

Torrance, California  
January 13, 1953

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Tuesday, January 13, 1953, at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 23rd, 1952, and Special Meeting of January 12th, 1953, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Mayor Schwab announced this was the time set for the public hearing for granting higher taxicab rates to the Yellow Cab Company of Torrance.

There being no written or oral protests, Councilman Drale moved the Yellow Cab Company be granted this request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab announced the time had come for the opening of bids for the renting of automobiles for the Police Department, and Deputy City Clerk Hallanger opened and read the following bids:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount of Bid</u>
Schultz & Peckham	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per mile
Paul's Chevrolet Co.	4.7¢ per mile

City Manager Stevens stated he did not have a formal bid but for a matter of record the Western Automobile Leasing Company of Los Angeles had submitted an oral bid for 1953 Pontiac automobiles, at the rate of 7¢ per mile, with the cars to be driven approximately 30,000 miles.

Councilman Drale moved the bids be referred to the City Manager and Chief of Police for recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab announced there was a woman in the audience who had a matter to take up with the City Council. Mrs. Pons stated she was from Los Angeles but had been connected with the city of Torrance since 1937, that she had a new building on Cabrillo Avenue which she was unable to rent because everyone told her it was on the wrong side of the street. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Blount and Councilman Spelman suggested Mrs. Pons take this matter up with the Planning Commission regarding the zoning of her property.

Councilman Drale stated he had a suggestion which might help. He suggested that Arlington Street, that is, the blocks between 203rd and 290th, be opened up, and that Arlington be made the major thorough-fare of Torrance, through Cabrillo and Eshelman, to Lomita, a major outlet for traffic. He stated we should have a major street running north and south.

Councilman Drale moved a street committee be appointed, together with two members of the Chamber of Commerce, to see what possibilities there would be for the opening of Arlington as a major thorough-fare through the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following:

Statement from J. Hugh Sherfey, Jr., in the amount of \$206.00, for legal fees expended in defense of Judgement resulting from Torrance Area Projects Celebration held in 1946. After a general discussion, City Attorney Hall advised the Council take a little time on this matter, and suggested it should be decided at the next Agenda meeting.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council go on record favoring this sum of money, and that it be referred to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Mr. Jack Baldwin of the Torrance Herald stated the Torrance Herald Publishing Company had a claim for \$900.00, which he believed was prior to Mr. Sherfey's claim, and that the City promised to pay this for printing done in connection with this Homecoming event, but when it came time to pay it there wasn't enough money. He asked if it was due to the failure of the Council to act on this matter that the company will lose this amount. City Attorney Hall stated this was 1953 and the Homecoming was in 1946, which made them out of the statute of limitations. Mr. Baldwin stated this claim had been presented to the City Council several times before.

Citation from Governor Warren in recognition of the high percentage of registered voters of the City of Torrance in the November 4, 1952, general election.

Councilman Blount moved the citation be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request for business license from Jose Olloque to operate a pool hall under the name of Pueblo Pool Hall at 2243 - 203rd Street, Torrance. Councilman Drale inquired if Chief of Police Stroh would approve this license. Chief Stroh stated he would approve it if Mr. Olloque would operate the pool hall himself.

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

Request for renewal of business license by Isadore Sherman for junk collector.

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

Letter from Richfield Oil Corporation advising no change in pipeline system under Los Angeles County Franchise Nos. 1358-1361 N.S., during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1952.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Shell Oil Company advising no change in pipeline system, under Franchise Ordinance No. 328, for the period ending December 31, 1952.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Tide Water Associated Oil Company advising no permits issued and no pipelines laid under Los Angeles County Ord. No. 1014, during the period July 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter, accompanied with certified check in the amount of \$2,248.39, from the Southern California Edison Company agreeing to furnish electric energy for ornamental street lights for a period of one year, commencing July 1, 1952 and terminating June 30, 1953.

Councilman Drale moved the check be accepted and the Edison Co. be allowed to furnish electric energy for ornamental street lights. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Division of Highways inquiring of the City Council whether a public hearing in the matter of "Proposed Highway between Route 2, near El Toro and Los Angeles River Freeway and between Los Angeles River Freeway and Florence Avenue in Inglewood", is necessary or desirable.

City Manager Stevens stated that for the first time we have a well defined route through the City of Torrance for the freeway. It is the desire of the Division of Highways to have it approved so they can proceed to acquire unapproved right of ways. City Manager Stevens recommended that the City Council waive the public hearing and that they, by resolution, adopt the route. He stated that later on there will have to be a freeway agreement whereby the matter of crossings, etc., will have to be worked out, but he thought the matter of acquiring open land must be done right away.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from Public Utilities Commission advising the Associated Telephone Company had applied for authority to increase telephone rates.

Councilman Drale moved against any increase in rates and requested a telegram of protest be sent to the Public Utilities Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Letter from Torrance Masonic Temple Association requesting the City relinquish its claim on the P-5 lot at the northeast corner of Cabrillo and Plaza del Amo so that title may be conveyed to Dominguez Land Corp. or its successors, who have agreed to sell the lot to the Masonic Temple Assoc. for the purpose of erecting a Temple building.

Councilman Benstead moved the City deed this lot back to the Dominguez Land Corporation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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Letter from Henry Guenser, Gardena, requesting permission to build a cesspool for a quonset hut located temporarily between Western Avenue and Arlington, on or near 178th Street.

After a general discussion, Councilman Spelman moved this matter be referred to the next Agenda Meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the American National Red Cross, Torrance Branch, requesting permission to use the Civic Auditorium for a Blood Bank on Monday, February 9, June 8, and October 12, 1953.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Notice of injury and damage to personal property located at Hawthorne Blvd. and 233rd Street, in the amount of \$5,000.00, signed by Pedro Colonge.

Councilman Blount moved the claim be denied and referred to the Legal Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:10 Mayor Schwab declared a recess, meeting reconvened at 9:20.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Oil Fields Crane Service Company for rental of crane for flood control work, the sum of \$427.60.
2. To League of California Cities for annual dues for year 1953, the sum of \$925.00.
3. To Donald Armstrong as final payment for legal services re City of Torrance vs. Torrance Sand and Gravel, the sum of \$435.00.
4. To Remington Rand Company for purchase of calculator, the sum of \$461.18. (City Clerk's office)
5. To Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services for the month of December 1952, the sum of \$917.50. (Seaside Ranchos sewers, Storm Drains).

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS UNDER SPECIFICATION NO. 7:

1. That the contract for supplying pumping equipment under Schedule I be awarded to the Peerless Pump Division of Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation, who submitted the lowest responsible bid, in the amount of \$6,040.00, and that all other bids be rejected.
2. That the contract for supplying pumping equipment under Schedule II be awarded to Fairbanks-Morse Company, who submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$2,654.00, and that all other bids be rejected.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager, under Items 1 and 2. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens recommended that effective January 1, 1953, the fee to be paid to the Contractor for the collection of garbage and non-combustible refuse be at the rate of \$3,200.16 per month, for the period January - June, 1953.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Planning Commission, recommending a Change of Zone from C-2 (General Commercial) to R-1 (Single-family Residential) of property legally described as Lots 21, 20 and a portion of 19 in Tract No. 14707, situated at 14704-08-12 Delia Avenue, and requesting that a third and final public hearing be held Feb. 10, 1953.

Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in the recommendations of the Planning Commission, and that the Mayor set the final hearing for February 10, 1953. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Planning Commission recommending denial of application for vacation of certain portions of an alley located west of Apple Avenue and north and south of Lincoln Avenue. After a general discussion, Councilman Benstead moved this application be held over to the next Agneda meeting, and that in the meantime the Council members look over this property. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote. AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. Councilman Blount declined to vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Asst. to City Engineer Patrick, for approval of subdivision of Tract No. 17560, consisting of 132 lots, to be developed by Louis Laramore, north of 185th, west of Crenshaw, south of 182nd.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur in the recommendation for approval of Tract No. 17560, subject to the recommendations of the State Highway Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation of Planning Commission for approval of Case No. 251, petition of H. L. Griffin, for a Variance and Conditional Permit to establish, construct and maintain a retail and wholesale cabinet shop at 20505 Hawthorne Avenue.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission on Case No. 251. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the petition of Victoria Enterprises, Inc. for permission to reduce the front yard set-back from 20 feet to 15 feet in a uniform manner throughout the entire Tract No. 15272.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2347

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED TO EDGAR G. PICKLER AND GERTRUDE R. PICKLER.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2347. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2348

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 OF TORRANCE, THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED FROM EDGAR G. PICKLER AND GERTRUDE R. PICKLER.

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

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adoption of Resolution No. 2348. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2349

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF ILLINOIS COURT BETWEEN 164TH STREET AND 166th STREET; FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2349. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Blount moved the City Attorney be instructed to draw an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 624 to decrease the fee from \$50.00 to \$24.00, retroactive to January 1, 1953, for certain delivery trucks. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount stated the ordinance under which the City of Torrance functions in regard to signboards, etc., was passed March 27, 1923, and moved the Ordinance be studied at the next Agenda meeting, with some thought to drawing up a more modern ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale stated he thought the committee for the annexation of Alondro Park was overbalanced in one particular way. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Schwab stated the committee was a fact finding committee, and after the facts had been determined the Committee would present them to the City Council.

City Manager Stevens stated the Council is well aware that from time to time we have had informal bids for pieces of city property; that the Council is of the opinion we should dispose of the odd lots, and that the proper way to do it is by auction. City Manager recommended that he be authorized to gather all the data and hold a public auction to dispose of this public property. Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens stated he had received a request to move a quonset hut onto the airport but will bring it up at the next Agenda meeting.

W. E. Gilmore, 22704 Earl Street, stated that Truman Browne is forcing water into that area, and inquired if a street is to be established there, or what procedure he and his neighbors should go through to get a street. City Manager Stevens informed him it can only be a street when the City has an easement for a street. He also said that the location lies within that 75' contour, below which the City proposes to prohibit building. Mr. Stevens explained that dirt had been hauled in to repair the road. He also stated that the water could be held back, but not indefinitely. However, with the development of the property to the west it is expected the drainage would all be carried south into WALTERIA Lake, which would bring permanent relief to that area.

After a lengthy discussion of this problem, Mayor Schwab stated this would be taken up at the next Agenda meeting, with recommendations from City Manager Stevens.

There being no further business, Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

At 10:05 p.m., Councilman Spelman moved the meeting adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

*G. H. Bartlett*  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

*William H. ...*  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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