

Torrance, California  
March 29, 1955

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, March 29, 1955, at 5:30 p.m., Mayor Drale presiding.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen, Schwab and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall. Mayor Drale requested the minutes to reflect that Councilman Blount was attending school this evening.

At the request of Mayor Drale, Captain Douglas J. Horlander led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Schwab opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of March 22, 1955, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

HEARING ON CASE NO. 335:

Mayor Drale announced that this was the time and place for the hearing on CASE NO. 335: Proposed change of zone Land Use Plan of certain portions of the district generally described as follows: Certain areas bounded on the West by Hawthorne Boulevard, on the North by Redondo Beach Boulevard, on the East by the Torrance City Boundary and on the South by 190th Street. Certain undeveloped areas within this area are being developed for commercial purposes and to provide an area along the eastern boundary for light manufacturing use.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger said he had the Affidavit of Publication and that he had not received any communications protesting this Case.

Mayor Drale called for oral protests.

Mr. Pantel Chalekson protested this Change of Zone. He stated he owned property at 3540 Redondo Beach Boulevard, which is now zoned C-2, and requested that it remain C-2. Mr. Chalekson said he had never been notified of this proposed zone change.

Mayor Drale said it was the policy to notify anyone owning property within 300 feet of any proposed zone change.

Mr. N. G. Kuch, speaking on behalf of the Southern California Edison Company, inquired if they could get advanced approval of this Zone Change as they are anticipating increasing their capacity and want to get started within a very short time.

Mayor Drale stated he did not believe they could give advanced approval to one person and not another.

After a general discussion of this proposed Zone Change, Councilman Isen moved the hearing be continued for one week and that in the meantime the Planning Commission be requested to advise the City Council their reason for rezoning the particular area mentioned by Mr. Chalekson. Mr. Isen also requested the interested parties to be present at the hearing next week. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

City Manager Stevens stated that the Planning Commission would not hold a meeting before the next Council meeting. The Council indicated a letter from Mr. Powell would be sufficient.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Communications from International Chemical Workers Union, Local No. 1 and Central Labor Council of San Pedro and Wilmington commending the City Council for instructing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for the safeguarding of oil wells pumping equipment as a protection to the youth of this area.

Councilman Isen moved the communications be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from Bridge Company, 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion, California National Guard, requesting the City of Torrance to underwrite their National Guard unit and Armory for the sum of \$300.00 annually.

After a lengthy discussion Councilman Schwab moved this communication be referred to City Attorney Hall for a recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the California Society for the Welfare of Epileptics requesting permission to place collection boxes in stores, restaurants, etc. in the City of Torrance.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger reported this organization has been approved by the Better Business Bureau.

Mayor Drale moved their request be granted, subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the Disabled American Veterans Department of California, 1816 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, requesting permission to sell First Aid Kits by solicitation; also requesting forms for a City sales tax permit so they can remit all sales tax on kits sold in this area.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger reported that in connection with the above request he had received a communication from the Local Chapter of this organization stating they do not wish or request a permit for this program.

Mayor Drale moved the communications be tabled for further information. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from Arthur S. Moore, City Plumbing Inspector, suggesting an amendment to the Plumbing Code.

Mayor Drale moved this communication be referred to Superintendent of Building Russell for approval. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors acknowledging receipt of Resolution No. 2697 of the City of Torrance and advising there is no County-owned property involved and, therefore, the County does not have an official interest in the annexation proceedings before the City Council.

Councilman Schwab moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Statement of Richfield Oil Corporation showing 2% of gross receipts in accordance with the requirements of City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 92, and County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance No. 1358-1361, now in the City of Torrance, for the period from January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1954, inclusive; together with their check in the amount of \$209.61 in payment of the above.

Councilman Isen moved the statement be filed and the check accepted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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Certified franchise statement from Southern California Gas Company under Ordinance No. 322 for the calendar year 1954, together with their check in the amount of \$19,125.31 covering payment of said amount, subject to the condition set forth in their letter of March 23, 1955.

Councilman Isen moved the statement be filed and the check accepted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Communication from the Recreation Commission requesting the City Council to reject bids for park and recreation facility development, to allow time for reconsideration of policy.

City Manager Stevens stated he would concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission and the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc. approving annexation of Rolling Hills area provided that ample school sites are assured and that the extension of Hawthorne Boulevard to the ocean is approved.

Councilman Isen moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Request of Torrance Jaycettes and Torrance Terrace Garden Club for waiver of custodial fees during the Arts, Hobby and Flower Show to be held in the Civic Auditorium.

Councilman Schwab moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Isen, Schwab and Drale. ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount.

Communication from Gilbert Allen, 2003 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, requesting permission to place trash containers in public areas.

Councilman Isen moved the request be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Petition, containing 33 signatures, protesting the discontinuance of volleyball games in the Torrance High School Gymnasium.

Councilman Benstead moved the petition be referred to the Recreation Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Communication from the Civil Service Board recommending that the salary of "Water Service Foreman" be made to correspond with salary ratings for "Park Foreman" and "Road Foreman", as requested by Water Superintendent McVicar in his letter to the Civil Service Board dated January 18, 1955.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of the communications. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Civil Service Board that the salary of "Water Service Foreman" be made to correspond with salary ratings for "Park Foreman" and "Road Foreman", and that the same be retroactive to July 1, 1954. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead.

City Manager Stevens recommended that this matter be given further study inasmuch as the new budget is now being worked on.

Councilman Isen withdrew his motion and Councilman Benstead withdrew his second.

Councilman Schwab moved this matter be held over for one week. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Copy of the Findings and decision of the Civil Service Board, in the case of Edith S. Meskimen, as a result of the Hearing held before the Board of Review on March 16, 1955, relative to the dismissal of Mrs. Meskimen by City Clerk Bartlett.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Civil Service Board of Review in the case of Mrs. Meskimen. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

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- 1. Thomas C. Todd was appointed to serve his probationary period as a Laborer in the Street Department, effective March 15, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List).
- 2. That Elmer S. Moon, Athletic Director, be authorized to attend the California Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Conference in Riverside on April 2 through April 5, 1955, with appropriate expenses paid. Mr. Van Bellehem has requested that Mr. Moon represent the Recreation Department at this conference.

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

REFERRED FROM LAST MEETING:

- 1. The invitation to attend the California Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association Conference in Riverside, April 28, 29 and 30, 1955, was referred to me for recommendation. Most of the subjects to be discussed are handled for the City by the Sanitation Districts and have little bearing on our City's operations. I, therefore, recommend that no delegate be sent to this conference.

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

Report from City Manager Stevens submitting a budget for the development of the Civic Center site and the Fire Station projects and recommending that these budgets be approved.

Mayor Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens and that the budgets be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Report from City Manager Stevens regarding combustible refuse collection service.

"After considerable study of combustible refuse collection service rates in other communities, I believe that a uniform charge for each cubic yard per week should be used, at least for a trial period.

"I recommend that such a system be established, effective May 1, 1955, based on a study of the amount of refuse per customer, which will be made all during the month of April. The basic per-month rate will be based on a free pick-up service up to 18 cubic feet per week for one collection per week, and \$1 per cubic yard for each additional cubic yard of pick-up per week thereafter."

Mayor Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens regarding combustible refuse collection service rates and that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary Resolution or Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

AIRPORT MATTERS:

1. Communication from the Airport Commission recommending the request of Mr. James G. Crawford for permission to have the Coca Cola Company install a sign at Crenshaw and 101 Highway be granted and, if possible, in the approximate location of the present real estate sign with the restriction and provision that permission for the sign is only granted on a temporary basis to be removed by Mr. Crawford within three days of the consummation of the lease on that parcel of ground.

Councilman Isen moved Mr. Crawford be granted permission to have the sign installed with the provision the sign is removed by December 31, 1955. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Mayor Drale moved that any requests for permission to install signs on the Airport property should be referred to the Airport Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

2. Communication from the Airport Commission recommending that the request of Mr. Arthur Simone to build an individual "T" hangar for private use be approved, with the provision that construction will be of the type and kind of that approved for Mr. Messall and that it will be the responsibility of the lessee to provide maintenance and upkeep in accordance with the current policy, and that a lease for five years with a five-year option be granted.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Airport Commission with the conditions as outlined in their letter of March 25, 1955. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Communication from City Engineer Bishop recommending the following bond covering subdivision improvements be released: Bond No. 2565340, \$60,000, Tract No. 17483; Subdivider: Arlington Garden Homes Company; Location: Northeasterly corner of Arlington Avenue and 174th Street. Mr. Bishop reported trees have been planted in all parkways, street signs are in, bench mark data and centerline ties have been received. Subdivision improvements have been accepted.

Mayor Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Engineer Bishop. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

At 6:30 P.M., Mayor Drale declared a recess. The meeting reconvened at 6:40 P.M.

2. Letter of transmittal from the Planning Commission and City Engineer recommending approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 19792, consisting of 24 lots to be developed by Everett Powell, South of Redondo Beach Boulevard, West of Radium Theater and North of 164th Street. SPECIAL CONDITIONS: All conditions of Planning Commission approval on March 16, 1955, have been met as follows: (1) That 163rd Street be 54 foot wide, and (2) That cul-de-sac on 162nd Street have a 50 foot radius. Per Exhibit "A".

Mayor Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving Tentative Tract Map No. 19792. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

3. Communication from the Planning Commission regarding Tentative Tract No. 15570:

"At your meeting of March 15, 1955, you concurred in the action of the Planning Commission on the approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 15570 with three stipulations: (1) That an access street be made on Lot 16, Block 2, Tract 15397, which lot is now owned by the City of Torrance; (2) That Lot 121 or Lot 122 and the lot immediately to the North of it be dedicated to the City for street purposes; (3) Request recommendation of the City Engineer on the improvement of the western side of Calle Mayor.

"Planning Commission members, consisting of the original committee of Mr. Lynn, Mr. Wing and Mr. Beasley, together with Chairman Beverly Smith and Secretary George Powell, are asking that you consider the removal of stipulation No. 2, as described in letter of John R. Patrick dated February 18, 1955, a copy of which is attached hereto."

City Manager Stevens recommended the Council concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Councilman Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding Stipulation No. 2. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

4. Request for waiver on front setbacks on the houses located on the perimeter of the cul-de-sac so that they may be in line with the other houses on the street in proposed Tract Map No. 21173.

Mr. Powell stated the Planning Commission recommended the setbacks per the map prepared and marked Exhibit "A".

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, as per Exhibit "A". Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2706

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR EXTENSION OF MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICES WITH THE CARBIDE AND CARBON CHEMICALS COMPANY.

City Manager Stevens explained that this agreement has been worked out whereby Carbide would pay all of the costs of the installation of the water mains. They put up the cash, and then over a period of time they deduct 23% of their monthly water bill; in other words, Carbide will get the money back by having their water bills reduced over a period of time and the City ultimately will be paying for the installation, which is the normal procedure but with this arrangement the City will not be required to put up the entire amount of money for the installation at this time.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 2706. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2706. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2707

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2697 AND ORDERING CANCELLATION OF HEARING SET FOR APRIL 5, 1955, ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE DESIGNATED IN SAID RESOLUTION NO. 2697 BY THE NAME OF "ROLLING HILLS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE".

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

Mayor Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2707. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 731

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN AIRPORT COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE, DEFINING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUCH COMMISSION AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2584.

Councilman Isen stated, for the purpose of the record, that the Council had received one copy of this Ordinance attached to their agenda and another true corrected copy.

City Attorney Hall requested the records to show that the particular Ordinance the City Council is voting on is the true and corrected copy.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 731, as corrected. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 731, as corrected, at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 735

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. 331.

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

Mayor Drale moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 735 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 736

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. 334.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 736 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 737

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, SANITATION AND CONDUCT OF TRAILER PARKS AND TRAILER COACHES AND/OR CAMP CARS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 694.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 737. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 737 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Mayor Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE NO. 738

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF CERTAIN STREETS IN TRACT 10307 IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Isen moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 738. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Isen moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 738 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented a draft of an Ordinance of the City of Torrance requiring commercial developers to install certain public improvements.

Councilman Isen moved the City Attorney be authorized to prepare an ordinance according to the draft and if legally possible to prepare it as an emergency ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that since the Council had approved the Fire Station budget tonight he would negotiate with the two low bidders on the South Torrance Fire Station and would have a recommendation for the City Council at the next meeting.

City Manager Stevens reported that after a thorough study made by the committee appointed by the Council, consisting of himself, the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police, regarding radio equipment, the committee recommends that the City enter into a contract with Motorola for furnishing radio equipment, under the terms of the bid submitted, and that this be done at once and the equipment ordered tomorrow.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of the committee. Motion, seconded by Councilman Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Mayor Drale said that in talking with the Board of Supervisors to expedite obtaining a Municipal Court in Torrance, it is necessary the City Council authorize the City Attorney to prepare the necessary Resolution. Mayor Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

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Mr. Carl L. Porter, 1026 Elm Avenue, an employee of the Naval Supply Depot, reported the Navy plans to close down the depot in San Pedro this summer and move the operation to the Long Beach ship yards. Mr. Porter requested the City Council to do what they could to have the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot transferred to the Torrance Storage Area.

After a lengthy discussion of this matter, Councilman Isen moved that Mr. Porter contact City Manager Stevens as to the form of letter he wanted from the City and that any letters forwarded regarding this matter be sent under the signatures of the Mayor and City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered by Mayor Drale.

Mr. Bob Jahn requested that a hearing be held on the proposed ordinance changing the area requirements in certain zones in Torrance and also the minimum lot widths.

Councilman Isen said he thought it should come up at the time the ordinance is introduced.

City Attorney Hall requested the minutes show that a public hearing has been requested at the time the ordinance is introduced.

Councilman Benstead moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

At 7:20 P.M., Councilman Benstead moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried.

A. H. BARTLETT, City Clerk

By *S. H. Hallanger*  
Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:

*Nicholas O. Drale*  
Mayor of the City of Torrance