

Torrance, California
May 11, 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, May 11, 1954, at 8:00 P.M., Mayor Drale presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:
COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Isen, Schwab and Drale. ABSENT:
COUNCILMEN: None. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall. (Councilman Benstead left the meeting during the recess due to ill health.)

At the request of Mayor Drale, Mr. Harry E. Massie led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Blount moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 1954, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously.

Mayor Drale announced that this is the time and place set for the third and final hearing on CASE NO. 313, petition of M. D. Shepherd for a Change of Zone from R-1 (Single-family Residential) to R-3 (Multiple-family Residential) Zone on Lots 7 through 19 inclusive, Tract 9306, situated at Ashley, Roslin and Redondo Beach Boulevard, North Torrance.

City Clerk Bartlett advised he had received the Affidavit of Publication and the transmittal from the Planning Commission recommending disapproval.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication with sketch attached from Arnold M. Cowan, attorney for the petitioner, requesting that the Council give consideration to the Change of Zone for the following reasons: The property is unsuitable for single family residential purposes because of its close proximity to a lumber yard, gas stations and a poultry slaughter house; the growth of the city has created a need for multiple housing; the land is swamp land--its development would remove the problem of stagnant water; the property has been used as a depository for rubbish; and the construction of three-family patio apartments each containing facilities for off-street parking would improve this section of the City. He stated triplexes containing 1250 square feet per housekeeping unit were planned. The letter questioned the validity of the argument that the construction of triplexes would endanger the ability of property owners to secure Veteran's loans. Mr. Cowan stated he had been informed by both the Los Angeles and Long Beach offices of the California Veteran's Service that the building of triplexes would not endanger the right to secure California Veteran's loans.

Mayor Drale called for oral protests.

Edward F. Roberts, 4224 West 173rd Street, spoke in protest of the rezoning. He requested that this property be utilized for single-family residential dwellings; that the building of apartments always creates a parking hazard; and that when residents in this area had called the Veteran's Administration they had been advised that they could not secure Veteran's loans if this were rezoned for multiple dwelling purposes.

C. B. Weaver, 4240 West 173rd, stated arrangements had been made with the City Clerk's office to present a petition with 72 signatures protesting the Change of Zone. Mr. Bartlett had no knowledge of such a petition received by his office. Mr. Stevens advised the petition might be in the Planning Commission files. Mr. Weaver asked that the zoning remain R-1 and asserted that the State of California is very definite in denying loans on homes not situated in R-1 zones.

City Clerk Bartlett read one additional petition containing three signatures protesting the change.

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

Councilman Benstead moved that the City Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission in denying approval of CASE NO. 313. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Petition requesting that the former action of the Council to remove James. S. Dresser as City Building Inspector be rescinded.

Petition requesting that the former action of the Council to remove Cecil W. Smith as Assistant Building Inspector be rescinded.

Councilman Isen moved that the petitions of James S. Dresser and Cecil W. Smith be referred to the next regular Council meeting so that in the meantime they might be studied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by roll call vote.

Chief of Police Haslam requesting a temporary appointment to fill the vacancy of Assistant Chief of Police and recommending Captain E. M. Ashton and Sergeant P. G. Bennett as officers qualified for the position.

Councilman Isen moved that P. G. Bennett be temporarily appointed Assistant Chief of Police and that a Civil Service examination be ordered as soon as possible for this position.

Mayor Drale called for discussion.

The question was brought up as to whether or not the recommendation should come from Mr. Stevens who was of the opinion that the appointment should rightfully be made by the Chief of Police, concurred in by the City Manager and the Council. Mr. Stevens said that under the City Charter the department head, with two or three exceptions, makes the recommendation.

It appeared to Councilman Isen that a recommendation should name one individual only rather than two. He stated the vacancy had existed for some time and he felt it should be filled now.

Chief Haslam, who was in the audience, explained that he would not like to have the vacancy filled now, as it would provide an opportunity for more of his men to obtain some administrative experience; He stated he would abide by any appointment made by the Council.

Councilman Isen's motion was lost for want of a second.

Councilman Benstead moved an examination be called immediately for the position of Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, who stated that under the rules of general procedure he could move or second any particular action, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

I. J. Hallanger, Accountant, requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the County Aid to Cities Fund and the sum of \$11,050 from the Liquor License Fund to the General Fund. Clerk Bartlett recommended the request be granted.

