

Torrance, California
November 1, 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 Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on November 1, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall were also present.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Baxter Omohondru led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Stanley opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Blount moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 25 as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A statement of franchise earnings from Pacific Coast Gasoline Company under Resolution No. 2194, together with check in the amount of \$664.72, and covering the period from July 11, 1954, to July 10, 1955.

The Mayor ordered the statement incorporated into the minutes by reference.

2. A letter from Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel, enclosing copy of a letter dated October 4, 1955, from Frank B. Durkee, Director of the Department of Public Works regarding the San Diego Freeway.

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the minutes by reference.

3. A communication from the California State Chamber of Commerce setting the date of the first meeting of the Southern California Conference on Elimination of Air Pollution as Thursday, November 10, at the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel, and inviting members of the Council to attend.

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the minutes by reference.

4. A letter from the Western Oil and Gas Association enclosing a copy of testimony recently given by Mr. Gerald Fisher on behalf of the Association before the Assembly Interim Committee on Public Health, outlining the role of the oil industry in the Los Angeles County smog problem.

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the minutes by reference.

5. Advice from Los Angeles County Road Department, referring to Aid to Cities (Gas Tax) Money, that procedure requested by Committee of Mayors failed to carry, and therefore the present policy is continued.

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the minutes by reference.

6. Recommendation from Los Angeles County Road Department that County aid shall be extended for the improvement of Crenshaw^{et al} this recommendation, with Resolution attached, had gone to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County. (Amount - \$46,004.42)

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

7. A request from the Granger Dancing Academy for permission to use the Civic Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, December 11, for a Christmas

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Program. (Date has been cleared by Recreation Department).

Councilman Blount moved that if the Granger Dancing Academy paid the regular fee for use of the Auditorium they be granted permission to use the Auditorium. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

8. Communication from Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, regarding the lease for NIKE site at Airport.

City Manager Stevens recommended that lease No. DA-04-353-ENG., to the U. S. Government for a guided missile site on the Torrance Municipal Airport be granted, subject to the condition that existing buildings (nose hangar, etc.) located within the leased area will be relocated at U. S. Government expense when the said Government deems necessary the removal of said buildings, the relocation to be to other City-owned property within the Airport boundaries at locations to be selected by the City of Torrance. Also, that existing paved taxiways and tie-down areas, located within the area and whose use is deemed necessary to be discontinued by the Government, will be reconstructed at Government expense on other City-owned property within the Airport boundaries at locations to be selected by the City of Torrance.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

9. A letter dated October 24, 1955, from the Torrance Municipal Water District, signed by A. E. McVicar, Superintendent, advising the Council of status of water service to Tract No. 21588.

The Mayor ordered this incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

10. A letter from the State of California Department of Employment, regarding suggestion that the present City Hall be used as their local office when it has been vacated by the City, and saying it would not be suitable.

This was ordered filed by the Mayor.

11. A letter from Walker & Murphy regarding the delay in execution of contract on Bath House and Natatorium, saying this delay was caused by the strike among the Teamsters of the Rock and Gravel industry. This letter also acknowledged receipt of a copy of change order No. 1.

The Mayor ordered this filed as a matter of record.

12. A letter from George Binder regarding the proposed Parking Assessment District.

The letter was ordered to be filed with other materials on the Parking Assessment District.

13. A letter of thanks from the WALTERIA Business Men's Association for the old WALTERIA Recreation Building.

The Mayor ordered the letter filed as a matter of record.

14. A request from Paul's Chevrolet for permission to erect five new car announcement banners from the light posts in the 1500 and 1600 blocks on Cabrillo for a period of one week, beginning November 3, 1955.

Councilman Drale moved that the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered.

15. City Clerk Bartlett read Robert B. Hilborn's resignation from the Airport Commission, effective November 1, 1955, to the Council.

The letter was ordered filed.

16. A letter from Store Properties, Inc., asking the Council to fix a date and hour when their representatives may meet with the Council

and present changes which they believe should be made a part of their lease at the area referred to as the "Triangle", or "Airport Property." Mayor Isen asked the City Manager to notify all interested persons that this meeting will take place at 7:00 P. M. November 22, 1955, in the Council Chamber, City Hall. City Manager Stevens agreed to do so.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

1. James D. Kirby, Charles B. Oates, Franc A. Sotis and Lonnie A. Brown have been employed as Police Officers, effective November 1, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.)
2. Ruth V. Beck has been employed as Typist-Clerk in the City Clerk's Office on a temporary basis, effective October 31, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.) *see minutes 12/6/55 Pg 4 of minutes*
3. Josephine D. Portlock has been employed as an Account Clerk in the Building Department effective November 1, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.)
4. Earl A. Roberts has been employed as a Construction Inspector on a temporary basis, effective October 17, 1955.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager, 1 through 4 inclusive. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. A letter signed by Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, and George C. Powell, Planning Director, regarding approval of a 10' front yard waiver on Lot 10, Tract 21645. Planning Commission recommends approval. The letter explained that the waiver was necessary and would not interfere with the set-back of the houses on either side.

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

2. A letter from the City Engineer recommending that the Council await the consummation of certain developments in regard to the extension of Del Amo Boulevard westerly from Henrietta Street to Redondo Beach City Limits.

Mayor Isen ordered the letter filed as a matter of record.

3. REVISED TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION NO. 21744: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Revised Tentative Tract Map No. 21744, located southerly of 182nd Street, northerly of 186th Street and Easterly of Prairie Avenue, containing 173 lots, presented by Dartmouth Homes, Inc.

Councilman Blount asked who had the authority to specify that the School Board would install a fence.

Mr. Alex D. Fred, attorney for Dartmouth Homes, said he had talked to Mr. Waldrip of the School District, and had been told by him that it is the policy of the District to install their own fences.

Mayor Isen commented that the Planning Commission had recommended a masonry fence on the 660' northerly line of the subdivision, and Dartmouth Homes had asked to put up a redwood fence instead. The request of Dartmouth Homes was forwarded to Council by Planning Commission without recommendation.

Mayor Isen recommended that City Engineer Bishop's suggestion that drainage be accomplished to the satisfaction of the City Engineer be made a part of the stipulations on this Tract.

There was considerable discussion about the vacation of land for a school site, which the builders had treated as an accomplished act. This land has not been vacated.

City Engineer Bishop was asked to get a letter from the School District telling what their intentions are in that area, their fence specifications, and a full outline of the property in which they are interested there.

The matter was ordered held over to the Council meeting of November 15, at which time Mr. Bishop is to submit the above information.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS REFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The first of these taken up was the matter of the expired terms of Recreation Commissioners Collins, Paget and Olsen, all of whom were serving three-year terms, said terms having expired October 7, 1955.

Mayor Isen made the following appointments to the vacancies:

Claire Olsen

J. H. Paget

Jack C. Brown, of 23805 Park Avenue.

Councilman Blount asked that the record show he objected to the dropping of Mrs. Collins from the Commission. He said she had worked long and diligently, and it was his opinion that by removing her, the Commission would lose a valuable member.

City Attorney Hall pointed out to the Mayor that Ordinance 614 says the terms are for three years, and that a roll call vote should be taken on the appointment of Mr. Brown, the new appointee.

The appointment was confirmed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

Mayor Isen at this time suggested that Ordinance 614 be turned over to the Legal Department for study and proposed amendments. The Mayor expressed an opinion that the Recreation Commission was having to go far beyond its jurisdiction in many matters, and that a separate Park Commission should be set up. He asked the Legal Department to amplify the jurisdictions of these two Commissions, and suggested that the Park Department have the authority to investigate the need for parks, the location of them, means of financing, and all problems that would come within the park program.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

*See MINUTES of Nov. 8, 1955,
PAGE 1 for CORRECTIONS.*

Report from Chief Haslam regarding trucks parked on Gramercy Avenue:

Chief Haslam reported that he had contacted the R. C. Williams Garage regarding the complaints about their trucks, and had been promised that the cause for these complaints would be removed. The Chief went on to say that he had checked several times, and found that no City laws were being violated by the trucks being parked there, as they were not overweight trucks. The Chief said that he had passed the property several times and the trucks were parked on the property owned by the driver of the trucks.

Several of the neighbors who had lodged the complaint with Council some weeks ago were present, and took issue with the Chief's report quite vehemently.

Mayor Isen suggested that Mr. T. K. Millstead, of 2112 Gramercy, as spokesman for this group, meet with Chief of Police Haslam, Mr. Williams, and the City Attorney and attempt to make an effort to reach a suitable settlement of this disagreement.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2845

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE OF FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR SUCH USE.

Councilman Drale moved that this Resolution be tabled for two weeks to allow time for further study. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

ORDINANCE NO. 782

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. 361.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 782. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORDINANCE 783

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. 360.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Ordinance 783 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Blount moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw a Resolution to the County Board of Supervisors informing them that a site will be made available to them in the City of Torrance for a Court. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Attorney draft an ordinance making it mandatory for trucks operating inside the City of Torrance to cover their loads and present the draft to the Council for study. The motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen read a Proclamation declaring the week of November 6 through November 12, 1955, as "Optimist Week", and urging every citizen of Torrance to join in this observance.

Jack Spaan of Barclay Engineering Company presented a new map of Tract 20019 to the Council, showing 162nd Street extended through the Tract, as Council had requested at a previous meeting. Mayor Isen instructed Mr. Spaan to give the map to the City Engineer, who would present this to the Council with a transmittal covering it.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert J. ...
Mayor of the City of Torrance