

Torrance, California
June 13, 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 on Tuesday, June 13, 1950, at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Haggard presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:
COUNCILMEN: Drale, Powell, Spelman and Haggard. ABSENT: COUNCIL-
MAN: Blount. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City
Attorney Smith.

All persons present participated in the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 23rd and the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 31st be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Mayor Haggard announced that the time had come for the Protest Hearing on the Vacation of Alleys in Shady Nook Tract. City Manager Stevens reported that no written communications had been received. Councilman Powell asked City Manager Stevens to explain the Vacation and its advantage to the City. City Manager Stevens explained that this was a small tract at Western Avenue between 228th Street and Sepulveda Boulevard, which had been recorded in 1912 and consisting of narrow lots, which prohibited development into a residential area. The subdivider plans to widen the streets from 40 feet to 60 feet and to re-subdivide, so that lots will conform to the 5,000 square ft. minimum or more; that he is deeding to the City considerable more street area than he is receiving from the vacation of the alleys. There being no oral comments from the audience, Councilman Powell moved that the Council approve the vacation request and that the City Attorney be instructed to draft the necessary ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Haggard announced that the time had come for the Third and Final Hearing on Planning Commission Case No. 189, Petition of Property Management for a Change of Zone from R-2 (Two-family Residential) to C-1 (Retail Commercial) use, affecting the northwest corner of 170th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. Planning Consultant Lloyd explained that two public hearings had been held before the Planning Commission and as a result the Commission had recommended denial of the petition, upon the basis that the recent rezoning of the North Torrance area had created a considerable amount of new business property and that conditions at this time did not warrant additional business zoning. No written or oral protests having been received, Councilman Drale moved that the Petition be approved. There being no second, the motion was declared lost. Councilman Spelman moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission and deny the petition. This motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, was lost by the following tie roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Spelman and Haggard. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount. Councilman Powell moved that the matter be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting and that the Council members attend. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

ABSENTO

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Request from Board of Supervisors for quitclaim deeds to approximately 2.69 acres of land from the Dominguez Land Company and County of Los Angeles to remove restrictions on land deeded back to City of Torrance by County for park purposes. Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney prepare the quitclaim deeds to the subject property from the Dominguez Land Company and the County of Los Angeles, which motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from Los Angeles County regarding certain air pollution problems and desiring opportunity to discuss same. City Manager Stevens informed the Council that he had already met with Mr. Larson, Director of the Air Pollution Control District and the letter was ordered filed as a matter of record.

Communication from Los Angeles County Health Department, submitting 1950-51 public health service contract. Councilman Drale moved the contract be renewed and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute same. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from South Bay Humane Society, requesting renewal of contract. Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the Agenda Meeting to be held next Tuesday. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request from Torrance Veterans Service Council for permission to sell fireworks for four days ending July 4th. Councilman Spelman moved that the Ordinance prohibiting the sale of fireworks be amended to permit such sale by charitable organizations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale. City Attorney Smith advised that in his opinion such an amendment would be discriminatory and illegal. Councilman Spelman withdrew his motion and Councilman Drale his second. Councilman Powell moved that a meeting be held with the Fire and Police Chiefs, City Attorney and a representative of the Veteran's Council within the next week, so that action on the matter could be taken next Tuesday night. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Communication from Consolidated Photographers (Hollywood Fotolab), requesting renewal of business license. City Clerk Bartlett advised that he had contacted the Better Business Bureau and, recommended denial of this request. Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the City Clerk. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication of Torrance Lions Club, relative to securing better service and equipment from Pacific Telephone Company. Councilman Powell moved that a meeting be held by the City Attorney, City Manager and Mayor, with officials of the Pacific Telephone Company and the Associated Telephone Company, in order that all information possible be made available to the City Council and other interested persons. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Two letters from Mrs. Pearl Conklin, protesting high bus fares from different points charged by our City Lines. Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the Transportation Committee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request from L. Dombrowski for sign marked "No Through Street" to be placed at 168th Street and Yukon Avenue. Councilman Drale moved that the communication be referred to Ralph Perkins, Street Superintendent. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Communication from Getz, Aikens and Manning, submitting claim for damages to auto, in amount of \$20.00, on behalf of their client Joe B. Poole. Councilman Spelman moved that the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Haggard, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of Merlin R. Cook, for reinstatement as Bus Maintenance Foreman. Councilman Powell moved that the Transportation Committee invite the City Attorney, Mr. Cook and Mr. Chamberlain, Bus Superintendent, to their next meeting to discuss the matter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Communication from League of California Cities, advising that request of L.A. County for appropriations for X-ray Survey was not a proper subject for the expenditure of public funds. Councilman Powell moved that the Finance Committee concur with the recommendation of the League and deny the appropriation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from Lodge No. 785, Loyal Order of Moose, requesting resolution be adopted declaring June 20th as "Moose Day" in honor of Director General visiting Southern California, as has been adopted by neighboring communities. Councilman Powell moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign a resolution, drafted by the City Attorney, declaring June 20th as "Moose Day", and that it be afforded the usual publicity in the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Shoreline Planning Association of California, Inc., regarding City's membership for 1950-51, with brief resume of Association's work. Councilman Drale stated that the City was not a member of this Association and moved that the fee not be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Request from Local 360, United Public Workers of America, for appointment to discuss wages and working conditions for City employees. Councilman Powell moved that the City Manager meet with the Negotiating Committee and arrange any meetings with the Council that might be necessary. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Communication from West Basin Water Association, regarding annual membership dues and total number of acre feet of water produced with amount of assessment levied. Councilman Drale moved that the matter be referred to the Water Superintendent, Mr. William Stanger, for his recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from Richman Bros., regarding certain property purchased for taxes and asking for an offer by City, was read at meeting of May 23rd and referred to Council to examine. Councilman Drale moved that the communication be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from Recreation Commission, requesting bus service as means of promoting swimming and beach activities as part of Summer Recreation Program. Councilman Powell moved that the communication be directed to the next meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Communication from Recreation Commission, requesting Crossing Guards on intersections on Highway 101 near Walteria and El Retiro Parks. Councilman Drale moved that the communication be directed to the Chief of Police for a recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from Recreation Commission recommending Mr. and Mrs. Crosby as supervisors for the teen-age canteens at El Retiro Park on Saturday nights commencing June 24th, the positions calling for five hours each at a rate of \$1.43 per hour and \$1.34 per hour, respectively. Mr. Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously, by roll call vote.

Communication from Recreation Commission, requesting the Mayor to call a joint meeting, immediately, between the Council, Planning Commission and Recreation Commission for the purpose of discussing a possible recreation area for West Torrance. Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission and that the Mayor be authorized to set a date for the joint meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from Recreation Commission, requesting the Council to discuss a joint program for recreation with the Board of Education. Councilman Powell moved that the City Manager be authorized to take the action suggested in the letter and that the continuance of the discussion be carried on with the new Board. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

At 9:05 p.m. Mayor Haggard declared a recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Communication from Palisades Builders, regarding the planting of ice-plant in Tract No. 15569 to prevent any serious amount of erosion. City Manager Stevens explained that this Tract Map No. 15569 had been tentatively accepted at the last meeting, subject to an investigation and approval of the necessary retaining walls by the Assistant to the City Engineer and a committee consisting of Councilman Spelman, Councilman Powell, Planning Commissioner Smith and himself. The project was discussed with Mr. Barnett, Civil Engineer, and it was determined that the nature of the subdivision prohibited the extensive use of retaining walls. It was agreed that final inspection on the buildings would not be made until proper planting had been completed. Mr. Stevens recommended that this Tract Map be approved, subject to the planting being made prior to final inspection on the building and that no slope on cut or fill should be steeper

ABRID

than 1½ to 1. Councilman Spelman moved that the Council concur with the City Manager's recommendation. Motion, seconded by Mayor Haggard, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Spelman and Haggard. NOES: COUNCILMAN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount. Councilman Powell explained his NO vote by saying that he was not in favor of establishing lots without a reasonable amount of level space which the owner might improve.

The following recommendations were submitted by City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That a classification for Police Woman be created, in accordance with the request of the Police Chief, salary to be in the \$211 to \$253 per month bracket.
2. That Guy Hight be appointed to serve his probationary period as Custodian, effective June 16, 1950, at the compensation designated as the second step for the classification.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur with the recommendations under "Personnel" (Items 1 and 2). Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To the Hundley Company, the sum of \$1,062.56 for street signs, in accordance with bid prices.
2. To Warren Southwest, Inc., the sum of \$3,983.04 for paving Hawthorne Boulevard. (State Gas Tax Funds)
3. To Warren Southwest, Inc., the sum of \$2,143.95 for paving Hawthorne Boulevard south of Newton Street. (County Gas Tax Funds.)
4. To Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services on street improvement projects, the sum of \$396.00. (From State Gas Tax Funds)
5. To Mayo Construction Company for the construction of Recreation buildings, the sum of \$8,007.00. (Public Improvement Funds)
6. For the purchase of two electric typewriters, the sum of \$335.00 each plus tax, one for Engineers and City Manager's office and one for City Attorney's office.
7. To the Standard Welding and Mfg. Co. for repair of City equipment, the sum of \$340.50.
8. For the purchase of map racks for the Planning Commission and City Council Chamber, the sum of \$383.80 plus sales tax.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur with the recommendations under "Appropriations" (Items 1 through 8). Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That the City invite bids for gasoline and oil requirements for the 1950-51 fiscal year. Bids to be received on June 27, 1950.
2. That the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary resolution to initiate proceedings for vacating Huber Street in Tract No. 5944.
3. That the City enter into a contract with Barnett, Hopen and Smith, Civil Engineers, for the preparation of assessment district data for the proposed Sewer Assessment District in Arlington Avenue and other streets in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendations under "Miscellaneous" (Items 1 through 3). Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. City Attorney Smith asked if the vacating of Huber Street would enhance the entire population of the City of Torrance or would it inure and benefit a few individuals. City Manager Stevens explained that if this street is vacated, the greater portion reverts to the City and becomes part of our City Yard.

Correspondence from Mr. Lloyd, Secretary of the Planning Commission was read and the following action taken:

REQUEST OF ROY M. KNOX: For a rear-yard set-back of five feet (5'), for Lot 2, Block M, Tract No. 10300, in Hollywood Riviera. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mr. Powell moved that the matter be referred back to the Planning Commission as not having complete information as to the manner in which this request can be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

REQUEST OF RICHARD BURCE: To erect two single-family residences on Lots 12 and 13, Block "D", Tract No. 7506, having a frontage of 75' and a total lot area of 9,750 square feet, situated in an R-1 (Single-family Residential) Zone.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and grant the request. City Attorney Smith stated that this was in violation of the ordinance. For lack of a second, the motion was lost. Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred back to the Planning Commission with the information that an amendment to the ordinance was necessary. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried -- Councilman Drale voting NO.

CASE NO. 192: Proposed Change of Zone (Land Use Plan) of certain portions of the Hollywood Riviera District, generally described as follows: "That portion of the City of Torrance bordered on the West by the Pacific Ocean; on the East by the C.N. Ellinwood property; on the North by the Torrance City Boundary Line and on the South by the Palos Verdes City Boundary Line." Two public hearings have been held before the Torrance Planning Commission and the date for the third and final hearing should be set not sooner than July 11, 1950, in order to comply with the public notice requirements. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the case.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and that the Mayor be authorized to set the date for the third hearing before the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously. Mayor Haggard set the date as July 11, 1950, at 8:00 p.m.

City Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Mr. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, submitting the following Tract Maps for approval:

FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 16483: Presented by the Stuart Construction Company, located south of 174th Street and approximately 350 feet east of Crenshaw Boulevard. This map was approved by the City Planning Commission on April 4, 1950, and sanitary sewers will be installed connecting to the existing sewer line north of 174th Street on Casimir Avenue.

Councilman Powell moved that the map be approved, subject to the posting of the necessary bonds and minor engineering changes. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 16701: Presented by Budget Homes Corporation, located east of Arlington Avenue approximately 660 feet south of 182nd Street. This map was approved by the City Planning Commission on April 30, 1950. Sanitary sewers will be installed.

Councilman Powell moved that the map be approved, subject to the posting of the necessary bonds and minor engineering changes. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 16569: Presented by Mr. K. Sande Senness, located east of Winlock Drive between Newton Street and 101 Highway and approved by the City Planning Commission on April 18, 1950. Sanitary sewers will be installed.

ABRIDG

Councilman Spelman moved that the map be approved, subject to the posting of the necessary bonds and minor engineering changes. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING STORING OF COMBUSTIBLE WASTE, INCINERATORS, BARBECUE PITS AND BURNING.

Councilman Drale said he would like to have this ordinance held over to the next meeting, so that further study could be given it. City Attorney Smith stated that the subject ordinance had been drawn at the request of the Fire Chief.

ORDINANCE NO. 512

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

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 512 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2066

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURE OF GAS TAX ALLOCATION FOR MAJOR CITY STREETS.

Councilman Powell moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2066. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens asked if the Council had authorized City Attorney Smith to amend Ordinance No. 316, to allow changes of a minor nature, like a side-yard set-back, after recommendation of the Planning Commission. Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draft the necessary amendment for Ordinance No. 316 and make the necessary revisions to provide better useability of the ground. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

City Manager Stevens reported that he had been requested to report on City-wide use of garbage disposal units, but would like to defer the report until the next meeting, in order to obtain further information on the matter.

City Attorney Smith reported that he had been presented with a deed drawn by the partnership that owns the Shady Nook Tract, and as the deed was made by a co-partnership, which is not legal in California, it was referred back to the makers. Mr. Black was so informed and had his wife and the other partner's wife sign it. Mr. Black was also required to furnish a title report, showing whether or not there were encumbrances. Attorney Smith found that there were restrictions put on twenty or thirty years ago and that some of the leases have not been legally terminated. He advised the Council that if they were anxious to go ahead with the development, those reservations do not materially affect the property, but the Council should ask the grantors to try to clear it up. Mr. Hudson, partner of Mr. Black, of Budget Homes Corporation, stated that the Title and Insurance Company had written a policy which the V.A. had accepted, that Standard Oil had released their surface rights and that the others were defunct companies.

Councilman Drale requested the paving of Border Avenue between 222nd Street and Santa Fe Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue from Border Avenue to Cabrillo Avenue, as a matter of record.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Manager be authorized to write District Attorney Simpson, requesting a Grand Jury investigation of the recent Recount of ballots cast in the April election and the possible tampering with same. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, was lost by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Spelman and Haggard. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Blount.

Councilman Powell stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of a sign-board ordinance and asked that the matter be referred to City Manager Stevens for discussion with Chief of Police Stroh and City Attorney Smith. City Attorney Smith advised that there was such an ordinance already in effect.

Councilman Powell commended Recreation Superintendent Carpenter and Mr. Riley, Superintendent of Maintenance - Recreation, together with the Recreation Commission for the fine job they have done in the past year. He said that the Attendance Report for the month of May showed great progress being made in recreational activities.

Councilman Spelman stated that he would like to open up again the discussion on the request of the Torrance Veteran's Council for permission to sell fireworks for four days ending July 4th. City Attorney Smith suggested that the Council instruct him to draw an ordinance prohibiting fire works, except upon a permit issued by the Chief of Police and delegating power to the Chief of Police to issue such permits. Councilman Spelman moved that the City Attorney be requested to amend the present Ordinance, giving the Chief of Police the power to issue permits for the sale of fireworks, and that the fee for such permits be as follows: Non-residents of the City of Torrance, \$250.00 per year and residents of the City of Torrance, \$50.00 per year. Motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale said that the Columbia Acacia Club had been granted permission to use the Civic Auditorium a short time back and had since been sent a bill, which he would like to move be marked paid, as other non-profit organizations had been granted the use of the Auditorium rent-free. Motion died for want of a second. Discussion followed and Councilman Powell moved that the City Manager produce the written request from the Columbia Acacia Club and that action on the matter be held over until the next regular meeting of the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Police Chief Stroh brought up the subject of the crossing guard requested by the Recreation Commission and which had been referred to him, as the Traffic Commission did not meet for a week and the Recreation activities open on Monday, June 19th. He also stated that he did not have the personnel for this assignment and that his budget was not sufficient to provide for additional personnel. Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to take care of the situation until the Traffic Commission held a meeting. Chief Stroh said he would like to have permission to put someone on the assignment for a week to see what was needed and that he thought one of the crossing guards employed during the school term might be available. Councilman Powell said he would amend his motion, if City Manager Stevens thought he could arrange for the necessary funds. City Manager Stevens said he thought something could be worked out and the motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh informed the Council that he did not have the personnel to enforce the ordinance on billboard signs and City Clerk Bartlett stated that, to his knowledge, there were no billboards without a license in the City of Torrance.

Mr. Edward F. Saul, 17518 South Arlington Avenue, stated that he and a group from the North Torrance Improvement Association wanted to protest the clay pit in North Torrance, which had been leased to the Builders Brick organization. Others protesting the establishment of the pit were Mrs. S. V. Magallanes, 17580 Arlington Avenue, Mr. Barton W. Davidson, 17590 Arlington Avenue and Mrs. E. F. Saul, 17518

ABR:MO

Arlington Avenue. Those protesting said a health menace had been created by the dust and a traffic hazard by the heavy trucks using the roads and driving in a careless manner. Mayor Haggard informed the group that the Council would discuss the matter at the next Agenda Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 20th, and that the Council would meet with the group in the Council Chamber at 7:30 p.m. on that date. Councilman Spelman so moved and the motion, seconded by Councilman Powell, carried unanimously.

Mr. A. E. Thomas, representative of the West Torrance Improvement Association, stated that he had been appointed to again appear before the Council and to request bus service for the area up and down Hawthorne Boulevard. No action taken.

Mr. Milton Black, Budget Homes Corporation, stated that his organization was trying to deed the property in the Shady Nook Tract to the City of Torrance, so that they could widen the streets.

Mr. Black, 1722⁴ Atkinson Avenue, requested the paving of Casimir Avenue near the elementary school be completed before the school term starts. City Manager Stevens informed him that it was intended to complete the improvement this summer, that the easement from Bernard had been acquired and that other easements had been promised from Tony Frietas and Higgins Brick.

Mr. Roland Smith, 1855 Torrance Boulevard, suggested that directional signs be posted on Western Avenue at Torrance Boulevard to direct traffic through the business center of Torrance, also that such signs be posted on Western Avenue at Carson Street. Chief Stroh advised that such signs were already posted at Carson and at 213th St. on Western Avenue.

Councilman Spelman moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Mayor Haggard, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 11:14 p.m., Councilman Spelman moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE