

Torrance, California  
September 21, 1954

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, September 21, 1954, at 8:00 o'clock p.m. Mayor Drale presiding.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Isen, Schwab and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Mr. Friedor led the salute to our Flag.

Reverend Donald Shelby opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Drale announced as this was an Adjourned Regular Meeting the regular order of business would be dispensed with.

BIDS:

Mayor Drale announced this was the time and place set for the opening of bids for the construction of a sanitary sewer along Crenshaw Boulevard from Lomita Boulevard to 2300 feet South thereof in the City of Torrance.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger said he had the Affidavit of Publication and opened and read the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
D. R..Cleveland Sewer Construction Co.	\$12,593.50
Edwin L. Barkley	11,961.70
Bob Bosnyak	13,728.50
N. J. Vusich	14,048.00
L. H. Henson	14,578.50
Zavas & Sons	10,638.50
J. M. Construction Company	14,265.00

Councilman Blount moved these bids be referred to the City Manager for study and recommendation at the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

HEARINGS:

At the regular Council meeting held September 14, 1954, the hearing on the assessment for the improvement of Sepulveda Gardens Sewer District was continued to September 21, 1954.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger stated he had a letter from Asst. to City Engineer Patrick advising he had received a letter from Larry Henson, the contractor, stating that they have repaired all of the resurfacing within this area. Mr. Patrick stated he has inspected the work that has been corrected and has found that the sewer ditches are now as good as can be expected after disturbing the original surfacing, and that it is his belief that the contractor has now fulfilled his agreement in accordance with the specifications and contract.

Mayor Drale called for oral communications. There being none, Councilman Blount moved that all protests be denied and the assessment be confirmed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2626

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT LEVIED UPON THE LAND WITHIN THE SEPULVEDA GARDENS SEWER DISTRICT TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF ELLINWOOD DRIVE AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS IN THE SEPULVEDA GARDENS SEWER DISTRICT BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2626. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Clerk Hallanger read the following:

Report of findings of the Civil Service Board of Review in the matter of J. J. Benner vs Milton T. Langum. It was the decision of the Board of Review that the period of demotion should be limited to ninety (90) calendar days from June 10, 1954, and that the defendant should be restored to his former rank and salary rating of "Fire Engineer" on September 8, 1954.

Councilman Benstead moved Milton T. Langum be reinstated to his former rank of "Fire Engineer" without loss of pay. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Isen and Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the findings of the Civil Service Board. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Isen stated he would like to make an amendment to Councilman Schwab's motion concurring with the findings of the Civil Service Board, by placing the penalty of forty-five days separation rather than the ninety days as recommended.

A general discussion was held by the Council as to the findings of the Civil Service Board. Mayor Drale and Councilman Benstead were of the opinion Mr. Langum should not be penalized for reporting a mistake to his superior, when possibly he was not at fault. They also brought out the fact that his record had been satisfactory since 1949. Councilman Blount, Isen and Schwab felt the Council should concur with the findings of the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Schwab withdrew his previous motion and Councilman Blount withdrew his second.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the findings of the Civil Service Board with the exception that the demotion would be for a period of forty-five days rather than the ninety days as they recommended. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Isen and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Request of Burton Silbert, 10112 Cheviot Drive, Los Angeles, for refund on Business License No. 6931, confection stand, in the amount of \$12.50.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger stated this license was cancelled by the City Council as it did not conform to the Ordinance.

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

CAA010

Communication from William C. Platt, City Clerk of the City of Palos Verdes Estates, regarding the possible reopening of certain barricaded streets on the common boundary between the cities of Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates. Mr. Platt stated that after considerable discussion, and a hearing, at their Council meeting of September 14th, the City Council of Palos Verdes Estates feels they should carry out the wishes of the people concerned and not reopen the streets in question.

Councilman Blount stated a lawsuit is being filed against the City of Palos Verdes Estates by a corporation and an individual and moved the City Attorney be instructed to cooperate with them in giving every assistance his office can to further the successful prosecution of the case. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount requested Chief of Police Haslam to check Palos Verdes Boulevard on Saturday and Sunday. He said it was his opinion the Chief would find a lot of "customers" violating the Ordinance regarding double parking, littering the streets, etc.

Councilman Blount stated that Palos Verdes Boulevard is in very bad shape and moved the Street Superintendent be instructed to look into the entrance to the City of Torrance and to take the proper steps to repair it. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Blount moved City Manager Stevens be instructed to write to the Redondo Beach City Council and remind them that we respectfully request an answer to our letter regarding this situation, and advise them if the letter is not received by next Tuesday, some action will be started. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, so ordered.

Communication from Mayor Drale advising he would like to donate a coin-operated automatic record player to the Recreation Department for use in connection with the activities of the Nor-teen Club, a Recreation Department activity at McMaster Park.

Councilman Isen moved the gift be accepted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Report from City Engineer Bishop regarding the three houses in question in the Cottage Grove Tract No. 18416. Mr. Bishop stated the grading on only one of these, the Hobogen residence, has not been completed to his satisfaction, or to the satisfaction of the owner.

City Manager Stevens said this bond could be held up for another week and suggested Mr. Bishop contact Mr. Lowe in the meantime, to see if this cannot be completed by next week so the bond could be released.

Mr. E. F. Schoonover, 3546 Senefeld Drive, stated the driveways of two houses in this tract, located at 2022 and 2030 Pacific Coast Highway, have not been corrected as promised.

Councilman Isen moved this matter be held up for another week and that the City Engineer be instructed to see if he can't get this settled. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from Chief of Police Haslam advising the Torrance Kiwanis Club has requested the use of El Prado, from Cravens Avenue to Arlington Avenue; also the use of the southeasterly part of the adjacent parking lot, on Saturday, September 25, 1954, for their Annual International Kids Day affair. Chief Haslam stated the said street would be roped off at 5:00 a.m. on the above date.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Request of Boy Scouts of America for free use of the Civic Auditorium the evening of November 10, 1954, for the Annual District Meeting of the Volunteer Scout workers, for the Annual Report of committees and installation of new officers.

Councilman Blount moved the request be granted, subject to the approval of the Recreation Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from Richard A. Marshall, 18802 Haas Avenue, Torrance, stating he does not wish to change his water service from the Moneta Water Company.

Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

- 1. That the following Fireman, having successfully passed a promotional examination, be appointed to serve their probationary period as "Fire Engineer", at the second salary step, effective on the dates indicated:

- (a) Jerry R. Holloman. . . . .September 16, 1954
- (b) George H. Blahnik. . . . .September 17, 1954
- (c) Glen A. Price. . . . .September 18, 1954

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

- 1. To Barclay Engineering Company for engineering services during the month of August, 1954, the sum of \$3,143.25. The major portion of this sum covers costs of surveying work on sewer districts and is returnable to the City.
- 2. For the purchase of 2,500 lineal feet of used invasion-type pipe for use in the Street Department, the sum of \$1,250.00

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

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Communication from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick advising he was submitting an easement from the Don-Ja-Ran-Construction Corporation for street planting and fire-protection purposes along the forty-foot streets in Tract No. 19306, located in the Hollywood Riviera district, as per agreement on the approval of this tract.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger stated he had been informed copies of the Resolution were not available for the Councilmen.

Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed as a matter of record and the Resolution held up until the Councilmen receive copies. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Communication from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick advising he was submitting an easement for a sewer line across lots 42 in Tract 15, and 6 in Tract 397, in the City of Torrance, all in connection with the 239th Street Sewer District. Matter of record.

CAAOIC

Deputy Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2627

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 WENDELL W. JONES AND VIRGINIA LEE JONES.

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

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2627. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission and City Engineer recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 20561, consisting of 81 lots, located easterly of Casimir Avenue, westerly of Arlington Avenue, southerly of the Edison Company R/W, to be developed by the Landbar Construction Company.

Councilman Benstead inquired why there was a thirty-eight foot street. City Engineer Bishop stated the same developer was developing Tracts Nos. 20561 and 20562.

City Manager Stevens said these two tracts were submitted together as tentative maps but they had trouble getting a street in there and had to buy more property. He stated the main reason for this is that they are buying this property from different people.

Councilman Isen moved this be held over for one week to get a dedication for a full street. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the Planning Commission recommending the following street name changes:

1. 228th Street to 227th Street, Tract No. 19108
2. 179th Street to 180th Street, Tract No. 19237
3. 180th Street to 180th Place, Tract No. 19237
4. Hickman Drive to 180th Place, Tract No. 15880
5. Clark Lane to 181st Street, Tract No. 15880
6. Cimarron Avenue to Wilton Place, Tract No. 17483
7. 229th Street to 230th Street, Tract No. 19245
8. Ladeene Avenue to 230th Street, Tract No. 19245

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding street name changes. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the request of Julia and Pauline Reller, owners of Lots 13 and 14, Tract No. 10216, located along Hawthorne Boulevard southerly of 182nd Street, to divide the easterly 110 feet of these two lots into three lots, each 46.67' in width.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in granting this request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Planning Commission recommending approval, per Exhibit "A", providing there are no further violations, on the request of the G. & G. Construction Corporation for waivers to allow a front yard of 15 feet on Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15; 16 feet on Lots 16 and 19; and 10 feet on Lot 20;

all lots located in Tract No. 20165 and designated on map marked Exhibit "A".

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission with reference to the G & G Construction Company. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from the Planning Commission recommending the remaining portion of Old Newton Street, lying within the Hollywood Riviera District, westerly of Tract No. 18249 and abutting on Lots 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Block R, Tract No. 10300, be vacated.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission with reference to vacating the remaining portion of Old Newton Street. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Planning Commission recommending the vacation of a portion of Palos Verdes Parkway, as shown on Exhibit "Y".

City Manager Stevens presented Exhibit "Y" and explained it to the Council.

Councilman Benstead moved this matter be held over until next week. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried.

Mayor Drale requested City Manager Stevens have a full report regarding this matter for the meeting next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., he suggested he also determine the ownership of this property.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Varner, architect who is doing the preliminary work on the proposed civic center and police station, presented architectural plans and explained them in detail to the Council.

The Council indicated that what Mr. Varner had presented to them in the way of floor plans, design, elevation, and the type of exterior, was just about what they had in mind and requested him to present sketches showing the proposed civic center and the swimming pool and the landscaping.

City Attorney Hall stated he had a proposed amendment to the lease that the City authorized with Sheridan-Gray, Inc. This lease was signed by Sheridan-Gray in July; the amendment proposed is to correct the name so as to show the true corporate name. The second amendment is: In the event the United States Government should exercise its recapture provision under the deed, that they would have the right to sit in on the negotiations between the City and the Government and have the right to receive their share of any improvements the Government might take, exclusive of any rentals which might be allowed, which would go to the City. They also state in the event the buildings should be destroyed they agree to undertake to repair them and make them in a usable manner diligently, but they ask that their rent be abated during the period they are reconstructing. They also have a paragraph stating in the event the lease should be terminated for any reason, or at the expiration, they can remove their improvements from the property.

City Attorney Hall said it would be his recommendation on the last suggested amendment, if the Council goes along with the suggested changes, that they only have the right of removal if they are not in default of any of the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

Councilman Isen moved the recommendations of the City Attorney for the amendment of the lease agreement with Sheridan-Gray, Inc. be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

CAA010

Councilman Isen asked Chief of Police Haslam when he was going to try out the Braff Parking plan so we can see if it will work. Chief Haslam said it was his opinion it should be tried out on some block where there would be a chance to check the loss of parking area. Councilman Isen requested him to do this at his discretion.

Councilman Isen said that someone had knocked the post down at the northeast corner of Carson and Cabrillo, which caused a dangerous condition, and requested City Manager Stevens to have the Street Department look into this matter.

Mayor Drale inquired if it would be necessary to hire additional painters to get the crosswalks painted. City Manager Stevens stated the City now has four painters and he was sure they could catch up on all this painting.

Mayor Drale requested City Attorney Hall to inquire into the matter of the City of Torrance getting, or recapturing, the oil deposits off the coast line. He said it was his understanding that some time back the City of Torrance gave away the oil rights.

City Attorney Hall advised what has happened is that some of the cities that had either port or dock facilities which were constructed on State Tidelands. About thirty or forty years ago the State of California, in many instances, gave quitclaim deeds to a certain portion of the Tidelands to these various municipalities. Mr. Hall stated that is the way the City of Long Beach and the City of Redondo Beach acquired its Tidelands. They did it by State Legislative Act. Mr. Hall said as far as he knew Torrance has never owned any oil rights off-shore, but stated he would be glad to look into this further.

Councilman Schwab moved that City Manager Stevens delegate someone from the Engineering Department to assemble the information, as set forth in Mr. Hall's letter of June 22nd addressed to Mr. Chas. Rippey, for the assessment district for off-street parking. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Councilman Isen moved the Council meet at 7:00 p.m., next Tuesday for the purpose of discussing matters relative to the parking problem. So ordered by Mayor Drale.

Mr. Brown of the Torrance Ambulance Service said his firm would like to come to an agreement with the City of Torrance on a monthly guarantee or on a call rate basis for the use of the ambulance in answering the Torrance police calls.

Mayor Drale requested they contact Chief of Police Haslam and make their suggestions or recommendations to him. Chief Haslam in turn would then make his recommendation to the City Council.

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

At 10:15 p.m., Councilman Blount moved to adjourn to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 1954. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried.

Irvin J. Hallanger   
DEPUTY City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance