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Torrance, California
March 11, 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, March 11, 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 person present participated in the salute to Our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Karlow moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26th and the Special Meeting of

March 5th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced it was the time and place for the public hearing on Case No. 227: Change of Zone initiated by Planning Commission of property on both sides of 203rd Street east of Arlington Ave., legally described as Lots 1 to 34, inclusive, and Lots A and B of Tract No. 4956, from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing) and Lots 10, 11 and 12 of Tract No. 6223 from R-3 to M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing), excepting therefrom the northwest and southwest corners of 203rd Street and Western Avenue for a distance of 150 feet, which is to remain in Zone A-1 (Light Agricultural). There being no written or oral protests against the zoning change, Councilman Karlow moved all protests be denied and the hearing declared closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Request from Don Ja Ran Construction Co. for refund of \$1.00 on each of 55 garages in Tract 17041 due to overpayment on permit fees. City Manager Stevens advised there had been an overcharge and that the refund was in order. Councilman Drale moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Offer from John R. Todd, 22704 Ocean Avenue, to lease or sell all or part of 3 acres in Meadow Park Tract to the City for a cut-and-cover dump site. Councilman Spelman moved the communication be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request from Wm. Caminker and Leonard Whitlock, 16534 Crenshaw Blvd., for refund on business license as the business was sold February 15, 1952. Clerk Bartlett advised the new owners had taken out a business license at the same address and that a \$20 refund was in order. Councilman Spelman moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from Jack Dabbs, General Manager of the Grand, Stadium and Torrance Theatres for business license refund of \$24 on each theatre charged by the City on the refreshment stands as the concessions are operated by the theatres. City Attorney Hall advised he had checked into the matter and believed the refund was in order as two license had been charged for each theatre. Councilman Blount moved the Council concur and that the refund be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Civil Service Board approving a proposed ordinance amending Ordinance No. 249 and a portion of Ordinance No. 478 and recommending it be adopted by the Council at the earliest possible date. Clerk Bartlett asked that he be permitted to read the proposed ordinance in its proper sequence. Granted.

Letter from The Texas Company reporting no gross receipts under franchise ordinances and submitting check for \$9.32 "in full payment of all amounts due or claimed to be due". City Attorney Hall suggested the check be rejected as he had requested an opinion from the League of California Cities on the possibility of collection revenue on franchise ordinances even though the companies report no gross receipts. Councilman Blount moved the matter be referred to the City Attorney for rejection. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Franchise report for year ending Dec. 31, 1951 from Southern California Edison Company submitting check in the sum of \$22,603.14. Matter of record.

City and County Franchise report for year ending Dec. 31, 1951 from Shell Oil Company submitting check in the amount of \$1,010.62. Matter of record.

Letter from the State Department of Public Works acknowledging receipt of special census returns and advising that our estimated gas tax revenue for the 1952 fiscal year is \$70,630.00. Matter of record.

Letter from Torrance Plumbing Co. endorsing the "garbage-free community" plan proposed by Plumbing Inspector Arthur S. Moore. Councilman Blount moved the communication be filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Associated Telephone Co. transmitting 13 booklets in support of its application for increased rates. Councilman Karlow moved the booklets be equally distributed to the homeowners associations in the particular areas served by Associated in order that those people might make their protests or recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Chas. T. and Ruth A. Rippey offering to convey a certain parcel of land to the City for public street purposes. City Manager Stevens explained that this parcel is known as Sierra Place and is a private street at the present time, although it has been used by the public for some 25 years, and that he recommended the acceptance of the property for public street purposes. There being a Resolution of acceptance to be read in proper sequence, no action was taken on the communication.

Letter from the Civil Service Board approving the establishment of a new classification of "Battalion Chief" for the Fire Dept. and approving Chief Benner's request that promotional examinations be called for the new position as well as for Captain and Engineer. Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the Commission's recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission recommending the deposit of \$1,000 on a 20-acre parcel in West Torrance to be designated for Park and Playground use only. City Manager Stevens advised that as it was the City Attorney's ruling that no binding contract could be made carrying over from one fiscal year to another, he had communicated with Torrance Holding Company advising that the City had \$1,000 as deposit and that the details of the sale could be worked out later, and that to date he had received no reply. Councilman Karlow moved the letter be referred to the City Manager for further reference and recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried. Councilman Blount suggested the Recreation Commission be informed of the Council's action.

Request from the Recreation Commission for authorization to proceed with hard-surfacing of the play area in the Walteria Park, under a previous bid, or to advertise for new bids. City Manager Stevens advised the Council that no official formal advertising had ever been called. Councilman Karlow moved that bids be advertised and called for. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission requesting (1) a written communication from the Council as to the status of the proposed 5-acre Seaside Park and Playground area and (2) advice as to whether or not the letters of resignation submitted by Mr. Lee and Mr. Babbitt had been accepted. City Manager Stevens advised that, as to item 1, Mr. Browne was to come in this week and the 5-acre park matter would be settled at that time. Councilman Spelman moved the City Manager reply to the Recreation Commission giving them this information. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried. As to the resignations, the Council was of the opinion that no written letter of resignation had been received from Mr. Lee. However, in view of the action taken by the Recreation Commission, Councilman Blount moved the Recreation Commission be advised that the Council has accepted the resignations of Mr. Lee and Mr. Babbitt, with regrets, and that a letter of "thanks" be sent the two gentlemen for their services to the City. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission recommending the re-flooring of the McMaster and El Retiro Park Buildings with asphalt tile

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and estimating the cost to be \$225.00 per building. After a brief discussion, Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission submitting personnel requirements for the summer program. Councilman Spelman moved the matter be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Mayor Haggard stated that quite often when something was "referred to the next agenda meeting", the matter got lost and that he felt someone should be responsible for making certain that such matters would appear on the agenda. City Manager Stevens replied that he would see to it that this matter did appear on next week's agenda.

Letter from Torrance Gardens transmitting Grant Deed covering 8 lots in Tract 14958, now being used as drainage sumps. The conditions stipulated in the deed were discussed resulting in a motion by Councilman Blount that the deed be rejected. Further discussion followed and Mr. Blount stated that by the conditions in the deed, if and when an underground storm drain were installed, the property would revert to the grantor, regardless of the improvements made by the City, and that such a condition had not been a part of the original agreement at the time the tract map had been approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation from City Manager Stevens that the bid of Burroughs Adding Machine Co. for a billing machine, in the amount of \$2266.34 be accepted and all other bids rejected. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation from the Planning Commission approving the request for variance by Paramount Builders Supply, Case No. 230, to construct a 20 x 30 building and to conduct the business of retail sale of garden supplies at 3445 Torrance Boulevard, upon certain conditions. Discussion followed. There were no protests, oral or written.

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor Haggard declared a short recess. Meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Councilman Drale moved the request of Paramount Builders Supply Co. be granted and, at Councilman Blount's suggestion, motion was amended to include "all of the recommendations of the Planning Commission as part of the variance". Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2250

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED FROM CHAS. T. AND RUTH A RIPPY.

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Karlow moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2250. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2251

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES BY STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION IN THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA - SEASIDE RANCHOS AREAS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2251. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2252

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION FOR A 4% STATE SALES TAX TO BE PARTICIPATED IN BY THE COUNTIES.

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Karlow moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2252. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 585

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING PAWN BROKERS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

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Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Karlow, Spelman and Haggard. NAYS: Drale. Councilman Drale explained he voted "no" because he felt the ordinance, if adopted, should be included in our business license ordinance and not made a separate matter. Chief Stroh explained that pawn shops were regulated by State law and City ordinances and that such rules would have to be adopted, whether under a separate ordinance or as a part of the business license ordinance. City Attorney Hall stated the license fee required would be set forth in the business license ordinance and that this type of ordinance was not uncommon. Councilman Drale asked if this ordinance didn't prohibit pawnbrokers from operating in the City and Chief Stroh replied that it did not -- that we had no ordinance regulating such a business and as several inquiries had been received relative to conducting such a business, he felt regulations should be established prior to issuing any license. Councilman Blount reminded Councilman Drale that the motion was to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance, whereupon Councilman Drale asked that his "no" vote be changed to "yes". Councilman Blount then moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 585 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 586

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

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Karlow then moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 586 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 587

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 523 BY ADDING CERTAIN POSITIONS TO THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND ESTABLISHING FIVE-STEP SALARY RANGE PLAN THEREFOR.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 587 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 588

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 249 AND A PORTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 478, AMENDING SECTION 17 OF ORDINANCE NO. 249.

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 588. Motion seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Karlow moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 588 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reminded the Council that Mr. McVicar should be appointed to the Engineering Advisory Committee to replace Mr. Stanger, who resigned. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Attorney Hall advised that Mr. Beebe had promised to return the proposed Water Ordinance the first of the week and suggested that, since the ordinance should be adopted as quickly as possible, the Council hold a meeting next week for such purpose. It was agreed that this meeting would be adjourned to next Wednesday.

Councilman Blount read an excerpt from a recent issue of the Torrance Press wherein City Manager Stevens was "quoted" as having stated that the City had no jurisdiction to force any subdivider to install curbs, gutters and sidewalks on a State Highway, and he asked Mr. Stevens if he had made such a statement. Mr. Stevens replied that he did not recall making any such comment.

Councilman Drale, at some length, commented on the annexation of Alondra Park and El Camino College to Torrance, stating that Gardena was contemplating such annexation even though it was not contiguous to such property, and that such a move on Gardena's part would bring gambling closer to Torrance. He moved that the City of Torrance take immediate steps to annex Alondra Park, the college, and north to the Hawthorne City line. Councilman Karlow stated that this proposed annexation had been discussed about a year ago and asked City Manager Stevens to make a report on his studies. Mr. Stevens, in some detail, explained the assets and liabilities of such annexation, indicating the revenue to the City from taxation and the expense to the City in maintenance and service. Councilman Karlow stated that a member of the audience had attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the College earlier in the evening and asked that a report of the meeting be given. Mr. Jack Baldwin, of the Torrance Herald, read in its entirety a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees wherein it was declared that El Camino College was now the owner of the college site; that annexation of the College by any City would require State legislation; that the Board of Trustees was opposed to its annexation by any city for the reason that they felt it would be detrimental to the best interests of the college development; and urged that the City of Torrance abandon its hope of annexing El Camino College. Further discussion followed. There being no second, Councilman Drale's motion was declared lost.

Councilman Drale suggested that the City erect a caution light or signal at 101 Highway and Roberts Road in an effort to prevent further accidents at the intersection. City Attorney Hall advised that since 101 is a State highway, any such action on the part of the City would be illegal as we had no jurisdiction over State highways. The matter was discussed further as to what the City's liability would be if such a signal were erected, and what action the State would take against the City.

Along the same line, Councilman Drale wondered if the City could erect a barricade on 17th Street when conditions warranted the closing of the street to protect traffic as it was also a State highway. This matter, too, was discussed as to liability.

Councilman Drale commended Recreation Commissioner Roettger for his recommendations for the cleaning up and remodeling of Torrance Beach.

Councilman Spelman moved that a committee be appointed to carefully "lay out all of the facts, figures and photographs involved in the 101 Highway and Roberts Road area and that the whole problem be laid before the State Highway Commission". He asked that the committee consist of at least 3, suggesting the City Attorney, Councilman Karlow and himself, and that the City of Redondo Beach be invited to participate as the problem concerned them, too. When facts and figures have been compiled, and recommendations determined as to traffic signals and channeling of traffic for left turns, the committee is to present the matter at Sacramento. Councilman Drale stated he felt someone from the Traffic Commission should be on the Committee. Councilman Blount asked if the Committee, when in Sacramento, would "put in a pitch" for 174th Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blount and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked that the City Attorney prepare a resolution relative to 174th Street similar to that adopted tonight with respect to the situation on 101 Highway. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Councilman Spelman asked that the City Manager advise Redondo Beach of the proposed committee and its purpose, and extend the invitation to participate.

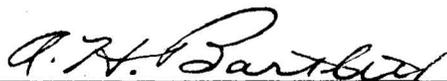
Mayor Haggard introduced Dale Ferguson, high school student, who attended the meeting as a representative of the student body to study the workings of a City Council.

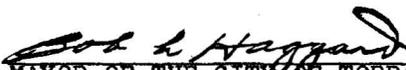
Commander Mason advised the Council that in a recent edition of the "Daily Breeze", an article stated the State Highway Commission was considering the installation of 8 signal lights on 101 Highway which would include the area of concern to the City of Torrance.

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

At 9:45 p.m., Councilman Blount moved the meeting be adjourned to Wednesday, March 19, 1952, at 8:00 p.m. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

APPROVED:


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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