

Torrance, California  
October 18, 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 October 18, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Reid Bundy led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Brunson of the Nazarene Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Isen took this opportunity to inform the Council that the Reverend Brunson, as President of the Torrance Ministerial Association, had today informed him of their willingness to aid whenever possible in matters of civic betterment.

Reverend Brunson spoke briefly to the Council, expressing the desire of his group to be of assistance whenever possible.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of October 11, 1955. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, so ordered.

BIDS:

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place for opening of bids for 8,000 lineal feet of 6" diameter cast iron pipe. The following bids were opened and read by City Clerk Bartlett:

<u>BIDDER:</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE:</u>
American Cast Iron Pipe Co.	\$1.732 per foot
Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Co.	\$1.678 per foot
U. S. Pipe and Foundry Co.	\$1.695 per foot.

Councilman Blount moved to refer these bids to the City Manager for his recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

1. Letter from Air Pollution Control District with copy of proposed Ordinance, letter recommending the adoption of a uniform Ordinance on burning of combustible rubbish.

Mayor Isen suggested that this be referred to City Manager Stevens for his study and recommendation. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

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2. City Clerk Bartlett, at the request of Mayor Isen, read in full two communications signed by Malcolm H. Merrill, M.D., Director of Public Health of the State of California Department of Public Health with regard to the endemicity of rabies.

The two communications were ordered filed.

3. A letter from the Los Angeles County Boundary Commission, referring to a proposal for the annexation to the City of Los Angeles of territory known as "Rolling Hills Addition No. 8 to Los Angeles."

The communication was ordered filed.

4. Another letter from the Los Angeles County Boundary Commission, referring to a proposal for the annexation to the City of Gardena of the territory known as "Strawberry Park Annexation No. 3 to Gardena."

This communication was also ordered filed.

5. A communication from Kemp-Albright Company submitting rental figures to be paid by Hody's Restaurants for leasing additional 70-foot parcel of land at Torrance Municipal Airport.

City Manager Stevens was asked for information on this. He said this 70' of frontage on 101 Highway was between the land leased by Hody's and the Vegas Air lease, and that Mr. Hodemaker has asked that he be permitted to lease it if there are no objections. The rental figures here submitted are figured loosely on the same basis as the figures used in the other lease. Mr. Stevens said he thought that the lease had been approved by the Airport Commission, but not the terms. Upon being asked, the City Manager said he felt the rentals suggested to be adequate.

~~Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Airport Commission and the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAINING: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.~~

Mayor Isen then asked Chairman Herrick of the Airport Commission what action he recalled on this by the Airport Commission. Mr. Herrick said he recalled the Commission having discussed this, but did not remember what action was taken by them on it.

After a short discussion, Councilman Drale moved to rescind his motion, and Councilman Benstead rescinded his second. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved to approve Hody's lease of 70' additional frontage on 101 Highway subject to the approval of the Airport Commission at the terms submitted.

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

6. A request from the Truman Browne Organization that the City reconvey to them Lot 19 of Tract 16962, which Truman Browne had deeded to the City at the time of development of the Tract, this being for drainage purposes.

City Manager Stevens said that the subdivision was developed in 1950, when there was an acute drainage problem in the area. He said he feels that the City should keep this property and put it to some good use.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with this recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Drale said that the North Torrance Civic Association has requested that this area be used for a recreational area. He said they especially need a center for the use of such groups as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and similar groups.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall to check the deed to the property in question and give the Council a report at the next meeting as to restrictions on it.

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7. A petition to the City of Torrance with 101 signatures, regarding the undesirable condition at the intersection of Osage, 171st Street and Prairie Avenues, and asking that immediate attention be paid the area.

Councilman Drale moved that the matter be referred to Mr. Ralph Perkins, Superintendent of the Street Department, for immediate action. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

8. A letter from the El Nido P. T. A., signed by Mary Smith as Corresponding Secretary, asking what action has been taken concerning the annexation of El Nido. The letter requested information as to what steps might be taken by residents in the territory to expedite this matter.

Councilman Benstead moved that City Attorney Hall answer the letter and give Mrs. Smith the information she asked for.

