

Torrance, California
February 7, 1950

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Tuesday, February 7, 1950, at 8:03 p.m., Mayor Sherfey presiding.

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

All persons present participated in the Salute to our Flag.

This being an Adjourned Regular Meeting, Mayor Sherfey announced the regular order of business would be dispensed with and declared the purpose of the meeting as being a hearing of proposals to go on the April ballot.

At the suggestion of Councilman Powell, Clerk Bartlett read the following list of items suggested by the Council as ballot issues: (1) bond issue for swimming pool, (2) salary for councilmen, (3) councilmanic districts, (4) civil jurisdiction for the court, and (5) adjustment of City Treasurer's salary.

City Attorney Smith suggested deletion of certain words from the Charter, as pertaining to the duties of City Attorney, to wit: "or in the opinion of the Chief of Police", stating that such clause was a conflict of authority.

Councilman Powell asked for the latest possible date when ballot proposals could be suggested and was informed by the City Attorney that any proposal necessitating an amendment to the Charter would have to be published not less than 40 days prior to election nor more than 60 days, and other proposals would have to be published 30 days in advance of the election. Councilman Powell then moved that Tuesday, February 14th, the next Regular Meeting of the City Council, be set as the last date for the Council to consider any propositions to appear on the April ballot. Following a rather lengthy discussion, motion was seconded by Councilman Jackson and unanimously carried.

Discussion on the councilmanic districts was opened by Mr. Beesley, of Walteria, who informed the Council that his district was opposed to the present map of districts. Commander Mason, representing the Hollywood Riviera group, also objected strongly to the map as now

divided. Mr. Walsh, of 3709 W. 190th St., in North Torrance, urged that the issue be placed on the ballot.

In answer to a question raised by Mr. Slonæcker, of WALTERIA, Clerk Bartlett explained that if the issue is carried at this coming election, the councilmen already sitting would not be affected but vacancies, as they arose, would be filled from the districts. Matter was further explained by City Attorney Smith, who advised the audience that actually the Council did not have to put the issue on the ballot -- such division was strictly a municipal affair and could be done by an ordinance; that the people, at an election, could repeal such an ordinance; that if the people vote in the issue at an election, the Council could repeal it by an ordinance at their next meeting. He explained that, in his opinion, the matter was suggested as a ballot proposal merely to get the reaction of the citizens as a whole.

Councilman Powell moved that this matter be left off the coming ballot. Motion was seconded by Mr. Drale. Councilman Haggard suggested no action one way or the other be taken until the other districts could be heard from, only two areas having voiced an opinion. Motion was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Powell. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Haggard, Jackson and Sherfey.

As the principal objection was to the division of the districts rather than the ward system, Councilman Drale moved that a large map be prepared for the next meeting, with the districts shaded, so that the people would know just what the divisions were to be. Motion was seconded by Councilman Powell and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Further discussion of the system was made by Mr. Elder, Councilman Powell, Councilman Drale, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Beesley, Mrs. Slonæcker, and Mr. Olding.

At 9:04 p.m., Mayor Sherfey declared discussion on the subject closed and invited comment on the proposal of salary for the councilmen. Those urging the matter be put on the ballot were: Mrs. George Powell, Mr. Paul Slonæcker, Commander Mason, and Mr. George Downing. Councilman Powell moved that the proposition go on the ballot at a figure of \$100 per month. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NAYS: COUNCILMAN: Haggard.

Councilman Drale recommended that when the propositions are drawn by the City Attorney, they be drawn clearly and concisely to avoid any confusion on the part of the elector as to whether he should mark his ballot "yes" or "no".

At 9:12 p.m., discussion on the subject was declared closed and Mayor Sherfey invited comment on the pool bond issue. Mr. Gotts advised that it had been decided at a previous meeting that the matter would go on the ballot. Councilman Powell confirmed the statement, supplementing the comment by furnishing the figure of \$250,000.00.

City Attorney Smith requested discussion be had on the civil jurisdiction of the court and briefly explained the advantages to be gained, etc. Following a short discussion by the Council, Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk send a communication to Judge Willett advising him of the matter under consideration and requesting his opinion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Subject was declared closed at 9:20 and discussion opened relative to adjustment of City Treasurer's salary. Following a very brief discussion as to salary paid by other cities, City Attorney Smith read the duties prescribed by our Charter for the City Treasurer. Councilman Drale moved that the issue go on the April ballot at a salary of \$150.00 per month. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens presented a matter not relative to the election, but urgent because of the time element involved -- request of the Optimist Club for use of the Auditorium on February 23rd to present a

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wrestling exhibition, proceeds to go to the March of Dimes. He advised the Club had a request before the Council to use the Auditorium once a month for such an exhibition, which was being considered, but this charity bout was special. Mr. Vaughn, President of the Club, explained the matter at some length. Several questions were raised by the Council as to possible damage to the hall, City's liability in case of personal injury, etc. Councilman Powell, following City Manager's recommendation that the exhibitions be given a trial, moved that the request be granted with the provisions that all precautions be made to hold the City harmless. Motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and further discussion followed. At the request of Councilman Powell, Councilman Drale withdrew his second and Councilman Powell his motion. Councilman Powell then moved that the Mayor set a time for a special meeting to consider a contract, covering all the items discussed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

At 9:50 p.m., Councilman Haggard moved meeting be adjourned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE