

Torrance, California
February 24, 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, Feb. 24, 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 Attorney Hall and John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer.

As first order of business, Councilman Drale moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 1953, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab announced this was the time and place for the hearing to vacate certain streets and alleys in Tract 15757. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger stated he had the Affidavit of Publication, the Affidavit of Posting, and that this vacation was set forth in Resolution No. 2355.

There being no written or oral protests, Councilman Drale moved the hearing be closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 2355. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2355. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from the League of California Cities suggesting a representative from the City attend a State-wide meeting to be held Thursday, March 12, 1953, at Sacramento, to consider legislation introduced relating to County and City sales taxes.

Councilman Drale moved this matter be referred to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Letter from Barnett, Hopen and Smith giving an estimate of the cost of all necessary work, and the preparation of all required documents for the proposed Hollywood Riviera Sewer Assessment District.

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

Letter from J. J. Benner, Fire Chief, recommending the 1926 American La France Ladder truck be taken out of service.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with his recommendation, and that Fire Chief Benner start proceedings to dispose of the truck immediately. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. Appointment of Ronald W. Bishop to serve probationary period as City Engineer, effective February 16, 1953, at a compensation of \$600 per month.
2. Appointment of the following personnel to serve probationary period in the classification noted, effective February 16, 1953, compensation to be at the first step for the position:
 - (a) Charles E. Reinstma, Fireman, Fire Department.
 - (b) Samuel J. Peazza, Police Officer, Police Department
 - (c) Jeanette Gorchester, Typist Clerk, Building Department.

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

AWARD OF BIDS:

1. That the award of contract for the leasing of motor vehicles for use in the Police Department be awarded as follows, and all other bids be rejected:

(a) To Paul's Chevrolet Company:

- (1) Two (2) traffic vehicles, 115 h.p., at 7¢ per mile per car.
- (2) Two (2) vehicles, 108 h.p., at 6½¢ per mile per car.

(b) To Schultz and Peckham Ford Agency:

- (1) Two (2) traffic vehicles, 125 h.p., at 7¢ per mile per car.
- (2) Two (2) vehicles, 110 h.p., at 6½¢ per mile per car.

all in accordance with the City's specifications "Specifications For leasing Of Police Department Vehicles".

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, (a) and (b) under Award of Bids. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ENGINEERING SERVICE:

1. That the Construction Industries, Inc., be retained as Consulting Engineers for the preparation of plans and specifications for Storm Drain Project 241, Cabrillo Avenue, in accordance with the provisions and engineering fees provided in the Storm Drain Bond Issue.
2. That the firm of Barnett, Hopen and Smith be retained for preparation of assessment work on Hollywood Riviera Sewer District No. 1, in accordance with the terms of their letter of February 16, 1953.

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

TRAFFIC CONTROL:

That the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinance to establish the following regulatory signs, in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission:

1. Two-Way STOP on Via los Miradores at Calle Mayor.
2. One-Way STOP on Acacia Avenue at Carson Street.

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

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE No. 252, petition of William H. Campbell for a Variance and Conditional Permit to construct retail commercial buildings on property located at the intersection of new Crenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission on Case No. 252, subject to the special conditions as set forth by the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE No. 254, petition of Chas. T. Rippy for a Variance and Conditional Permit to build two dwelling houses and garages on property located on 231st Street between Arlington and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission on Case No. 254. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Asst. to City Engineer Patrick, for approval of subdivision of TRACT No. 17197, consisting of 72 lots, to be developed by Louis Laramore.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the approval of TRACT No. 17197. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Asst to City Engineer Patrick, for approval of subdivision of TRACT No. 16326, consisting of 23 lots, to be developed by the Watt Development Company.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the approval of Tract No. 16326. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by Asst. to City Engineer Patrick, for tentative approval only of subdivision of TRACT No. 17132, consisting of 157 lots, south of Sepulveda Blvd., west of Earl Street, to be developed by Omega Construction Company.

Councilman Blount inquired why this was only a tentative map. Mr. Elstrom of the Omega Construction Company stated it is an official name of a map presented to any City Council and in most cases is approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council. Mr. Kilgore, a resident from Earl Street, asked if this tract was going to be west of Earl Street, and inquired what street they would use if there was no Earl Street. Mr. Patrick advised the tract would be west of Earl Street and the only way to enter is from Ocean Street. Mr. Griswald, representing Omega Construction Company, stated he knew nothing of the Earl Street problem, that his company would be glad to help in any way possible, that they might be able to connect one of the existing streets.

Mayor Schwab requested Asst. to City Engineer Patrick to have representatives from Earl Street, and the subdivider's engineer, meet with the Engineering Department to go over this matter and present it at the next Agenda meeting.

Letter of thanks from the Young Women's Christian Association, 2320 W. Carson Street, for the recent installation of lights in the park of the YWCA building.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2361

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING APPLICATION TO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR PLAN PREPARATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1, AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE CITY WITH AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAID DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

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. 2361. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2362

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE MAKING APPLICATION TO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR PLAN PREPARATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SEASIDE RANCHOS SEWER DISTRICT, AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE CITY WITH AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAID DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Councilman Blount seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2362. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2363

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 EASEMENT DEED FROM THE PRAIRIE CO.

