

Torrance, California  
April 14, 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, April 14, 1953, at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Schwab presiding.

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

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 1953, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Councilman Drale arrived at 8:05 p.m.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from the City of Manhattan Beach advising they had adopted a Resolution protesting pending bill in the Legislature to change the name of the Municipal Court of the South Bay Judicial District.

Councilman Spelman moved the City of Torrance adopt a similar resolution protesting the proposed bill to change the name of the Municipal Court of the South Bay Judicial District. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Pacific Electric Railway Company regarding crossing protection at 213th Street between Western and Border Avenues.

Councilman Spelman moved a letter be written to the Pacific Electric Railway Company requesting one of their representatives meet with the Council at the next Agenda meeting to discuss this crossing protection. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Water Department recommending approval of the request of Graham Bros. for water service for their plant located northwest of 182nd and Hawthorne, and recommending approval of water service for Ken Jones Paving Company at this same location.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Water Department for this water service. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter signed by 97 business men and property owners protesting the proposed new site for the Civic Center and requesting to meet with the Council to discuss this matter.

Councilman Drale moved the committee meet with the City Council and moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter signed by 730 property owners approving the proposed plans for relocating the Civic Center.

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

Letter from the Recreation Commission outlining their plan for the Summer Recreation Program.

Councilman Spelman moved this be referred to the next Agenda meeting for study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Councilman Benstead moved that Mr. Stevens submit the names, at the next Agenda meeting, of all persons who worked on the Recreation Summer Program last year. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Torrance Sand and Gravel Products suggesting that the Variance boundaries be altered.

Councilman Drale moved this letter be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation. Councilman Blount seconded the motion and stated this company is in contempt of Court and this should be called to the attention of the Superior Court. Councilman Blount was opposed to giving this company any kind of a Variance as they are not complying with the Variance they now have. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab requested the Council look this property over to better acquaint themselves with the problem.

Note of appreciation from Mrs. Ivey Darby and family for the Resolution of Sympathy sent her commemorating her husband, Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

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

Letter of appreciation from the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County for the Resolution of Sympathy commemorating Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

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

Letter of thanks from the Women's Christian Temperance Union for use of the Auditorium.

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

Request of Knut Hesstvedt, Hunza House Bakery, P.O. Box 1, Granite, Idaho, for refund in the amount of \$18.00 for the unused portion of his business license number 3311.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the request of Mr. Hesstvedt. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from C. N. Weber, License Inspector, to refund amounts covering payments for business licenses which were in excess of the amount due under Ordinance No. 629.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the request of Mr. Weber in granting these refunds. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of I. J. Hallanger, Accountant, to cancel outstanding warrants #1076, 1293, 6342, 7885 and 10588, which were never presented for payment and would not be honored now because of the time element.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with Mr. Hallanger's request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Certified franchise statement from Southern California Gas Company showing amount due under Ordinance No. 322 for the period January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952, inclusive, together with their check in the amount of \$15,823.51.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed and the money deposited with the City Treasurer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Franchise statement from Richfield Oil Corporation in accordance with the requirements of Ordinance No. 92, and County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance No. 1358-1361, for the period January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952, inclusive, together with their check in the amount of \$197.25.

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Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed and the money deposited with the City Treasurer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Texas Company regarding franchise fees covering Ordinances #117, #884, #1129, and #1377 for the period January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952, inclusive, together with their check in the amount of \$9.24. This offer and payment was made only by way of compromise.

City Attorney Hall requested this be referred to him.

Councilman Blount moved this communication be referred to City Attorney Hall for recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request from the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Gardena to solicit funds in the residential districts of Torrance, using religious music played over a P.A. system.

Councilman Spelman stated his motion was not directed against any particular faith but that approval of this request would be in violation of our present ordinance and that this type of precedent should not be set, and moved the request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Spelman, and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Letter from the Department of Public Works, Sacramento, California, regarding the installation of traffic control devices on Highway 101 and the improvement of 174th Street through Torrance.

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

Letter from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick recommending the Council reapprove Tract Map 18098 located south of 237th Street and westerly of Arlington Avenue.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of Mr. Patrick regarding Tract Map 18098. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form submitted by the Planning Commission and City Engineer for approval of subdivision of Tract 17856, consisting of 7 lots to be developed by William R. Regan on the south side of 166th Street, east of Crenshaw, subject to the following conditions.

- (A) Subdivider will bring bedrooms up to required cubic foot area.
- (B) A steel chain-link fence will be built along the property adjacent to the Dominguez Flood Control Channel to a height of five feet.
- (C) The grade will be suitable and approved by the City Engineer.

After a general discussion Councilman Blount moved that Tract 17856 be approved with the provision that special condition (B) be changed to read:

- (B) A steel chain-link fence will be built enclosing the entire Tract, with the exception of the 166th Street frontage.

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

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Lloyd Waltemeyer be appointed to serve his probationary period as Bus Operator, effective April 12, 1953, in the third salary step.

2. That Harold W. Tiernan be appointed to serve his probationary period as Water Serviceman, effective April 1, 1953, in the first salary step.
3. That William C. Schultz be appointed as Bus Attendant, in a temporary capacity (No Eligible List), commencing April 8, 1953, in the first salary step.
4. That Sherman Miller, Bus Operator, be granted a two-week leave of absence without pay, from June 9, 1953 to June 20, 1953, inclusive, which has been approved by the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one through four, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services during March, 1953, the sum of \$1,203.50.
2. To James Montgomery for engineering services during the month of March, the sum of \$1,695.05, in accordance with the terms of the contract.
3. For the purchase of hose for the Fire Department, the sum of \$473.90. (A Budget Item)

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one through three, under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Louis Sterk for permission to build a temporary guest house on Block 2, Lot 23, Meadow Park Tract, for a period not to exceed one year, with the condition that after completion of the front permanent home the temporary dwelling be converted to conform to the provisions of the Land Use Ordinance.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission in granting this request to Mr. Sterk. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of Case No. 253, petition of Lyle Tussing for a Variance and Conditional Permit for the establishment, operation and maintenance of multiple residential units on property located at the southeast corner of Yukon Avenue and 171st Street, legally described as Lot 35 of LaFresa Tract.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission on Case No. 253. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 8:50 p.m. Mayor Schwab declared a ten minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the War Memorial site as presented by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, as shown on "Exhibit A".

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the War Memorial site, subject to the following conditions:

That the Junior Chamber of Commerce enter into a written contract with the City of Torrance covering the following three points.

1. That they maintain this tank indefinitely.

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2. That they carry insurance, public liability and property damage to protect the City against lawsuits.
3. That a bond be furnished to bind this contract.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman, and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2378

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE DIAGRAM OF THE PROPERTY BENEFITED BY THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN THE SEASIDE RANCHOS SEWER DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2378. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2379

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CHANGING THE NAMES OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2379. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2380

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2308.

Councilman Spelman 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. 2380. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2381

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE INITIATING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ANNEXATION TO SAID CITY OF CERTAIN UNINHABITED TERRITORY IN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH CONTIGUOUS TO SAID CITY; DESIGNATING SAID TERRITORY BY THE NAME OF REALIGNMENT OF WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF THIS CITY WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF REDONDO BEACH; SPECIFYING THE REASON FOR DESIRING TO ANNEX SUCH TERRITORY AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE HEARING OF PROTESTS IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ANNEXATION.

Councilman Drale 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. 2381. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 631

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE NO. 437.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 631. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman, and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At the request of Councilman Drale Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read Ordinance No. 631 in its entirety.

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 631 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Benstead stated he was opposed to this Ordinance unless the money would be "ear-marked" for a swimming pool. Councilman Drale agreed with Councilman Benstead and stated he thought this Ordinance discriminated against the subdividers and the people buying homes in these subdivisions.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman, and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 635

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF ILLINOIS COURT BETWEEN 164th STREET AND 166th STREET.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of this Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 635 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 636

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF CERTAIN STREETS AND ALLEYS IN TRACT NO. 15757.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of this Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 636 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 637

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

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Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of this Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 637 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Blount asked City Attorney Hall if there were any new developments on the lawsuit in regard to sidewalks on 170th Street. City Attorney Hall advised as far as he knew there was nothing new on this, that the case would come up next October. Councilman Blount requested City Attorney Hall to look into this matter.

