

BAA133

Torrance, California  
February 9, 1954

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 Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, February 9, 1954, 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:  
COUNCILMEN: None. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Spelman led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Lowen of the Four Square Gospel Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 1954, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab announced this was the time and place for the opening of bids for leasing of vehicles for the Torrance Police Department. City Clerk Bartlett stated he had the Affidavit of Publication, and opened the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>TYPE OF VEHICLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF BID</u>
Paul's Chevrolet Co. 1640 Cabrillo Avenue	4 to 6 vehicles, 125 h.p. 4 to 6 vehicles, 115 h.p.	7 ¢ per mile 6½¢ per mile
Oscar Maples, Inc. 1420 Cabrillo Avenue	4 to 6 vehicles, 6 cyl., 115 h.p. 4 to 6 vehicles, 8 cyl., 130 h.p. 4 to 6 vehicles, 8 cyl., 160 h.p., with additional equipment	7½¢ per mile 8 ¢ per mile 8½¢ per mile

Councilman Spelman moved these bids be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation and that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the third and final hearing of CASE NO. 290, petition of Beach Building Corporation for Change of Zone from R-2 (Two-family Residence) to R-3 (Limited Multiple-family Residence) on the East side of Crenshaw Boulevard for a distance of 160' south of and 108' north of the proposed extension of 168th Street, with a depth of 132.74', Lot 49, McDonald Tract.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had the Affidavit of Publication and Transmittal Form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE NO. 290.

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

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving CASE NO. 290. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the third and final hearing of CASE NO. 291, petition of Guardian Homes, Inc. and Princeton Construction Corporation for Change of Zone from R-2 (Two-family Residence) to R-3 (Limited Multiple-family Residence), on the West side of Crenshaw Boulevard between Cherry Avenue on the North and 170th Street on the South, Lot 49, McDonald Tract.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had the Affidavit of Publication and transmittal form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE NO. 291.

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

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving CASE NO. 291. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the third and final hearing of CASE NO. 295, petition of Stanford Construction Company for Change of Zone from R-2 (two-family Residence) to R-3 (Limited Multiple-family Residence), on the East side of Crenshaw Boulevard for a distance of 100' North and 100' South of proposed 167th Street with a depth of 150', being a portion of Lot 49, McDonald Tract.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had the Affidavit of Publication and transmittal form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of CASE NO. 295.

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

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving CASE NO. 295. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

City Clerk Bartlett said he had several communications recommending the following for appointment to the Planning Commission: Jesse E. Minter, Jr., Leo A. DiMayle, Jim Minter, George E. Olding and Mr. Gerald Alter. Mr. Bartlett said he also had several petitions recommending William M. Cameron be appointed as a member of the Planning Commission.

Councilman Spelman moved these communications be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Request of the American National Red Cross for a permit and waiver of all fees so the Jones Decorating Company may install a flag line at Torrance Boulevard and Sartori Avenue, the flag line to be installed approximately February 18th and remain up through the month of March.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted with the condition the City be protected against any possible damage suits. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of the Civil Air Patrol, Auxiliary of the United States Air Force for waiver of the \$10 per month rental fee for tenancy on the Airport and that this waiver be made part of the new lease conditions.

Councilman Drale moved this request be referred to the meeting to be held regarding the Airport. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Request of Clyde Beatty Circus to hold a one-day performance on Monday, April 5, 1954, site of the circus will be at 200th Street and Artisano, and will be sponsored by the Optimist Club of Torrance.

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

Request of Ernest O. Steffen Enterprises for lease of approximately twelve acres at the Torrance Airport.

Councilman Drale said the City is now waiting for specific legislation regarding the leasing of airport property and moved this request be referred to a future date for discussion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from Hannifin and McCarthy requesting an oil lease on property bounded by Lincoln Avenue, Cabrillo Avenue, Sante Fe Avenue and Arlington, which site is a city park.

Councilman Spelman, on advice of the City Attorney, moved this request for an oil lease be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Attorney Hall said he would like to leave the thought with the Council that perhaps they might be interested in talking directly with Mr. Hannifin and Mr. McCarthy to see just what their proposition is, and whether or not this should be let out for bids.

Mayor Schwab requested City Manager Stevens to arrange a meeting with Mr. Hannifin and Mr. McCarthy regarding this lease.

Request of the California National Guard for use of the Civic Auditorium once a week for approximately six months.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted and that all details of the expenses involved be worked out by City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendation of A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of the Water Department, that the Water Department be authorized to bear one-half the cost of the 510-foot main extension on Hawthorne Avenue and the entire cost of the balance of 173 feet which should be installed in Redondo Beach Boulevard to get the line away from improvements and paving. Mr. McVicar estimated the cost to the Water Department to be approximately \$893.00.

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

Communication from the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company regarding the noise caused by motors at their plant and stating the steps they are taking to eliminate this noise.

Councilman Benstead moved this communication be filed as a matter of record and requested the people living in this area be forwarded a copy of the communication from the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Request of Torrance Lodge #785, Loyal Order of Moose, for permission to park a trailer on the rear of their property at 1744 Carson Street.

Councilman Drale moved this request be granted for the usual ninety-day period. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from City Engineer Bishop regarding the vacationing of walkway in Tracts 14202, 14579 and 16962, stating the Planning Commission and the Engineering Department recommend this vacationing.

After a general discussion Mayor Schwab announced no action would be taken on this matter until the date of the hearing, March 9, 1954.

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## Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Harry B. Van Bellehem, having successfully served his probationary period as Director of Playgrounds and Recreation, be appointed on a permanent basis, effective February 4, 1954.

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To the Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services during the month of January, 1954, the sum of \$1,174.50.

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

Communication from City Manager Stevens submitting the following recommendations for consideration and approval:

1. That Willard H. Haslan, having successfully passed the Civil Service examination, and being No. 1 on the eligible list, be appointed to serve his probationary period as Police Chief, effective February 9, 1954, in the first salary bracket.
2. That the City Treasurer be authorized to transfer funds to an inactive account in the Bank of America, for a 90-day and 180-day period, a sum not to exceed \$250,000. Said funds in the inactive account to draw interest at the rate of 1-1/2% during the period of deposit.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one and two above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from the Torrance Planning Commission recommending the name of Old Crenshaw Boulevard, south of New Crenshaw Boulevard, be changed to Rolling Hills Road, as requested by the Los Angeles Street Naming Division.

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

Transmittal form for Planning Commission CASE NO. 298, petition of Fox & Sons for a Variance to erect and operate a Neighborhood Kiddie Amusement Park, portion of Lot 15, Meadow Park Tract (Park and Pacific Coast Highway and Ocean Avenue) located in a C-2 (General Commercial) Zone, recommending approval, subject to the condition that all music be stopped at 8:00 o'clock p.m. during the week and at 9:00 o'clock p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Councilman Drale moved to rescind his motion of January 26, 1954, in which he requested the Amusement Park be closed at six p.m., seven days a week. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, subject to the special conditions, for a trial period of 90 days, providing Mr. Fox is notified the park area must be black-topped. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal form for Planning Commission CASE NO. 303, petition of John Garrison for a Variance to operate a machine shop for general machine work at 2420 Sepulveda Boulevard, between

Pennsylvania Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard in an A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone, being Lot 14, Tract 639, recommending approval.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in granting this Variance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:05 p.m., Mayor Schwab declared a ten-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Transmittal form for Planning Commission CASE NO. 304, petition of Shizuko Kato for a Variance to establish, operate and maintain retail nursery sales room in conjunction with established nursery at 18357 South Crenshaw Boulevard, Zone R-2 (Two-family Residence), legally described as the South one-half of the NE one-fourth of Lot 43, McDonald Tract, recommending approval.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in granting this Variance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal form for Change of Zone from A-1 (Light Agricultural) to R-1 (Single-family Residential), initiated by the Planning Commission for the following tracts: 18852, 16326, 17483, 17197, 17024, 19208, 18882, 17132, 19108, 19245, 15272, 18594, 18098, 16554, 16898 (except Lots 1 thru 12 inclusive), 19237 (except Lots 1, 2, 76, 77 and 78), 16607 (except Lots 1, 2, 38, 39, 40, 41, 68 and 69), 15880 (except Lots 73 thru 90 inclusive), 15837 (except Lots 1, 2, 23, 24, 25, 26, 47, 48, 49, 50, 71 and 72), 18767 (except Lots 1, 2, 23, 24, 25, 26, 47, 48, 49 and 50), 17838 (except Lots 26, 27, 28, 29, 60, 61, 62 and 63), 18715 (except Lots 1, 2, 3, 45 and 46), 18771 (except Lots 21, 22 and 23), 16132 (except Lots 1 thru 8 inclusive, 15 thru 22 inclusive and portions of Lots 9, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 32 and 33).

Note: These tracts were originally zoned A-1 (Light Agricultural) but since have been developed into R-1 (Single-family Residential) Zone.

Mayor Schwab set March 9, 1954, as the date for the hearing on these changes of zones, which will be the third and final hearing.

Transmittal form for Planning Commission CASE NO. 308, petition of Dr. Allen L. Pyeatt for Variance to use the building situated at 2410 Torrance Boulevard for professional offices, which is located in an R-3 (Limited Multiple-family Residential) Zone, recommending approval subject to the following conditions: (1) That the front yard setback be six feet from the front property line and the relocating be made within a period of one year from the date of final approval, and (2) That the rear be black-topped for off-street parking purposes.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving CASE NO. 308, subject to the special conditions. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2498

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE THAT CERTAIN WALKWAY IN TRACTS 14202, 14579 and 16962; FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Mayor Schwab set March 9, 1954, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, as the time and place for the hearing on this vacation.

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

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2498. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2499

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 CECIL M. RISBRIDGER.

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. 2499. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2500

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 GEORGE HOUGASIAN AND PAULINE HOUGASIAN.

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. 2500. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 674

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 589.

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. 674 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 675

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF NEWTON STREET

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 675 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 676

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING SEWERS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO REFUNDABLE CONTRACTS WITH THE CONTRIBUTORS THEREOF; REGULATING THE MAKING OF CONNECTIONS WITH PUBLIC SEWERS; SPECIFYING THE FEES TO BE PAID THEREFOR.

Councilman Drale moved Ordinance No. 676 be held up for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 677

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES, SHRUBS AND PLANTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, PROHIBITING CUTTING, TRIMMING OR PRUNING TREES OR PLANTS BELONGING TO THE CITY, AUTHORIZING THE PARK SUPERINTENDENT TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN TREES AND PLANTS TO BE PLANTED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY IN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

Councilman Drale moved Ordinance No. 677 be held up for further study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Blount moved the City Council request the Real Estate Board of the State of California to aid in a certain investigation of alleged building code violations so the Council will have a full and complete report from all the State Boards involved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved a crossing guard be placed at the Prairie Avenue School until such time as the street can be widened or some safety measures erected on Prairie Avenue between 182nd and 186th Streets. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Attorney Hall recommended the Council authorize him to engage the firm of O'Melveny & Myers as Special Counsel with reference to the coming election and the propositions which will call for the City bonding itself for certain public improvements. Mr. Hall stated these are the only attorneys he knows of whose opinion will be accepted by the bond purchasers and will follow the same procedure the City has followed on all occasions with reference to bond issues.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Attorney Hall in engaging the firm of O'Melveny & Myers as Special Counsel with reference to the proposed bond issues. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett said he had, as a matter of record only, petitions on file in his office for the enactment of an ordinance creating and establishing a retirement pension to be paid by the City of Torrance to Albert H. Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett read Section 1709 of the Elections Code regarding the examination and certification of petitions.

Mayor Schwab ordered these filed as a matter of record.

Mr. Schoonover from the Pacific Hills area inquired what had been done about requesting aid from the County Flood Control for the drainage ditch in their area. City Manager Stevens advised him the City Council passed a Resolution requesting aid from the County Flood Control District but to date no reply has been received.

Mr. Schoonover requested something be done about barricading this drainage ditch on both sides of Newton Street by the bridge. City Manager Stevens said this is purely a local matter and should be taken care of by the Street Department.

Councilman Benstead moved this matter be taken care of by the Street Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Philip M. Gilbert, attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. Levin and Mr. and Mrs. Kolb, said it was his understanding some matters were coming up tonight with reference to the Princeton Construction Company, and inquired if this had been put over to a later date.

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City Attorney Hall advised Mr. Gilbert these matters are under investigation -- there is no formal hearing -- until this investigation is completed there will be no action taken. Mr. Hall said this is being investigated by both the State Contractor's Board and the State Division of Housing. They now have men in the field and their findings should be available within the next few days.

Councilman Drale moved the bond on Tract No. 17560 being held up until something is done about the drainage problem existing at 3239 West 183rd Street. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Engineer Bishop advised the Council the subdivider has assured him verbally he will fill in this lot and drain to the side street.

A resident from Crenshaw Gardens requested the Council take some action in helping the residents in this area to have the flood control ditch in their vicinity at least barricaded to protect the small children in the area. He stated he realized this was a Los Angeles County Flood Control problem but wondered if the City couldn't do something about putting the pressure on other agencies to get some action regarding this flood control ditch.

Councilman Benstead moved this matter be placed on the next Agenda. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab announced there are two vacancies to be filled on the Planning Commission, and he thought it was a good sign there was so much interest taken in this and so many people interested in the City. His only regret was that he could not make everyone happy.

Mayor Schwab recommended that Commander William E. Mason of Hollywood Riviera be appointed to serve a term on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of Mayor Schwab. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Schwab said there is a section in town that has never been represented, and recommended Jim Minter of WALTERIA be appointed to serve a term on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Blount said before a vote is taken he would like to fulfill a promise he made. He promised Mrs. Ella Schwartz he would present her name as a member of the Planning Commission and presented her name to the Council for consideration.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of Mayor Schwab in appointing Jim Minter as a member of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount and Spelman. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Schwab announced there was one vacancy on the Civil Service Board and recommended that George Downing be appointed to serve another term on the Board.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of Mayor Schwab. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount stated the Council has removed a man from the Planning Commission who has served fifteen years and said it was his opinion a letter of thanks should be forwarded to Mr. Salm.

Mayor Schwab advised him they would all receive a letter of thanks.

Councilman Blount moved Mr. Salm be sent a special letter thanking him for his services in the past. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:00 p.m., Councilman Blount moved to adjourn to February 17, 1954. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

A. H. Barthol  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

G. M. Schurb  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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