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. 2363. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2364

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 EASEMENT DEED FROM EARL ROBINETT AND LILLIAN B. ROBINETT.

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. 2364. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2365

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 EASEMENT DEED FROM JAMES LEE WALKER.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2365. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2366

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 EASEMENT DEED FROM THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2366. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2367

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDED LAND AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

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. 2367. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 628

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 612 BY AMENDING DEFINITION OF "CARPORT OR PORTE COCHERE".

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 urgency Ordinance No. 628 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 629

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE NO. 624

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 urgency Ordinance No. 629 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Horlander of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce inquired if a letter had been received by the Council regarding the erection and installation of a permanent memorial to our war dead. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger advised there is a ruling that any communication that reaches the Council after Friday afternoon will not be read at the next Council meeting. Mr. Horlander requested, due to the time element involved, that their letter be read. Mayor Schwab explained the Council's position and advised it was doubtful if any action would be taken on the matter tonight even though the letter was read.

Councilman Drale moved the letter from the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce be read. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

"City Council
City of Torrance
Torrance, California

February 20, 1953

Honorable City Councilmen:

Our organization has proposed as their project of the year, the erection and installation of a permanent memorial to our war dead. This will consist of a piece of Army ordnance which, as you no doubt are aware, is used by many cities for this purpose.

Provision for obtaining a suitable memorial from the Army is authorized in the Army Regulations. We have initially cleared this phase through Senator Knowland, Congressman King and General Swain,

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Chief of Army Ordnance, who have recommended approval for the issuance of an Army tank to the City of Torrance for a War Memorial.

We desire approval from your body of a site for erection of the Memorial. We feel the only suitable site would be the El Prado Parkway, facing toward Cravens Avenue. Sufficient set-back from Cravens Avenue would be desirable to allow for future Memorial Day ceremonies. All plans for design, construction and location will be submitted to the City Engineer's office for clearance.

Every phase of this project has been planned and geared to hold a Memorial Day ceremony on May 30th which will include participation by the Veterans of Torrance in the dedication. We sincerely request your favorable consideration in our behalf.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Marvin Goetsch,
President"

Councilman Drale suggested the legal grant deed to the park should be looked into. He stated this property was granted to the City for park purposes. Mr. Horlander said the monument would be turned over to the City when completed.

Mr. Horlander stated they could not go ahead with the City Engineer on sketches, etc. until the Council approves this. Councilman Blount stated he was sure the Engineering Department would be glad to cooperate in any way possible. Councilman Spelman advised this does not necessarily mean the Council will approve it, and suggested the Junior Chamber of Commerce appoint someone to talk with City Attorney Hall regarding the legal aspect.

Councilman Blount stated that inasmuch as the electric light company that services the City of Torrance has seen fit to put Torrance in a rate that does not coincide with the rates of our neighboring cities, and further, inasmuch as the same electric company has set forth to get a further raise in their rates, moved the Council instruct the City Attorney to enter into, and negotiate with the Los Angeles Light and Power Company to see whether they can furnish the City of Torrance with light and power. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. Henry Guenser be given a permit, for one year, to install sanitary facilities to comply with the Building Code of the City of Torrance, for a quonset hut located on property near 178th Street in North Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale stated Mr. George Powell had presented a list of sample applications for Business Licenses, to the Planning Commission, where businesses are being conducted in a residential area, and stated that inasmuch as the Land Use Ordinance specifically states that businesses cannot be conducted in residential zones, he did not feel that he could approve the applications.

Councilman Drale moved this be discussed at the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale moved that the matter of all City employees receiving the same holidays be taken up at the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Councilman Drale moved that stop signs be put at 238th Street and Park Street. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Councilman Spelman requested Mr. Patrick to ask Fire Chief Benner to appear at the next Agenda meeting for a few minutes to discuss the purchasing of some new equipment for the Fire Department.

City Attorney Hall said he had a Resolution relating to the

quitclaiming of certain property back to Dominguez Land Corporation. Councilman Drale moved the Resolution be held over to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Jerome Olson of Seaside Ranchos, and several others from that area, stated they were under the impression that final inspection was to be held up on the new houses until Mr. Truman Browne had repaired all damages caused to their property.

City Attorney Hall suggested that anyone who had damages to see him about getting claims for reimbursement.

Mr. Arthur Sues spoke on the subject of Youth Recreation Program. He recommended the City join its effort with the School Department in development of the recreational program, and further suggested that experienced City school teachers and instructors be hired for this work during off school summer months, and pointed out that public school facilities, playgrounds, etc., would then be utilized.

Councilman Benstead said he would like to thank Mr. Sues personally for his interest in this vital problem.

Mr. Douglas Moire, representing the Little League Base Ball of Torrance, inquired what the Council had decided about leasing land for their ball park.

Councilman Benstead informed Mr. Moire the Council could not give more than a two year lease on the property at the airport. Mr. Moire stated that property would suit them fine.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney draw up the lease on this airport property and submit it to the Little League Baseball. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

There being no further business, 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., Councilman Spelman moved the meeting adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.


 CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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