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Torrance, California
January 22, 1952

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, January 22, 1952, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Haggard presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:
COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Karlow, Spelman and Haggard. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

All persons present participated in the salute to Our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Karlow moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8th and of the Adjourned Regular Meeting of January 15th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Request from Water Superintendent McVicar for authorization to purchase new billing machine and addressograph equipment without bids. After brief discussion, Councilman Drale moved bids for the

billing machine be called for by the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Request from Water Superintendent McVicar that consideration be given to allow Ellen Blackshere some of her accumulated sick leave pay, stating that Mrs. Blackshere was on six months' leave of absence due to the illness of her mother. City Attorney Hall stated that such use of sick leave could not legally be granted. Councilman Blount stated that a similar request from a member of the Bus Department had previously been denied. He then moved that the Council concur in the granting of six months' leave of absence and that Mr. McVicar be advised the Council, on advice of the City Attorney, denied the request for sick leave pay. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from the Civil Service Board advising Mrs. Blackshere had been granted six months' leave of absence; and also approving two weeks leave of absence commencing January 21st for Donnie H. Cook and James P. O'Toole, from the Water Department, to attend Torrance Police Training School, both having passed the civil service examination for Police Officer. Councilman Karlow moved the Council concur in the recommendation as to Don Cook and James O'Toole. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Petition bearing ten signatures urging the City to take whatever steps are necessary to protect the Deodara Cedrus and Palm trees on Sepulveda Boulevard and Torrance Boulevard, as they were being "mutilated, hacked and ruthlessly cut" in front of the Truman Browne subdivision. The Council unanimously agreed that action should be taken to prevent such mutilation and for the replacement of the trees which have been ruined. Councilman Spelman moved the matter be referred to the City Attorney for his recommendation as to what action should be taken, and against whom. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried. Mrs. Alice O. Thomas, the originator of the petition, thanked the Council for its action.

Letter from Shell Oil Company advising no new installations or abandonments were made under its franchise Ordinance 328 for the period ending December 31, 1951. Matter of record.

Franchise earnings report from General Petroleum Corp. under its franchise Ordinances 179, 181 and 351 transmitting check for \$627.69. Matter of record.

Notice of hearing before the Industrial Accident Commission on application for adjustment of claim by Myrtle Schumaker. Councilman Spelman moved the notice be referred to the State Compensation Insurance Fund. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Letter from Shoreline Planning Ass'n of California requesting membership fee of \$75 for 1952. Councilman Blount moved the communication be referred to the next agenda meeting for discussion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from West Basin Water Ass'n requesting a new Director be appointed to represent Torrance, replacing Mr. Stanger. Councilman Blount moved the Mayor appoint Angus McVicar Water Superintendent to the vacancy. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried and the City Clerk was instructed to advise Mr. McVicar of his appointment.

Request from H.P. Farisa, of 2241 229th Street, for permission to occupy a house trailer at this address. Councilman Drale moved the customary 90-day permit be granted, subject to the taking out of a building permit. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Jean C. Lovelady, having successfully passed her probationary period, be permanently appointed as Typist Clerk in the Fire Department, effective January 15, 1952, at the compensation set forth as the 1st step for the position.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

BIDS:

1. That the bid of the Lund Company for furnishing Liability Insurance for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be accepted as the lowest responsible bid and all other bids be rejected.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. That all bids for the construction of the proposed Adult Recreation Building be rejected. The low bid was 50% higher than the amount allocated for the project.

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

City Clerk Bartlett asked that this building be built on "force account". Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. In answer to an inquiry by Mr. Wiitanen from the audience, City Manager Stevens explained that City employees would be used wherever possible and that in all other instances, such as plastering, etc., the City would act as the contractor and employ subcontractors.

Letter from the Planning Commission submitting the following:

"CASE NO. 227: Change of Zone initiated by Planning Commission of Tract No. 4956, from R-3 to M-2, and Lots 10, 11 and 12 of Tract No. 6223 from A-1 to M-2, said property being located between Arlington Avenue and Western Avenue and lying north and south of 203rd Street."

City Manager Stevens advised that Mr. Smith, of the Planning Commission, had requested this case be returned to the Commission. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

"REQUEST OF MERLE N. BERGE to construct a dwelling with 624 square feet of floor area on the rear of his property on 237th Street, being the west one-half of Lot 59, Tract No. 437, located on the south side of 237th Street and westerly line of same commences 140' east of Narbonne Avenue, in an A-1 Zone. The area in question has been developed with numerous small homes comparable in size to the one proposed by the applicant and, further, a large home will eventually be erected on the front portion of the property. It was the opinion of the Commission that the request was reasonable and consistent with the purpose and intent of the ordinance."

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale stated that some time ago a similar request had been denied a man on Pennsylvania Avenue and suggested the Planning Commission be requested to restudy the matter. Councilman Blount stated that this request had been denied because the applicant had no intention of ever erecting a larger home on the front of the premises. No action taken.

"LONGREN AIRCRAFT FRONT ELEVATION: Longren Aircraft Company presented a modified elevation of their proposed plant located on property at 2576 West Carson Street. This modified Carson Street elevation varies slightly from the one originally submitted; however, it is the opinion of the Commission that, from an architectural standpoint, the modified plan is an improvement and it is recommended that your Honorable Body concur in the modified elevation plan."

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Councilman Drale stated that if he remembered correctly, the variance had previously been granted on certain conditions, one of which was completion within 120 days; that since the granting of the variance, there had been several changes in plans and that in all fairness to the citizens of the area they should be advised of these various changes and allowed to state whether or not they believed them to be an improvement over the previous plan. He then moved that a new public hearing be called by the Planning Commission "to apprise the citizenry of the changes". Further comment was voiced by other members of the Council resulting in a second to the motion by Councilman Blount. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens advised that the local steelworkers' union had used the Auditorium for a few hours on Monday and had requested the fee be waived. Councilman Blount stated a policy of charging one and all had been set, although he had been advised this rule had been broken. City Manager Stevens replied that no fee had been charged the teachers for their "school opening" meeting. Councilman Blount then moved the request be granted and fee waived. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Karlow, Spelman and Haggard. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. Councilman Drale not voting as the matter concerned him personally.

City Attorney Hall stated he believed "thanks" should be extended to City Manager Stevens for the manner in which the "rain water" situation last week was handled as he undoubtedly saved the City many thousands of dollars. Mr. Stevens replied that he couldn't take the credit but that tribute should be paid to the Street Department and all the others who worked around the clock preparing for the storm and handling the flood areas. Councilman Spelman moved the Mayor direct a letter to the Street Department, the substance of which "should be a pat on the back". Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Councilman Drale stated a street light had been requested at Madrid and Sonoma and should be referred to the Traffic Commission. He also asked about the light at 185th and Crenshaw, and City Manager Stevens replied it had been ordered.

Councilman Drale then stated he believed "thanks" were due Mr. Stevens and the staff in the Engineering Office for all their work during the heavy rains; and stated that now would be a very good time to remind Cecil King of his promise to aid in getting a storm drain system in Torrance.

Councilman Blount asked that the Telephone Company be advised that the number of our Fire Department is Torrance 3126 so that residents in need of its service will get our Fire Department and not San Pedro, it appearing that several such instances have occurred when people have asked the operator to get the Fire Department. He so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Councilman Spelman asked what progress had been made in getting signals for intersection of Cabrillo, Carson and Cravens, and also Roberts Road at 101 Highway. City Manager Stevens replied that a portion of the system had been received for the Five-Points corner and that nothing had been heard from the Division of Highways on Roberts Road. Councilman Spelman asked that Mr. Stevens send another letter to the Division of Highways.

Councilman Drale commended Councilman Spelman for his fine work as Chairman of the Water Bond issue, and its successful outcome.

Mr. Walter Wiitanen, of 819 Amapola, at great length discussed certain inequities in our Business License Ordinance, No. 483, being particularly concerned with the license fee charged contractors as compared to big industry. He stated he believed such fees to be un-

constitutional. City Attorney Hall advised the ordinance was up for clarification. At the suggestion of Mayor Haggard, Councilman Drale moved this point be taken up at the next meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Mr. Green, of 1314 Beech, asked for some kind of a yearly rate on the operation of a sound truck for the advertising of Legion ball games, etc., and civic affairs. As this, too, would require an amendment of the ordinance, Councilman Blount suggested it be discussed at the next agenda meeting.

Commander Mason expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mr. Stevens and the staff of the Engineering Office for their efforts during the recent deluge of rain.

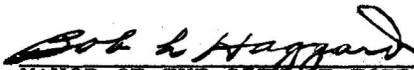
There being no other communications, Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:15 P.M., on motion of Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Spelman, meeting adjourned.

Clerk Bartlett reminded everyone that as the next regular meeting would fall on a holiday, the Council would meet on February 13th.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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