City Attorney Hall answered a question by Mayor Isen with the information that this had come up some time ago, and a sample poll of the area had indicated that the residents did not want annexation.

City Manager Stevens said this had been considered by the Planning Commission, who did not recommend the annexation.

Councilman Drale said that annexation of the El Nido area would accrue many advantages to Torrance. He said that they have a school, a park, and other improvements, and that he would like for the City to go on record as favoring annexation of the area.

After a long discussion, Mayor Isen suggested that the Council meet with Mr. Stevens at the City Hall at 9:30 A. M. on Monday, October 24 and take an inspection tour of the area in question. It was agreed by all the Councilmen that they could go at that time.

9. A request from the Rescue Army, signed by E. N. Wheeler, for a free license to solicit for charitable work in Torrance.

This request had come before the Council before, and at that time had been referred to Chief of Police Haslam for his investigation and recommendation. The Chief of Police stated that he saw no reason to refuse this license.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and to grant the license without fee.

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

10. A reminder from Harry B. Van Bellehem, Director of Recreation, that the terms of Anne E. Collins, J. H. Paget, and Clair Olsen, all members of the Recreation Commission, have expired.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall to bring a copy of the Resolution establishing such terms to the meeting of the City Council next week, in order that action might be taken on this.

11. Acknowledgments from Assemblyman Vincent Thomas and Supervisor Burton W. Chace of the receipt of Resolution No. 2830, relating to construction of a portion of the San Diego Freeway.

There was no objection, and these were ordered filed.

12. A recommendation from John V. Russell, Superintendent of Building, that a refund of \$3.05 on electrical permit be issued to E. G. Kidwell.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

13. Recommendation from John V. Russell, Superintendent of Building, that a refund of 80% of total fee of \$20 on permit issued to Consolidated House Movers be granted.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

14. Outline of proposed Christmas Program sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, submitted by Tom V. Watson, Manager.

Councilman Schwab moved to grant permission requested to have a Street Parade on Friday night, December 2nd. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, item approved.

After some discussion of other items listed in the letter, it was decided to hold this over until Pre-Council meeting of October 25, and Mr. Stevens was asked to invite Mr. Watson and other interested parties to attend to discuss with Council some aspects of their proposal.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY MANAGER:

##### Appropriations:

1. To Evel Construction Company for construction of counter and plan and map cabinet for Building Department, the sum of \$410.00. This equipment will all be used in the new Civic Center.

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

2. To W.R. Peer for alterations on old Fire Station, the sum of \$354.16.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. To Torrance General Insurance, the sum of \$1,067.49, for Builder's Risk coverage during the course of construction of Civic Center buildings and park improvements. The policy is for one year and will be prorated at the time of completion of each facility. The policy covers fire, extended coverage and vandalism.

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

A recommendation from City Manager Stevens that the amount of \$35,000 be charged to the Water Department as the fee which they have been assessed for the past several years in lieu of a franchise tax, this to be payable on or before October 21, 1955.

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

Councilman Drale asked that a Water Commission be appointed by the Council, this to function similarly to the Planning Commission and the Airport Commission.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall if he would draft the Resolution necessary to set up such a Commission after a poll was taken of the Council to see whether or not they favored such a Commission. The roll call was as follows: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount and Isen. ABSTAINING: COUNCILMAN: Schwab.

Councilman Schwab moved that the suggestion be tabled for study. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

City Manager Stevens made the following oral recommendations:

1. That the bid of the Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company of \$1.678 per foot on Cast Iron Pipe be accepted and all other bids be denied.

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

2. City Manager Stevens said that the Building Department has received a request from Pacific Outdoor Advertising Company to erect two "bulletin boards" at the corner of Arlington and Torrance Boulevards. These would rise 17 feet above the roof of the building at that corner.

Councilman Benstead moved to hold this until the purpose of such boards is more clearly defined. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount. There were no objections and it was so ordered. Mayor Isen asked the

City Manager to advise the Building Department of the decision of the Council on this.

3. The City Manager said that due to the speed with which the Government would like to work and come to an agreement with Mr. Crawford on taking over his lease at the Airport, he would recommend that Mr. Crawford be given permission to move his office building, a 10' X 15' structure, to his property on 231st Street for a period of 90 days.

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

4. City Manager Stevens said that it was planned to dedicate the new Central Fire Station on Friday, October 28, 1955, and it is hoped that everyone will be on hand. He said his office would send a notice of the time of the ceremonies to members of the Council.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Letter from J. R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, recommending extension of 45 days on contract with S. A. Cummings for improvement of Del Amo Boulevard.

Councilman Benstead asked the reason for such a long delay, and the City Manager explained that he felt there was more to this than just the delay in construction, which is being caused by a strike. He said that he feels a good deal of the delay asked for was for the purpose of finishing the required paper work of various kinds. He recommended that the delay be granted.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Assistant City Engineer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

2. Letter from J. R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, recommending extension of 30 days on contract with Wucetich Construction Company for construction of 239th Street Sewer.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with Mr. Patrick's recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 6:20 P. M., the Mayor declared a ten minute recess. The Council reconvened at 6:30 P. M.

TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 20019: Transmittal letter from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending tentative approval. This submitted by the Grand Construction Company, and located south-erly of Redondo Beach Blvd., northerly of 164th Street, and westerly of Arlington Avenue, containing 84 lots.

Councilman Benstead said he felt that the drainage, as put forth in Item 14 of the letter, "if possible we will work the drainage to Arlington, etc," was not definite enough. Councilman Drale asked if 162nd Street should not be carried on through.

Councilman Benstead moved to refer this back to the Planning Commission with the suggestion that 162nd Street be brought through and definite arrangements be made for drainage. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

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At the request of Councilman Blount, City Clerk Bartlett read the following letter from City Manager Stevens in full:

"I have investigated the condition of the Torrance Bus Depot at 1014 South Hill Street in Los Angeles. The Depot is badly in need of painting and a new floor covering is required. Considering the run-down condition of the building, I found the Depot was kept as clean and presentable as possible.

Mr. Chamberlain has talked with the firm which rents us the building and they have agreed to paint it, but as a matter of policy they will not put on floor covering.

A brief search for another possible location for the Depot was unsuccessful. If the Depot was located north of Olympic Boulevard, the rental would be much greater, the parking area less available, the heavy traffic congestion would result in a longer travel period and increased hazard to the busses, and might even necessitate the addition of a bus to maintain the schedules. I believe it inadvisable to attempt to relocate the Depot under these circumstances.

I recommend that a floor covering be installed in the waiting room and restrooms, the cost for such an installation should not exceed \$150.00. We will request the landlord to paint the rooms.

I recommend that the contracts for operation of the Bus Terminal in Los Angeles by Maybel C. Banks, and the Torrance Depot by Charles Gotts, be extended to September 21, 1956, under the terms of the existing Agreement and at the same commission of 10%."

Councilman Benstead said he felt the \$150.00 for floor coverings would be well spent if the owner of the building would paint the walls. The Councilman also went on record as suggesting that when people buy tickets from Torrance to Long Beach they should be handed tickets on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines and not on other lines.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the expenditure of \$150.00 for floor coverings for the Los Angeles Bus Terminal. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager on extension of the contracts with Maybel C. Banks and Charles Gotts. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Council considered the report of Chief Haslam on the Beaver Brothers, applying for a license to operate a used car lot in Torrance.

Councilman Drale moved to rescind the former action of the City Council granting a license subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved that the license be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read the title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2839

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE COMMENDING ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT THOMAS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO THE CITY IN ESTABLISHING THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS, COMPANY E (BRIDGE) 132ND ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2839. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 776

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACCINATION WITH RABIES VACCINE OF ALL DOGS KEPT OR HARBORED OR BROUGHT WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Blount handed the City Clerk some petitions that had been given to him protesting the Ordinance.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Schwab and Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Drale asked if the audience was to be allowed to speak with regard to this, but the majority of the Council did not wish this.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 776 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen suggested that now the Ordinance has been passed and will become law within 30 days, he felt it was time for the P.T.A., the Ministerial Association, and other groups who have been interested in passage of this Ordinance to prepare to set the machinery in motion for the mass vaccinations.

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that he had met with Messrs. Kavaleric and Duntley regarding their application for a lease of frontage on Pacific Coast Highway for a super-service station and minute car wash as discussed at the last Council meeting. After considering the space which would be necessary for service roads, they have decided that they would go back to Madison Street and 101 Highway, where there will be more room for their operation. This new site will be brought up before the Airport Commission for approval of the lease.

City Manager Stevens reported that it has been found that the City will not need the \$250,000 loan which the Council had given permission to obtain at the last Council meeting.

City Attorney Hall gave the following prices for additional copies of the City Code to the Council:

50 volumes	\$1750
100 volumes	\$1850
200 volumes	\$2125

The City Attorney, when asked, said he thought a price of \$25 would be proper for the City to ask for these, and suggested that he should be directed as to how many copies the City should buy. He suggested further that he be given two weeks to make a survey and find approximately how great the demand would be. There was some discussion on this, and it was so agreed.

Councilman Schwab moved that the price of the City Code be set at \$25.00. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett recommended rescinding action of October 11 regarding the bonds requested for \$250,000.00.

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

City Clerk Bartlett said the State has acquired certain properties, due to delinquent taxes, within the City of Torrance. Mr. Bartlett said that he and Mr. Stevens, the City Manager, think it advisable for the City to acquire these from the State, which could be done at the rate of \$1.00 each.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2840

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDED LAND AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2840. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead said the City Council had, some time ago, voted unanimously to place on the ballot in April the compulsory inoculation of dogs with rabies vaccine. Inasmuch as Ordinance No. 776 has now been adopted by the Council, he said he could see no reason for placing this on the ballot. He moved that the action to place this on the ballot be rescinded. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Blount moved that the Council obtain a new Flag for the Council Chamber. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens to see that the new Flag is bought immediately. The City Manager agreed to do so.

Mayor Isen read a Proclamation proclaiming Monday, October 24, 1955, as United Nations Day in this City, and calling upon our citizens to familiarize themselves with the programs and objectives of United Nations and thus gain a better understanding of its purposes.

Mr. Ted Koletis of 26319 Ward Street presented a petition to the City Clerk as follows:

"We, the undersigned property owners of Meadow Park Tract do protest putting the Sump for Storm drainage in Meadow Park Tract, Lot 2 9, bounded by Hawthorne Blvd., Madison Street, Lomita Blvd., and 236th Street. Since the Planning Commission approved putting the Sump on acreage West of Hawthorne Blvd., we, the Property Owners in this area do protest the above change. In addition we also request that the building restrictions in the above-outlined area be lifted."

The petition bore 113 signatures.

Councilman Benstead moved this petition be filed as a matter of record and that the Planning Commission be given copies of it. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

It was explained to Mr. Koletis that there was nothing the Council could do to change this, and he was told that he might pursue the matter further with the Planning Commission.

Mr. J. B. Mosely, who also lives in the Meadow Park Tract, spoke to the Council, suggesting that the residents of that area be notified of the action planned.

He was advised by the Mayor to contact the City Manager for information on the matter.

The City Manager told Mr. Mosely that when this matter comes before Council for final action there will be a public hearing.

Mr. W. Lee O'Malley, of 2942 Winlock Road, Mr. Delbert Smith of 2818 Dalemead, and Mr. Paul Rininger of 22505 Western Road, and one other resident of that area spoke to the Council regarding alleged violations of the variance granted to the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company.

Councilman Drale moved the City Attorney be instructed to write to the Torrance Sand & Gravel Company and advise them of the allegations, and ask that their representative meet with the Council, City Attorney Hall, and representatives of the home owners in the area at the Pre-Council meeting of October 25, 1955, at 7:00 P. M. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen suggested that the Chief of Police take Mr. George Powell with him and go to the Torrance Sand & Gravel Company early Wednesday, October 19, and make a two-man investigation insofar as possible as to whether or not the conditions of the variance are being observed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P. M.

*A. H. Bartlett*

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

*Albert Isen*

Mayor of the City of Torrance

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