Councilman Schwab moved the request for transfer of these funds be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association requesting the City to supply their Association with engineering data as to the cost to the Hollywood Riviera district and to the Seaside Ranchos area of joining the Torrance Municipal Water System, including taking over the mains of the California Water Service Corporation.

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Councilman Isen moved that the request be granted and a preliminary survey be furnished this organization by the Engineering Department, the City Attorney and the Water Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association requesting that "Caution" and "25 M.P.H." signs be erected at nine entrances to the Hollywood Riviera District.

Councilman Benstead moved this matter be referred to the Traffic Commission for recommendation at the next Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

I. J. Hallanger, Accountant, requesting that the title of his classification be restored to "Control Accountant" or "Senior Accountant" without re-examination under Civil Service and that the salary be adjusted to the weighted average of \$484 per month.

Councilman Benstead moved this communication be referred to the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried, unanimously.

Recreation Director Van Bellehem, recommending a franchise to operate a refreshment concession at the Torrance Municipal Park be granted to the Torrance Babe Ruth League for one year only, with certain stipulations.

Councilman Isen moved that the Council concur with the recommendation of Mr. Van Bellehem for this season only, and that the City be relieved of responsibility for any damage suits. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously.

Grant Community League, requesting that a more prominent warning signal be installed near the two temporary poles put in by the Edison Company on the curve near the Redondo City Dump at Dominguez and Beryl Streets.

Mayor Drale moved this matter be referred to the Traffic Commission for study and recommendation at the next Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously.

Petition from 77 property owners requesting that the City improve a sixty-foot wide dirt strip in the center of Anza Avenue from Sepulveda Boulevard to a dead end at the drainage ditch two blocks south of Sepulveda Boulevard. (This had been referred to an Agenda meeting at the Council meeting of April 14, 1954)

City Engineer Bishop reported he was working on three possible solutions to this problem: (1) a gravel center; (2) oil mixed with soil; or (3) planting. He felt the cost of a planted center strip might be prohibitive. He advised he could have his report completed in time for the next Agenda meeting.

Mayor Drale suggested this matter be referred to the next Agenda meeting.

City Clerk Bartlett recommending that a Civil Service Classification for "PBX Operator" be established and that the telephone switchboard now located in the City Clerk's office be placed in a booth in the corridor.

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

Councilman Benstead recommended that in the future an examination should be held before an individual is hired; it places an outsider on an unfair basis to compete against a person who has already been employed.

Claim of Lovina Mae Reiss for damages against the City for personal injuries and property damages sustained as the result of a collision caused by improperly maintained City street facilities in the 17500 Block on Crenshaw Boulevard on March 23, 1954.

Councilman Benstead moved the claim be denied and referred to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. DECLINED TO VOTE: COUNCILMEN: Isen. Councilman Isen explained that he had refrained from voting because he had been contacted by the plaintiff.

Application of Frank and Dominic Mannino to operate an inter-city passenger bus service between San Pedro and Hollywood Park during the current racing season, to commence May 14, 1954.

Discussion centered around the advisability of referring the matter to the Traffic Commission for recommendation and the fact that the request had come before the Council too late to give it complete study. Councilman Isen moved the application be denied. After further discussion, Councilman Isen withdrew his motion.

Councilman Blount moved this matter be tabled. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

City Clerk Bartlett advised that he had communications from Assebmlyman Vincent Thomas, Governor Goodwin J. Knight's office, and from Richard Carpenter, General Counsel for the League of California Cities, acknowledging receipt of our Resolution No. 2555 opposing efforts to repeal authority of cities to take special census.

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

Torrance Chamber of Commerce requesting that the City Council meet with representative of the Parking Authority and the Parking Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss parking needs.

Councilman Isen moved that a meeting be arranged at the earliest possible date. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Mayor Drale set Tuesday, May 18, 1954, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as the time and place for the meeting.

City Clerk Bartlett advised he had a Transmittal from the Planning Commission on CASE NO. 312, petition of J. L. Walker to establish a trailer park on 236th Street. He explained that this matter had been placed on the Agenda before he had knowledge that the Planning Commission had requested a meeting with the City Council to discuss trailer parks. (This item listed on the Agenda under Planning Commission matters.)

Councilman Schwab moved that action on CASE NO. 312 be withheld until after the joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Thursday evening, May 13, 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers was the time and place set by Mayor Drale for the joint meeting. President Smith was asked to notify the Commission members of the meeting.

Civil Service Board, recommending approval of a request from LaVerne Gerl, Typist Clerk in the Recreation Department, for a maternity leave-of-absence from May 17 to October 29, 1954, inclusive.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Torrance Foursquare Church requesting permission to erect a Gospel tent to conduct Evangelistic services for two or three week the latter part of May, to be located on their own property at the southeast corner of Arlington and Sepulveda.

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Councilman Isen moved the request be granted, subject to the approval of the Fire and Police Departments. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Torrance Chamber of Commerce advising that a special City Planning Advisory Committee had been appointed, consisting of Dr. J. H. Hull, Robert Haggard and Reed Parkin, with Dale Isenberg participating in an administrative capacity, and requesting that this committee receive notices of all regular and special meetings of the Planning Commission, together with copies of the proposed agenda.

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

Mayor Drale advised that all Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and that the Commission would make copies of the proposed agenda available to the Advisory Committee.

Torrance Chamber of Commerce opposing any increase in sales tax of the City of Torrance.

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

Mayor Drale stated he was willing to go on record as being opposed to any increase in sales tax.

Water Superintendent McVicar recommending the appointment of John E. McCall to represent the City in the West Basin Water Association.

Councilman Blount, as a member of the Board of Directors, moved this matter be tabled, pending the reading of Section "y" of the Agenda relative to a recommendation from the City Attorney on this matter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Water Superintendent McVicar recommending the following change in the method of collecting deposits by customers: To collect no deposit at the time of application but to require payment of any delinquency before service is given a new owner or tenant.

Councilman Isen moved this matter be taken up at the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Water Superintendent Mc Vicar requesting permission to attend the National Convention of the American Water Works Association to be held in Seattle May 23 to May 28, 1954, with expenses paid.

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

City Engineer Bishop reporting on the widening of Ashley Avenue between 182nd and 186th Street at a total cost of \$7500 including paving half-street but not counting cost of easements which must be obtained by condemnation proceedings.

Clerk Bartlett informed the Council that a resolution was being submitted later in the meeting.

Councilman Isen moved this matter be referred for discussion at the time action is taken on the resolution. Mayor Drale so ordered.

Assistant to City Engineer John R. Patrick reporting on a meeting with property owners along Glenburn Avenue, Falda Avenue and Elgar Avenue in Tract 17560 to discuss the problem of drainage.

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

Regional Water Pollution Control Board No. 4, requesting a meeting with the City Council, Planning Commission and City Departments to brief them on the fundamental concepts of the California Water Pollution Control Program.

City Manager Stevens informed the Council that since this communication had been received a man from the Water Pollution Control office had requested that this meeting be postponed for about six weeks.

Mayor Drale recommended that this meeting be postponed for six weeks.

City Attorney Hall, recommending appointment of Burke, Williams, and Sorenson to represent the City in the West Basin Water adjudication.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Isen voted no because no outline of work had been submitted and no fee had been stipulated.

Request of Sears, Roebuck and Company to solicit for the sale of one of their products, "The American Peoples Encyclopedia."

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

Eye Dog Foundation requesting permission to place controlled canisters in Torrance During May, 1954.

Councilman Benstead moved that Clerk Bartlett be authorized to investigate this organization. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

At 9:40 p.m. Mayor Drale called a ten-minute recess. Councilman Benstead left the meeting at this time due to ill health. The meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Gail Eagleton, attorney for Cottage Grove Properties, subdividers of Tract No. 18416, was heard at this time with reference to the progress being made within the tract. He advised that the money for the completion of the streets will be deposited with the City as soon as the amount has been determined.

Concerning the problem of drainage, he stated he was proceeding in accordance with the recommendations and map prepared by City Engineer Bishop. He felt the best manner in which to proceed was on an individual basis and said that this could be accomplished by one of the following methods: (1) A lowering of driveways in cases indicated by Mr. Bishop where that is desired. (Some people prefer to replace the existing driveway with a concrete or cement slab after the driveway has been removed, rather than with a Macadam or asphalt plant mix) (2) An open cement ditch. (3) Depressions. (4) A drainage pipe four inches in diameter at two percent fall to the street.

Councilman Isen stated he was very much interested in this situation and that he had been informed that Mr. Schoonover representing the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association, who was ill and unable to be present, was dissatisfied with the progress being made. Councilman Isen had heard that the aprons were being put in here and there and not everywhere and that he could not see where any attempt had been made to lower the grade according to the building code.

Mr. Eagleton said the excavation for the aprons had been made before the second problem had become quite so acute.

Mayor Drale advised that aprons will be put in because that is a requirement of the subdivision ordinance and that the recommenda-

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tion from the Engineering Department was to lower the driveways because they were in violation of the building ordinance.

He stated the Council took the necessary action because this matter had been stalemating from some time. He said, "We always have to bring action and then retract action because some attorney represents the company that we had trouble with when we shouldn't have had the trouble in the first place. Now, we have already taken our action and we have asked the City Attorney to file the necessary suit against your company. Now we ask that those things be done, and until they are done according to the recommendations of the City Council, I don't think there is anything further to say."

Mrs. Jones, Secretary of Pacific Hills Homeowners Association, called the Council's attention to the fact "That the map the Attorney for Cottage Grove Properties had was not the same as the map that was prepared between Mr. Schoonover and the City Engineer. On the original map there were some forty or forty-four driveways to be completely taken out and the grades of the lots lowered, and on the map that the attorney has there are only fourteen. Now, the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association feels the same as you do, Mr. Mayor, that if the driveways are high they should be lowered and they should meet the City Code specifications."

Mr. Eagleton presented the map he had shown to the people.

City Engineer Bishop explained that he had recommended lowering the driveways in cases where more than six inches lowering was required--that had included fourteen driveways; but that did not limit the lowering to fourteen. The rest of the driveways could also be lowered or have the swale put in. However, he had recommended that the swale should be no more than six inches deep. The swale had only been an alternate plan and since the Council recommended the lowering, they would be lowered.

Mr. Eagleton spoke relative to obtaining a total release from the City, stating that the drainage had nothing to do with the bond.

City Attorney Hall replied that this was correct and that the bond covered all the matters they had agreed to do with the exception of the paving, for which they will pay over the necessary sum.

Mr. Eagleton stated he had encountered difficulty in carrying out the recommendations of the Council. He explained that in contacting individual property owners he found that some of the people did not want to carry out what Mr. Bishop had recommended for reasons of their own. They have done landscaping and in certain instances made adjustments of their own to take care of their drainage problems. He said he was proceeding in accordance with the City Engineer's report and that litigation would not solve the drainage problem. He asked for a reasonable opportunity to proceed. He indicated that by the time the Council meets again the work will have substantially been completed. He requested one clarification and stated, "My impression was that the Council did not rule at all whether all seventy-seven driveways had to be lowered or any other fixed number, but the recommendation of your Council was in accordance with the general map prepared by City Engineer Bishop."

Mr. Bartleet, 2630 Dalemead, stated he had received three proposals but that he had been unable to reach an agreement. He had been advised that the City Engineer had recommended that only those drivewayse that were fifteen-hundredths of a foot too high be lowered completely.

City Engineer Bishop questioned the word "recommended" and said it had been an alternate plan rather than a recommendation.

Mr. Pelles, 2629 Bryan Avenue, said he was satisfied and that he had found the attorney to be quite fair.

Mrs. Jones, protested, "They want to put in depressions. Well, we don't want depressions. This man has tried to sway those people."

City Attorney Hall was of the opinion that it was a matter of satisfying the City Engineer. He believed that was the wish of the Council.

Councilman Isen moved a progress report be submitted. The Council concurred in this motion, and Mayor Drale requested that the City Engineer submit a progress report at the next regular Council meeting and that Mr. Eagleton report to the Council at the same meeting as to what had been accomplished by that date.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Patricia A. Nelson, having passed Civil Service examination for Typist Clerk, be appointed to serve her probationary period, commencing May 1, at the first salary step.
2. That Allene W. Ball be employed as Typist Clerk in the Building Department from an eligible list, commencing April 26th, 1954, in the first salary step.
3. That Barbara D. Massie be employed as Typist Clerk in the City Clerk's Department from an eligible list, commencing May 6, 1954, in the first salary step.
4. That Charlotte M. Smith be employed as P.B.X. Operator, in a temporary capacity at a salary of \$263.00 per month pending the establishment of a new classification for this position, starting May 4, 1954.
5. That Murray C. Cozby be employed as Bus Attendant, from an eligible list commencing May 5, 1954, in the first salary step.
6. That John V. Russell be temporarily employed as Superintendent of Building as of May 4, 1954, at a compensation of \$600 per month.
7. That Samuel R. Dial having satisfactorily completed his probationary period in the Fire Department be appointed to a permanent status as of May 1, 1954, as an Engineer.
8. That Robert E. Ward having satisfactorily completed his probationary period in the Fire Department be appointed to a permanent status as of May 2, 1954 as a Fireman.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur in the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one through eight, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

BIDS:

That bids be taken for motor vehicles as follows:

1. Four-door sedan for Fire Department.
2. Two business coupes for Water Department.
3. Five business coupes for Engineer and Building Departments.

Funds are available in the departments or in the capital outlay provided in the budget. The purchase of new 1953 and 1954 model cars is recommended.

Councilman Isen moved to concur in the recommendations of City Manager Stevens, items one, two and three, under Bids. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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AWARD OF CONTRACT:

That the City's contract for the collection of garbage and non-combustible refuse with Mr. George Green be extended for a period of two years to end June 30, 1956, under the following conditions:

- (a) That all units served as determined by the electric meter count as of July 1, 1954, be paid for at the current rate of \$0.2826 per meter per month during the life of the extended contract;
- (b) That the same rate prevail beyond July 1, 1954, until such time as the contractor is required to cook garbage for hog feeding and that the fee to be charged under the present rate be determined by a special electric meter count taken on the first of the month following the time that the cooking of garbage is started;
- (c) That all new services after the first of the month following the date at which the cooking of garbage was commenced be paid for at the rate of .35¢ per meter per month as determined by the meter count as of January 1 and July 1 of each year during the term of the contract.

This provides for the continuation of all current service and all service to the date of the starting of cooking to be carried at the current price of \$0.2826 per meter per month which is the price established in 1951 and is known to be most favorable to the community.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur in the recommendations of City Manager Stevens under Award of Contract. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Communication from City Manager Stevens recommending adoption of Resolution of Intention authorizing an amendment to the City's contract with the State Employee's Retirement Service, providing for retirement pay to be based on the highest three consecutive year's pay rather than the highest five years.

Councilmen Isen moved to concur in the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Communication from City Engineer Bishop reporting on the storm drainage ditch in Walteria from the Dicalite Plant to the Airport.

Councilman Isen moved that this communication be forwarded to the Walteria Business men's Association and the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association for study. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from City Engineer Bishop regarding Elimination of dip at 220th Street and Cabrillo Avenue.

Mayor Drale moved this communication be filed as a matter of record.

Communication from City Engineer Bishop regarding proposed traffic signals at Yukon Avenue and Redondo Beach Boulevard.

Councilman Blount moved that the Engineering Department be designated to go ahead with this project. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Isen and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. DECLINED TO VOTE: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

Communication from City Engineer Bishop regarding Redondo Beach Sewer Connections for Vista del Mar property owners in Tract 10300, referred by the City of Redondo Beach.

Councilman Blount moved that a copy of this letter be sent to the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association and the communication filed as a matter of record.

Communication from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick submitting resolution accepting Grant Deed for right-of-way for Palos Verdes Boulevard and Lomita Avenue.

Councilman Schwab moved this communication be filed as a matter of record. Mayor Drale so ordered.

Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission and City Engineer recommending approval of Final Subdivision Map No. 20348, consisting of 28 lots to be developed by James A. Norris, located northerly of 182nd Street, westerly of Tract 15880, and easterly of Tract 19237.

Mayor Drale wondered whether soil reports from the soil engineer had been obtained--he knew there was filled ground on this tract; also whether or not the foundation depths were being checked.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving Tract Map No. 20348. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission and City Engineer recommending approval of Final Subdivision Map No. 15917, consisting of 24 lots to be developed by Tract Investors, Inc. located on Felbar Avenue from 190th Street north to Tract 18957, subject to the following special conditions; All existing buildings must be removed with the exception of the two principal dwellings and the existing garage; 20-foot strip lying to the west of this proposed tract is to be included as a part of the dedication of 190th Street, said strip having a 65-foot east-west dimension.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving Final Tract No. 15917, subject to the special conditions mentioned above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Transmittal form for Planning Commission CASE NO. 317, petition of Arthur G. and Marie E. Gross to construct and operate a Research Laboratory for dynamic instrumentation in the field of medical research, situated in an A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone at 23124 Hawthorne Avenue, Lot 18, Block Sub M.R. 19-88, Meadow Park Tract, recommending approval.

Councilman Isen moved this matter be tabled for the next Agenda meeting until more information is available as to the type of research proposed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Planning Commission requesting Council action on the following recommendations:

(a) That approval be given the request of Milton Kauffman Construction Corporation for a waiver of yard requirements on certain lots in Tract 19101 and 19102, based on the conditions specified in two letters dated March 31, 1954, from the Kauffman Corporation and a letter of recommendation from H. M. West, Acting Building Inspector dated March 29, 1954.

Councilman Isen moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Isen, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

(b) That a suitable sign and billboard ordinance be drafted; requesting a joint meeting to be held for the purpose of discussing

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specifications and regulations necessary to control the situation.

This matter was referred to the joint meeting to be held with the Planning Commission on Thursday, May 13.

(c) Mr. Kilgroe, owner of a large parcel of property bordering on Earl Street, requesting permission to dedicate 15 feet of land along the southerly boundary of the property as a permanent means of ingress and egress, and recommending the matter to the Council as per Exhibit "A".

It was brought out in the discussion that Mr. Kilgroe owns a wide lot several hundred feet deep upon which he is building several homes. He has moved several buildings on the property. Those people in the back lots are without some legal means of ingress and egress. He would like to move more houses on this property but the Building Department will not issue a Building Permit unless there is a recorded access easement over these other lots to get to this particular property. Mr. Kilgroe would like to dedicate a 15-foot strip of land to provide an access road to this property. The City does not wish to have a publicly dedicated road as it doesn't wish the responsibility of maintaining it.

Councilman Isen was of the opinion that this could be handled privately. An easement could be created and it could be recorded. He suggested Mr. Kilgroe work through the Title Company and have it approved by them. After that it becomes a matter of record. Mr. Kilgroe was advised to follow this procedure and to report back to the Council at the Agenda meeting next Tuesday if he encountered any trouble.

(d) F. O. Fletcher, requesting permission to build a stable for horses, recommended for approval, in accordance with letter marked Exhibit "A".

Since Exhibit "A" was not available, Councilman Blount moved to refer the matter to the next Agenda meeting. So ordered by Mayor Drale.

(e) Request for joint meeting with the City Council to discuss trailer parks.

Thursday evening, May 13, 1954, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers was the time and place set for this meeting.

(f) That approval be given the request of L. C. Wing for waiver of a 20-foot front yard setback.

Councilman Isen moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

(g) That approval be given the request of Mrs. Wheaton CASE NO. 280 for a sixty-day extension on her Variance.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Communication from Beverly Smith, President of the Planning Commission, recommending approval for the elimination of 166th-168th Street as a Secondary Highway from the County Master Plan of Highways, and recommending that it be established as a 60 foot street.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

City Clerk Bartlett presented ^{and} read the title to the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 2566

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2268 AND APPOINTING A MEMBER
TO THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
NO. 5 AND SOUTH BAY CITIES SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS
ANGELES COUNTY.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2566. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2567

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2269 AND DESIGNATING ALTERNATE MEMBER TO BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS NOS. S. B. C. AND 5.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2567. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2568

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION BY THE SAID CITY OF TORRANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, TO WIT: THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND WIDENING OF A PUBLIC STREET OVER AND ACROSS THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Schwab raised the question of the cost of the proceedings, estimated at \$7500 in City Engineer Bishop's communication.

Councilman Blount wondered whether this was the best place to put eight or nine thousand dollars right now.

Councilman Isen stated that the city had been in error on this from the beginning and that the matter should have been remedied long ago. In the event of a fire a fire truck could never get through there.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll to dispense with further reading of the Resolution which carried unanimously by those present.

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2568. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale.

Anthony Belotti, 18528 Ashley Avenue, pleaded for the adoption of the resolution. He wondered whether the saving of a life--or more than one life--was worth expenditure of \$9,000.

City Clerk Bartlett called the roll for the adoption of Resolution No. 2568, which carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Isen, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

RESOLUTION NO. 2569

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT PROVIDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

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

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Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2569. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

RESOLUTION NO. 2570

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, THAT CERTAIN GRANT DEED FROM WALTER BOLLENBACHER AND GRACE BOLLENBACHER, HIS WIFE AND LOUISE L. KELTON AND ELSA G. KELTON, HIS WIFE.

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

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2570. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 690

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 612, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 310.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 690 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote; AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Schwab and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. DECLINED TO VOTE: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

Councilman Isen explained he had declined to vote as this Ordinance covered the rezoning of Torrance Boulevard and he wished to remain neutral and express no opinion in the matter.

ORDINANCE NO. 692

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 647 AND ESTABLISHING A LICENSE FEE FOR THE SALE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND PROVIDING CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF ANY SUCH LICENSES.

Councilman Isen moved the Ordinance be read in full. City Attorney Hall read the Ordinance in full.

City Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the South Bay Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, and the City Manager read a letter from Torrance Post No. 3251 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, requesting the Council to make certain changes in the proposed Ordinance.

After considerable discussion from various groups in the audience; after several changes had been written into the ordinance; and after various motions had been made, Councilman Isen moved to withdraw all previous motions. He then moved the urgency Ordinance No. 692, as read by the City Attorney and as amended, and the amendments being read, be adopted at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

At 12:01 City Clerk Bartlett announced that it would be necessary to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene if that was the wish of the Council.

Councilman Isen moved the meeting continue until such time as a motion for adjournment was in order. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

ORDINANCE NO. 693

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 643.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 693 at it first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens advised the Council that he had withheld two resolutions from the Agenda concerning County Sanitation District No. 5 and the South Bay Sanitation District requesting authorization to acquire property for disposal purposes. He explained that he had checked with other cities in the area and they were of the opinion that they would like to know more about the matter. He felt it might be well to invite the District down to explain what it has in mind, possibly at the next Council or Agenda meeting.

Councilman Schwab moved City Manager Stevens be authorized to make arrangements for such a meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

City Manager Stevens stated a number of matters needing Council action had been pending for some time. One matter in particular concerning the Airport was becoming urgent. He wondered if some time could be allotted for this item on Thursday evening when the Council is meeting with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Arthur John, representing Vegas Aircraft, requested early consideration of their situation. He informed the Council his company had already paid two and a-half months' rent on a lease on which they have had no legal action.

Mayor Drale suggested arrangements be made to have these people attend the Tuesday meeting--also those from Longren and others concerned.

City Manager Stevens informed the Council that the Police and Firemen's group have asked to meet with the Council. Mayor Drale stated this could be taken up at the Agenda meeting Tuesday night.

Councilman Blount was under the impression that the City had received the money from a developer to take care of the sidewalks on Crenshaw at 174th Street. He asked Mr. Stevens whether he knew when the work was scheduled to start. Mr. Stevens was of the opinion that a contract had been let, but he thought a release for the street had to be obtained before the work could begin.

Councilman Blount stated that several months ago a group of citizens including a man by the name of John Crain, from a tract built by the Watts Development Company, had requested an inspection of their homes by the State. To date this had not been done.

Councilman Blount moved that the State be authorized to make an investigation of this tract. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Isen requested a report on the problem on Patronella Street.

City Attorney Hall disclosed that he had met with Lloyd Wright Jr. and the people from this particular area. Mr. Wright agreed to a complete inspection of every house by a State inspector. He, and also a representative for Albachten indicated they would accept the recommendations of the State investigator as to what needs to be done, with one or two exceptions. That

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was the matter of foundations. That question is still open for exploration. He was to inform the people by Thursday when the work on the houses will be started.

Councilman Isen brought up the matter of center-of-the-street parking on Cabrillo Avenue. He thought he had made a recommendation to carry it on to 220th Street.

Councilman Blount moved that center-of-the-street parking be extended from the present location to the block in which the Mormon Church is located and that appropriate pedestrian walks be put in the center of the blocks. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Isen requested that the Parking Authority give some attention to the matter of center-of-the-street parking on Torrance Boulevard. He moved that his request for center-of-the-street parking on Torrance Boulevard be turned over to the Parking Authority for recommendation.

Councilman Isen mentioned that City Manager Stevens had been authorized by Mayor Drale to write a letter regarding speed limits on 101 Highway west of Hawthorne. We were advised that it wasn't built up enough to have a twenty-five mile zone and pedestrian walks.

Councilman Isen moved that several telegrams be sent to Vincent Thomas and all interested parties with reference to this matter. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale.

City Manager Stevens advised that he had written to the Assistant State Highway Engineer in Los Angeles within the past ten days on this matter, and he had been advised that the matter was in Sacramento awaiting a decision regarding financing.

Mayor Drale requested that the telegrams be sent.

It appeared to Councilman Schwab that as long as the Council is faced with as much business as it has been, it should meet every Tuesday night.

Mayor Drale suggested this be taken up at the next Agenda meeting.

Mayor Drale made the following appointments:

Traffic Commission: Chief of Police Haslam, Chairman, Drale and Isen. Alternate, Blount. Stevens and Hall, ex-officio members of the Commission.

Finance Committee: Drale, Chairman, Isen and Benstead. Alternates, Schwab and Blount.

Park and Recreation: Benstead, Chairman, Schwab and Drale. Alternates, Isen and Blount.

Transportation: Blount, Chairman, Isen and Schwab. Alternates, Drale and Benstead.

Police and Fire: Isen, Chairman, Drale and Benstead. Alternates Schwab and Blount.

Streets: Schwab, Chairman, Benstead and Drale. Alternates, Blount and Isen.

Mayor Drale recommended that an Airport Commission be formed with three members of the Council, together with a Citizen's Committee, and also that a Water Department Commission be formed with three members of the Council and a Citizen's Committee. He stated, "I would like to entertain a motion that these requests be drawn up in the form of a resolution by the Legal Department so that each member of the Council shall have one appointment on the Committee--three members and two alternates."

Councilman Isen moved that a Water Department Commission and an Airport Commission be formed with three members of the City Council and a Committee of five citizens.

The five members will appoint a Citizen's Committee of five people each.

So ordered.

Councilman Isen requested that the City Manager or the City Attorney see that he receives copies of all Civil Service ordinances, as well as all Rules and Regulations pertaining to the examination for Assistant Chief of Police.

Mayor Drale briefly referred to the matter of dogs running loose and asked that the Chief of Police look into this.

Mayor Drale asked for a clarification of the ordinance with reference to the matter of seven paid holidays for City employees. He stated that if a holiday falls on a Friday the employees in some departments are being forced to take another day. They are not getting the compensation. That was not the intent of the Council. The intent was to see that these employees receive compensation for that day. He thought there might be a violation of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations which tied in with the ordinance.

Mr. Arthur John, representing Vegas Aircraft, stated he had submitted copies of their proposal on the matter of an Airport lease to Mr. Hall, which he hoped would be satisfactory to the Council.

Mr. Hall was requested to see that the Councilmen receive copies of the proposal for the meeting next Tuesday.

Mr. Belotti stated that in reference to the suggestion by Councilman Isen regarding an Advisory Council, that the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association had appointed him as representative for North Torrance, with Jack White and Mr. Reeves as alternates.

Mayor Drale announced that the League of California Cities' Convention was to be held in South Gate. He indicated he would attend, and Councilmen Isen and Benstead advised they would arrange to go to this convention.

Mayor Drale mentioned that there was one vacancy on the Planning Commission and the following names had been recommended to him: Anthony Belotti, Julius Maers, Frank Schimtt, Saul Levine, Ella Schwartz, George Hartling, Bert Lynn, and Leo Benstead. He advised that the appointment extended only until January, 1955.

Councilman Schwab moved that all bills properly audited, be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

At 1:05 a.m. Councilman Isen moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance

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