Councilman Drale stated there is a move underway by the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish an office in this vicinity, and moved that steps be taken to contact our Senator and Assemblyman, and suggested the local business men do likewise, to try and get this department in the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman moved a letter, signed by the Mayor, be written to the Metropolitan Water District expressing the Council's gratitude for the weekend just spent at the Parker Dam, and expressing personal thanks to Rufus Fee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, with the suggestion the entire Council sign the communication. Motion, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman inquired what was being done about traffic regulatory signs at Sepulveda and Hawthorne. Mr. Stevens replied the State has this under advisement, that he has written and requested information as to the type of signs and the time element but has not as yet received a reply. Councilman Spelman suggested that stop signs be put there as a great deal of confusion exists. Chief of Police Stroh advised the State would take the signs down as fast as we put them up, and that the only way to control traffic there would be to post a policeman, which of course would be prohibitive.

City Manager Stevens advised the State Aeronautical Commission would hold a meeting in the Court Chambers on Monday, April 20th, at 10:00 a.m., to hear protests on the operation of the airport. The State Director of Aeronautics will attend this meeting.

City Attorney Hall stated he had a request from the Moneta Water Company to supply water to Tract No. 17197, which provides for Moneta Water Company to supply the water until such time as the City would condemn or rededicate. It is strictly a policy matter for the Council to decide whether they want Moneta Water Company to furnish the water.

Councilman Blount reminded the Council that in regard to Tract 15926 at Arlington and 190th Streets, the City had similar conversations with the same firm and the same attorney. That the City agreed to let Moneta Water Company go in and then everything was going to be worked out between the attorneys. He stated he did not propose the City enter into another such agreement until we find out about the previous one.

Attorney John E. McCall, representing Moneta Water Company, advised that at that time the members of the Council suggested that he and Mr. Hall prepare an agreement; that they have agreed on just such an agreement as we have here, in other words, Moneta Water Company claims no interest to any of the facilities put into the subdivision, they just furnish the water, without prejudice. Mr. McCall said there is no water there now and no way to go ahead with this subdivision until this question is disposed of. He stated if the Council was satisfied with this Agreement he had no objection to it and would be glad to prepare in writing the same agreement for Tract 15926. Mr. McCall stated Moneta Water Company claimed no easements on that property and no right to the installations.

After a general discussion, Councilman Blount moved to adopt the Agreement, as agreed to between the two parties, on Tract No. 17197, with the provision Moneta Water Company will furnish the agreement discussed herein on Tract No. 15926, and also to contain the suggestions of Mr. Hall. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chief of Police Stroh stated he had talked with Vincent Thomas regarding the Department of Motor Vehicles establishing an office in this vicinity. Chief Stroh thought the motion made in regards to this might be a little premature, as he said there was some question as to whether it would be in Torrance or Inglewood. Mr. Thomas would prefer not to have publicity on this at this time but he had stated he would contact City Manager Stevens regarding this matter.

Mrs. Martha Riggles advised she is a property owner in Torrance. She said she is particularly interested in Tract 454, lots (acre lots) 26, 27, 28, which face Martha Street. She said there is a subdivider who is doing considerable grading west of them. She explained the elevation has been raised about four feet on the westerly side of these four acres and creates quite a problem, not only to her, but also to all the other residents. Mrs. Riggles inquired if this subdivider was going to be allowed to stay four feet above this property. She said she had spoken to a Mr. Murphy, who is doing the grading, and he gave her the impression that when they put in the fill they perhaps would not be more than one foot above any of this property. She requested the Council to try and come to some agreement with the property owners and this subdivider.

Councilman Blount moved the Mayor arrange a meeting with the subdivider and all other interested parties to try and reach some kind of a settlement. Councilman Blount stated he would like to attend this meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

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

At 9:45 p.m. Councilman Benstead moved the meeting adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

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

APPROVED:

*W. W. Church*  
 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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