consisting of 157 lots and located south of Newton Street and west of Crenshaw Boulevard.
2. Final Tract Map No. 16267, submitted by K. Sande Senness, consisting of 76 lots, located south of Newton Street and approved subject to the posting of the necessary bonds and minor engineering changes.
3. Final Tract Map No. 14579, submitted by Truman Browne, consisting of 45 lots, located east of Hawthorne Blvd. and north of 182nd Street, approved subject to minor engineering changes.
4. Final Tract Map No. 14667, submitted by Horn Building Company, consisting of 100 lots, located on the southeast corner of 174th Street and Yukon Avenue, approved subject to minor engineering changes.

Councilman Jackson moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission as to Items 1, 2 and 3, and that the recommendation as to Item 4 be concurred in with the provision that approval is given only on the basis of adequate sidewalks being provided. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PARK AND RECREATION MOTION: It was the decision of the Planning Commission to recommend that a survey be made to investigate the need for park and recreation areas in the City of Torrance and the best available sites for same.

Councilman Powell moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL FLOOR AREA REQUIREMENT: Pursuant to your request for a recommendation concerning the establishment of a minimum residential floor area requirement in the City of Torrance, it is the recommendation of the Commission that the City Council look with favor upon the adoption of an ordinance providing for a 750 square foot minimum residential floor area requirement for any single-family residence, providing that it apply only to the permanent dwelling located on the front part of the lot.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to give the matter some study and make his recommendation at the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Clerk Bartlett read, in its entirety,

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE
IN THE PASSING OF FIRE CHIEF JOHN E. McMASTER

Councilman Powell moved the Resolution be adopted and forwarded to the family. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2030

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOR-
RANCE ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING FIRST SUPPLE-
MENTAL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURE OF
GAS TAX ALLOCATION FOR MAJOR CITY STREETS.

Councilman Jackson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2030. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2031

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOR-
RANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER
THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY AC-
QUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2031. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2032

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOR-
RANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY
CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO EXECUTE THAT CER-
TAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAID CITY AND THE TORRANCE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING AND
PROMOTING THE CITY.

Councilman Drale moved that the Resolution be read in its entirety. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried. Following the reading, Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of the Resolution with the provision that the contract be discussed with the Council as a whole re exploitation, etc., prior to its execution. Councilman Drale, following a short discussion, stated he did not wish to vote on the matter until the Chamber had submitted an itemized statement, plans, etc., as to how the money would be spent. The motion was seconded by Councilman Haggard and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NAYS: COUNCILMAN: Drale.

RESOLUTION NO. 2033

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOR-
RANCE ACCEPTING THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED EXECUT-
ED BY THE WESTON INVESTMENT COMPANY ON SEPTEMBER
24, 1949.

Councilman Jackson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2033. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 496

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOR-
RANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSI-
FYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING
COMMISSION CASE NO. 176.

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Councilman Jackson moved further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Jackson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 496 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 497

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 177.

Councilman Powell moved further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Jackson moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 497 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 498

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 179.

Councilman Jackson moved further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 498 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 499

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AFFIRMING AND RATIFYING WAGE SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES ADOPTED BY THE SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS HERETOFORE PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, AND ELIMINATING AND ADDING CERTAIN POSITIONS TO THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN.

Councilman Drale moved that the Ordinance be sent to the Civil Service Board for its recommendation. Discussion followed by members of the Council and Mr. Stevens. It was explained that the Ordinance merely incorporates action previously taken by the Council by Resolutions, all based on recommendations of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Drale was still dissatisfied with explanations as to eliminations and additions to the classified service, stating that he saw several on the list of additions for which no civil service examination had ever been called, naming specifically "Legal Stenographer". City Manager Stevens stated that the Ordinance had been drawn by the City Attorney at the request of the Council to remedy previous action taken by Resolution. At the suggestion of Councilman Powell, Councilman Drale withdrew his motion and then moved that the Ordinance be held over until the next meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 500

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, ORDINANCE NO. 446.

Councilman Jackson moved further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Jackson moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 500 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens read a communication from Mr. Chamberlain, Bus Superintendent, advising that on February 5th service would be curtailed and recommending a fare increase of 5¢ - minimum fare 10¢, and that school tickets continue to be sold at half-fare. After

some discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur in the curtailment and fare increase recommended. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Stevens stated he had a request from the Mac-Low-Men Company relative to the re-subdivision of an existing subdivision and called the company's representative to the floor. Complete explanation was made to the Council of the existing subdivision and proposed re-subdivision. In return for a considerable amount of land to be dedicated to the City for the widening of streets, the company requested that the City pave the streets and vacate the alleys; the company will put in curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Lengthy discussion followed resulting in Councilman Powell moving that the matter be discussed at the joint meeting of the Council and Planning Commission on February 1st. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale reported on streets needing repair: 220th and Andreo; in front of the P.E. shops; and hole at 912 Amapola. Mr. Elder, in the audience, stated that the telephone company had not replaced the sidewalk they tore up when laying their cables along Madrid. Councilman Drale suggested the City Engineer investigate this matter and ascertain whether or not the telephone company would replace the sidewalk. Councilman Drale then read a letter handed him re condition of the alley back of Neece Avenue and the damage done to a fence by the tin-can pickup truck. He suggested the matter be referred to Mr. Green, who undoubtedly carried insurance for such damage.

Councilman Drale moved that an ordinance be drawn to force contractors laying pipe in the streets to tamp the dirt in firmly and restore streets to the condition in which they found them. City Manager Stevens advised such an ordinance had already been requested and was under way.

Councilman Jackson asked that Mr. Stevens call a meeting of the Traffic Commission for 9:00 a.m. Saturday. On objection by Chief Stroh, meeting was set for 5:00 p.m. Friday. Councilman Jackson advised Mr. Beesley that if the Walteria Business Men's Ass'n could meet at 5:30 that same night, the Commission would call on them.

Councilman Powell asked that the City Engineer make a proper investigation, together with Mr. Perkins, as to means of alleviating the flood damage in the upper Riviera section.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council set aside that area of the Municipal Park bounded by the Santa Fe tracks, Lincoln Avenue and Narbonne Avenue, to a depth of about 200', for a Youth' Canteen. Discussion followed, resulting in a second to the motion by Councilman Drale. Councilman Jackson asked if it would not be just as well to instruct the City Attorney to draw up such an ordinance for the approval of the Council, and Councilman Powell amended his motion accordingly. Motion as amended, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draft an ordinance which would allow the Veterans' Council of Torrance to enter into a lease agreement on the City airport for a commercial area. Councilman Drale advised no request for such a lease had been received and that he was not in favor of taking any such action until a request had been made. Clerk Bartlett advised that Mr. Caldwell had talked to him about the matter and that a formal request would be forthcoming. Motion, receiving no second, was declared lost.

Councilman Powell asked that the Mayor call a meeting of the officers of the Disaster Council, formed about a year ago, that they might begin working along the lines recommended at that time. Chief Stroh advised he was writing letters as to the law enforcement part of it but that the other departments -- Fire, Street and Red Cross -- come under other headings and would have to organize their own groups. He advised, further, that he expected to have a group of 25 or 30 to assist in any emergency which might arise.

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Mayor Sherfey moved that a letter be written by the City Manager to the Veterans' Emergency Rentals organization arranging for an audit of its books and funds in the usual business manner. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sherman Miller, 1606 Gramercy, bus driver, asked for clarification of the motion made relative to curtailing bus service as no mention was made of the 10-hour day previously requested by the drivers nor of the requested lunch period, advising the Council that curtailment of service would automatically change work runs. Discussion followed at some length, resulting in a motion by Councilman Powell that the Council meet with the Bus Superintendent within the next week for the purpose of establishing a bus schedule which would give the men a minimum lunch hour of 30 minutes and the split shift not to exceed 10 hours. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Wm. H. Tolson requested that the Mayor proclaim this week as National Y.M.C.A. Week in the City of Torrance.

Mr. Elder, at some length, requested that something be done about the speed at which trains run on Madrid and the length of time which they block the crossings. Mayor Sherfey moved that Mr. Stevens write to Mr. Baker, of Santa Fe Railroad, citing the facts as given by Mr. Elder. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, carried.

Councilman Drale offered the name of Howard Raymond for consideration for appointment to the Civil Service Board, and asked as to the status of Mr. Foreman, presently on the Board but inactive due to working hours. Mayor Sherfey advised the latter matter would be checked.

Councilman Powell submitted the name of Frank Schmidt for consideration for appointment to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Jackson moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:12 p.m., Councilman Jackson moved the meeting be adjourned to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 31st. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE