

Torrance, California
June 10, 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, June 10, 1952, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. ABSENT: None. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Drale led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 27th and the Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 4th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

The Mayor announced the time had arrived for the opening of bids on the City's gasoline and diesel fuel requirements for the coming year, and Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>GASOLINE</u>		<u>DIESEL FUEL</u>
	<u>ETHYL</u>	<u>REGULAR</u>	
Associated Oil		No Bid	No Bid
Richfield-Oil	.1925	.17	No Bid
Ragsdale & Newell(Hancock)	.179	.163	No Bid
Standard Oil		No Bid	No Bid
Pathfinder Petroleum		No Bid	No Bid
Shell Oil	.205	.185	No Bid
Union Oil		No Bid	No Bid
Macmillan Sales	.18	.17	.095
Signal Oil	.1874	.1674	.119
General Petroleum		No Bid	No Bid

Councilman Blount moved all bids be referred to the City Manager for recommendation, noting that Ragsdale & Newell appear to be low on gasoline bids and Macmillan Sales appearing to be low on diesel fuel bids. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced the time had arrived for the opening of bids on cast iron pipe for the Water Department, and the City Clerk opened and read the following:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRICE PER FOOT</u>
James B. Clow & Sons	2502' 4" Class 150	\$ 1.05
	1512' 6" " "	1.568
United States Pipe & Foundry Co.	2502' 4" " "	1.07
	1512' 6" " "	1.586
Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Co.	2502' 4" " "	1.06
	1512' 6" " "	1.575
American Cast Iron Pipe Co.	2502' 4" " "	1.075
	1512' 6" " "	1.605

City Manager Stevens asked that the contract be awarded this evening. Councilman Drale moved that the bid of James B. Clow & Sons, as low bidder, be accepted and all other bids be rejected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

AG 2280
Letter from H. Douglas Horne, 23211 Doris Way, advising that a community election had been held in Seaside Ranchos relative to the proposed sewer project; 189 ballots cast -- 118 "yes"; 70 "no" and 1 marked "no choice"; 62.77% of the ballots cast were in favor of sewers, and represented 51.08% of the 231 homes to be served. The letter urged that proceedings concerning the sewer installation be reopened. Councilman Spelman moved that the letter be received and filed, and that the City reinstitute proceedings on the Seaside Ranchos Sewer District. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried,

Letter from Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc., submitting the name of Robert W. White to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Schwab stated: "You will recall at our last meeting it was recommended by the Planning Commission that Mr. Leo di Mayle of Hollywood Riviera be appointed. I did not confirm it at that meeting and yesterday this came in the mail. Last evening I drove to WALTERIA and met with them there. Inasmuch as a recommendation had been made prior to this by the Planning Commission, I felt I would like to go along with the Commission. In fairness to these people, they went to the trouble of finding someone to serve. Too often not enough of us think enough of our City government to do that and too many don't want to serve on commissions or committees. In all honesty, I say I appreciate what they have done. They consented to go along with me and let me make the appointment recommended by the Commission, with the understanding that this letter be filed with the Clerk. They are entitled to representation and sooner or later they will be. At this time I would like to confirm the appointment of Leo di Mayle as the 9th member of the Planning Commission."

Notice of hearing before the Public Utilities Commission on request for increase in rates by California Water Service, to be held June 25, 1952. Councilman Spelman moved that the Council go on record as opposing the water rate increase and that a letter be written advising the Commission of the action taken by the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request from the City Clerk for the temporary employment of Janie E. Scott as Typist Clerk, effective June 9, 1952. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Benstead, Clerk Bartlett advised Mrs. Scott was on the eligible list. Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission urging that the Council take steps to complete the filling and grading of McMaster Park. Discussion followed, during which Mr. Stevens advised that several hundred loads have been dumped there; that it wasn't fair to depend on the Street Department to take care of it, outside their regular work; that in the Recreation budget there is money for public improvement and that possibly that money should be used to get the job done. He stated,

further, that it would probably take another 1000yards of dirt to properly fill the Park. Councilman Drale moved that the head of the Recreation Department, and his assistant, make a survey and report at the next Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Letter from the Recreation Commission recommending that "tax money appropriated for recreation for all the residents of Torrance should not be used for the lighting" of the YWCA area. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the Recreation Commission recommending certain expenditures from its Capital Outlay Fund, totaling \$4600.00. Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Recreation Commission urging an appropriation of \$1,000 to carry out a summer program in the 190th Street area, this being a new area and not included in the budget. Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur in the request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Drale. City Manager Stevens stated he did not believe the Council should start increasing budgets before the entire budget had been studied; that every budget would have to be trimmed, rather than increased; that it would be impossible to increase one without sacrificing another; that action should be delayed until the whole budget was considered. The motion and second were withdrawn. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Blount, Mr. Stevens stated that some time ago, the Recreation Department had asked permission to proceed on the basis of the new 1952-53 budget and had been instructed by the Council to proceed under the 1951-52 budget until the new one had been set up. Councilman Blount, stating that the area in question was excluded from the 1951-52 budget because it did not exist at that time, and that there are a great many small children in the area, moved "that we get the \$1,000 from somewhere and put a supervised recreation program in the area -- We need it there as much as anywhere in the City and I mean now." Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Civil Service Board transmitting a request from the Recreation Director for a new classification of "Recreation Maintenance Man" to replace the title of "Playground Attendant", and suggesting that the 5-step salary scale be established the same as a "Park Maintenance Man". Councilman Blount moved the communications be referred to the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Request from John W. Hedden, D. C., for refund on business license #1791 as he was now working with Dr. C. E. Harrod in Long Beach. Clerk Bartlett recommended the refund and Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Fire Chief Benner advising that the tent facilities at the North Torrance Mission, 18521 Crenshaw Blvd., meet the requirements of the California Administrative Code. Matter of record.

Letter from Paul Keefe, 3111 W. 186th St., protesting the permit issued by the Council for the erection of a gospel tent in an R-2 zone, and requesting the Council rescind its action. It was suggested the matter be referred to the Planning Commission, to which Councilman Blount replied that the trouble would be over before it got back to the Council; that "it is just as illegal for two weeks as it would be for two years". Councilman Drale stated the permit has been granted and that he believed it should stand. In answer to inquiry by Councilman Spelman, City Attorney Hall stated: "Actually, our ordinance isn't too clear on it. I think you can probably do what you want." Councilman Drale stated that the building in front is leased for a church, to which Councilman Blount stated that, too, might be a violation. The City Clerk stated: "The building was a house, originally, and it is not adequate for adequate for holding church services or any other public service, and that is why they wanted to put the tent in for two weeks. It is their intention to remodel the building. When the

Fire Chief inspected the tent, that covered the electrical and building inspections." Councilman Drale stated: "Under the circumstances, I think it should be granted and I so move." Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, and Schwab. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Blount and Spelman.

Letter from South Bay Humane Society urging something be done to make our "dog license ordinance" enforceable and suggesting the license fee for a female dog be increased to \$4.00. The Councilmen stated they were opposed to such an increase in license fee and City Attorney Hall, speaking of our present ordinance, stated: "I think the ordinance is so drafted that this is more of a civil matter. We didn't want to take in a \$2 claim and prosecute it to judgment -- it would be more expensive than the \$2 you would get back. As to the criminal aspect, the Judge felt reluctant to test out the validity. You can tighten up your ordinance if you so desire." Councilman Blount moved the matter be discussed at the next agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Statement from the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$1,250 for publicity and advertising for the quarter, April, May and June, with statement of expenditures attached. Councilman Blount read a portion of Section 5, Article IX, of the Charter of the City of Torrance wherein it is stated that the Council "shall have the right and privilege to hold and conduct its meetings in accordance with an agenda and may specify the matters which shall be considered at each meeting and shall have the right to establish a time at which all communications shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk on order that such communications may be considered at the next regular meeting of the City Council", stating further that the agenda sheet listed 3 communications, and that 10 additional communications had been read. Councilman Spelman moved that "no communications received in the Clerk's office later than 9:00 o'clock on the Friday morning preceding a Council meeting be considered at the Council meeting on the following Tuesday." Motion was seconded by Councilman Blount. Discussion followed as to the presentation of "emergency" matters, following which motion carried.

Letter from the City Manager advising the City will end the fiscal year in "excellent financial condition", and giving reasons therefor, and recommending (1) that the City go into escrow for the purchase of approximately 15 acres for a dump site and that \$45,000 be placed in escrow for such purchase and (2) that certain equipment, requested in the 1952-53 budgets, totaling approximately \$23,500, be purchased from current revenues. Councilman Drale asked when the City was going to get a new aerial ladder truck for the Fire Department and Mr. Stevens replied that such an item would cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000, and if the Council felt that was the most important item, then it would be bought but that he did not believe the City had the money now to buy it out of these funds.

Mayor Schwab declared a recess at 9:00 P.M., and meeting reconvened at 9:10.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur with the recommendations of the City Manager, items 1 and 2. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation of the City Manager for an appropriation of \$590.76 for 6 map books for use by the various departments. Councilman Blount suggested one be given the Building Department and that they use it. Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Memorandum opinion from the City Attorney relative to the Lynn application for variance and setting forth four alternatives for the Council's consideration. Following a discussion and reading of the penal provision of the Land Use Ordinance, Councilman Drale moved "that Mr. Lynn be allowed to proceed with his building and that the penal provision of the ordinance be enforced." Motion was seconded

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by Councilman Spelman. The City Attorney stated that the penal provision provides a maximum fine of \$300 or 3 months in jail, and that each day of the violation was a separate offense, and this portion of the ordinance was read again. Councilman Drale stated that the Planning Commission has asked several times for "teeth in the laws" to prevent these matters and that unless they were enforced "we aren't going to get anywhere". Councilman Blount stated that he felt the building permit issued by the City, through its employees, would "hold some water in court as a defense"; that there was a "mutual" error and that he did not believe criminal action against Mr. Lynn would solve anything. The City Attorney stated: "I think a building permit issued in violation of the ordinance is void, but what it does as far as a criminal defense, I think it mitigates it unless it was knowingly done, and until you hear the evidence you can't decide that". In answer to inquiry by Councilman Spelman, Mr. Hall went on to say: "As a condition of probation, the judge has the power to rectify the matter as he sees it in justice to all whether it includes a fine, enlarging the parking area, or taking it down." Councilman Benstead asked if the people in the area were protesting the addition, to which Mayor Schwab replied that they were, and that there were several in the audience. Mrs. Reeves and Mr. Clark spoke in opposition to the addition to the medical center and Dr. Stetson and Mr. Kelly (of Chicago Bridge & Iron) spoke in favor of it. Roll call on the motion was called, and the motion carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Spelman. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Blount and Schwab.

Clerk Bartlett read title to the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 2281

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE URGING COMPLETION OF PROPOSED STATE
HIGHWAY NO. 175 BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2281. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 602

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

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 602 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens asked that each Councilman read and study the proposed contract between the City, Truman Enterprises and Dominguez Water for discussion at the next agenda meeting. He also stated he had been advised today that the committee from the Water Pollution Board had completed its study of the proposed dump and would report to the Board on June 19th.

Mr. Stevens introduced Mr. Chatten, developer of a method of alerting the citizens in case of a disaster and which is to be manufactured in Torrance. Mr. Chatten explained the operation of his device and urged the Council consider the installation of 3 units for complete coverage of the City. He stated the cost for the 3 units would be \$2,400, including service and maintenance for one year and one replacement set for each unit; that the recharge price is \$90 for the "alert" and "all clear"; that the maintenance cost after the first year is \$50 per year per unit. He stated that he would like the City of Torrance to be the first to install the device. Councilman Spelman, stating that City Manager Stevens and Assistant Director of Civil Defense Powell had seen demonstrations of the device, suggested the matter be discussed at the next agenda meeting.

City Attorney Hall reported that he had inquired of several attorneys to see who would undertake the action for the City against Torrance Sand and Gravel; that the firm of Burke, Williams and Sorrenson had offered to come down and make their investigation, and leave the matter of compensation up to the City; that Mr. Armstrong had offered to supply his services on a per diem basis, estimating his cost between \$1500 and \$2000; that Mr. Isen was not in position to furnish a quotation. Mr. Hall asked for authority to make some commitment so that action could be started. Councilman Blount moved that the City Attorney be authorized to retain Mr. Armstrong in this action. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked what "program" was to be followed in the Seaside Heights sewer matter and the City Attorney replied that the necessary facts and figures would probably be "skeletonized" by tomorrow afternoon and it might be that the Council would want to call a special meeting next Wednesday June 18th or adjourn to that time, to initiate the matter.

Councilman Blount asked if anything had been heard from Property Management relative to curbs, gutters and sidewalks at 174th and Crenshaw. The reply being negative, Councilman Blount moved the City Manager write a registered letter, return receipt requested, requesting a reply to the City's previous letter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

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A spokesman from the Hollywood-Riviera Sportsman's Club advised that, despite Council action of two weeks ago, they had been unable to obtain a license from the City Clerk to sell fireworks, and Clerk Bartlett stated the Chief of Police had not given his okay to the request, as required by the ordinance. In reply to inquiry, City Attorney Hall stated: "The Council can direct the Chief as to what course they wish him to take. The Council went on record as actually granting the permit and I think you were technically wrong at that time ... it is up to the Chief to give the permit." Councilman Drale moved that a directive be sent to the Chief of Police allowing the Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club a permit to sell fireworks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Clerk Bartlett stated: "Before the Chief left on his vacation, he stated that he was not going to give the permit." Mr. Patronsky, speaking in behalf of the Club, explained its purposes and the many youth activities it sponsored and urged Council approval. Mr. Jack White, of North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, stated that they too sponsored youth activities and if a permit were issued, his Association would also request a permit. Mr. Vernon Coyle, chairman of the Veterans' Service Council, urged that the Council deny the permit as selling fireworks was the principal revenue to aid the disabled veterans. Mr. Ray Borman, of the Sportsman's Club, also urged the granting of the permit as no veterans' group was organized in the Hollywood Riviera section to sell fireworks. AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale and Schwab. NAYS: COUNCILMAN: Spelman.

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

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday, June 18th, at 8:00 P.M., on motion of Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Spelman, and unanimously carried.

A. H. Bartlett

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

W. M. Schwab

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE