

Torrance, California
November 15, 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 15, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Administrative Assistant Donald Mansfield led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Stanley opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 8, 1955, and the Adjourned Regular Meeting held November 10, 1955. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, so ordered.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following:

1. A request from the South Bay Church of God, at 17661 Yukon Avenue, requesting permission to present an outdoor Nativity Scene with the aid of a loud speaker December 19 through December 24 from 7:00 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.

This letter had not been duplicated for Council, and Mr. Hallanger therefore read it in full.

Councilman Blount moved that the request be granted, with the stipulation that the City Manager write to the person making the request and specify that the volume of the loud speaker be low enough so that the music will not disturb any neighbor.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, so ordered.

At this time, Mayor Isen asked that the City Clerk's office be instructed that the Council wishes to see all communications sent to them, and in the future all are to be duplicated and presented to the Council.

2. A protest from the Walteria Civic Organization enclosing copies of their letters to the Board of Supervisors and Regional Planning Commission protesting the location of the dump site in the Walteria area.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered filed.

3. A letter from George Binder offering property near Sartori Avenue and Engracia Street to the City for a parking lot with a payment of \$1000 to the present lessee.

City Manager Stevens was asked for his recommendation, but said he did not have the communication in his agenda, but a blank piece of paper with the proper number on it.

It was agreed to hold this over for a week so the City Manager could check this and find whether or not this fee would include removal of the building now on the property, full terms of lease, etc.

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4. A letter from the Civil Service Board, with reference to re-classification of Account Clerk in the Bus Department to "Bus Department Bookkeeper." The Board had approved a request from M. A. Chamberlain with reference to this. This necessitates the establishment of a new classification of "Bus Department Bookkeeper."

Councilman Benstead asked if the City did not have a classification that would take care of this without setting up a special one.

City Manager Stevens replied that we did not. He amplified this to some extent, explaining that this situation should soon be rectified. City Manager Stevens said that in this particular instance he felt the reclassification was justified because of the increase in both the duties and responsibilities of the person doing the work.

Councilman Schwab moved that in fairness to the person involved this request be granted.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

5. Memorandum from the Torrance Board of Education thanking the Council for their offer to allow the Board to review maps of proposed subdivisions, and accepting the offer.

Councilman Drale moved that the Secretary of the Planning Commission be instructed to set up a routine for following through on this.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objection, so ordered by Mayor Isen.

This letter also stated that it is the policy of the District to fence all school sites, and that specifications of the fences are determined by the circumstances of drainage, grade, traffic conditions, and the neighborhood surrounding the schools.

6. Memorandum from the Superintendent of Schools, addressed to City Manager Stevens, giving their agreement with the Tentative Map of Tract No. 21744.

Mayor Isen ordered this letter forwarded to the Planning Commission for follow-up.

7. A memorandum to the City Manager from J. R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, regarding the drainage of the area being developed in the City of Redondo Beach westerly of Hawthorne Avenue and southerly of 174th Street.

City Engineer Bishop was asked for an opinion on this. He said he believed any action taken before the map showing the original contours of the land is obtained would be premature.

City Attorney Hall suggested that the City of Redondo Beach be contacted, as he believes they are now trying to solve the problem of drainage in the area under discussion.

There being no objection, Mayor Isen instructed City Manager Stevens to write and get that information.

8. Request of Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc., to solicit charitable aid within the City during the month of December. This item was referred to this meeting from the Council Meeting of November 8, 1955, at the request of City Clerk Bartlett.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

9. Memorandum from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, outlining suggested procedure for removing articles from the Clerk's office and asking approval of it.

It was agreed by the Council that this will be good office procedure, and some concern was exhibited as to what the procedure had been in the past.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the outlined procedure.

Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered.

10. A letter from the Hi-Shear Rivet Tool Company, dated November 9, 1955, asking that they be allowed to make certain agreements with Buttress & McClellan, Inc., about four acres of the land Hi-Shear has leased from the City.

City Manager Stevens recommended that the request be granted.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager, subject to the approval of the Legal Department.

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

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. Bernice Goodwin has been appointed to serve her probationary period as Stenographer-Clerk in the Administrative Department, effective November 7, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.)

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Barclay Surveying Company, Inc., for engineering services during the month of October 1955, the sum of \$815.00.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager.

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

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens for his oral recommendations, and suggested that henceforth the City Manager should make these at the time his written recommendations are acted upon.

City Manager Stevens recommended that the Council approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the Water District No. 3 to the City General Fund, this to be returned on or before June 30, 1956.

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

City Manager Stevens presented the final plans for the "face-lifting" and rearrangement of the Water Department offices to the Council, and estimated that the final cost would be between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars.

Councilman Benstead moved the plans be approved.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

City Manager Stevens said the residents in the area adjoining a fence surrounding a sump at the former border-line of Torrance and Redondo want to remove the fence and beautify the area. The City Manager said the fence had served out its usefulness, and that a good wire fence had been erected nearby to replace it. He recommended that permission be given to the people interested to remove the fence.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

City Manager Stevens said he was not prepared to make a final recommendation on the so-called "burning ordinances". He said three had been submitted to him for study, and that they conflicted in many points.

He said it seems to him that ~~the best~~ of the three for Torrance would be the recommendation of the Committee of Mayors, because they propose burning in the morning, which is the best time under our local conditions. The City Manager said he had turned the three proposed ordinances over to Fire Chief Benner for his study.

Mayor Isen thanked the City Manager, and said he would inform the Committee of Mayors that the recommendation would be along that line.

AIRPORT COMMISSION MATTERS:

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following:

1. A letter from R. C. Herrick, President of the Torrance Airport Commission recommending approval of the request of Brian Bruce Markely to sub-lease hangar to Edward Driscoll. Transmittal dated November 8.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Airport Commission.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Case No. 366. Transmittal form from Planning Commission which recommended approval of request of Mrs. Mary McCallison for Variance to construct addition to dwelling at 1604 Elm Avenue.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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

2. Letter from Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, regarding Dominguez Channel overflow conditions, and presenting the letter from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District on this same subject. Also attached was a copy of Mr. Bishop's letter dated September 15, 1955, to Col. H. E. Hedger, Chief Engineer, Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Councilman Blount asked that the City Council be given information as to the amount of money spent by the City of Torrance for the Flood Control District in the past ten years. City Manager Stevens said he would be glad to give them this information at the next Council meeting.

City Engineer Bishop's letter recommended that a flood warning note be required on the final map of all tracts in the vicinity of the Channel at the discretion of the City Engineer.

This was discussed at some length, and it was agreed by the Council that this should be done. There were no objections, and the policy was ordered by Mayor Isen.

City Engineer Bishop's letter also recommended that developers be required to raise their grading plan a minimum of six inches above the lowest elevations approved by the Flood Control District in the vicinity of the Channel.

Councilman Schwab questioned the effect of this on the tracts already in existence in that area.

Councilman Schwab asked if a meeting could be arranged between the Council and the two County Supervisors who should be made aware of the Torrance problem, namely Burton Chase and Kenneth Hahn.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens to arrange such a meeting.

Councilman Schwab suggested that after such meeting has taken place it might be a good plan to arrange to take the Supervisors on a tour of the areas in question.

City Manager Stevens said he would make plans for such a tour.

The Council discussed the City Engineer's last recommendation in this letter, which was "that the City determine who is legally responsible for the proper maintenance of the existing pipe culvert crossings". Mayor Isen instructed City Attorney Hall to study this and give the Council the information.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Engineer that a flood warning note be required on the final map of all tracts in the vicinity of the Channel at the discretion of the City Engineer and that developers be required to raise their grading plan a minimum of six inches above the lowest elevations approved by the Flood Control District.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objection, and the policy is so ordered by the Mayor.

3. Letter from Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommending release of Subdivision Improvement Bonds on Tracts 17390 and 19103, with the following attached: (a) letter from C. W. Clemmer, Park Superintendent, approving trees in Tract 17390; (b) letter from C. W. Clemmer, Park Superintendent, approving trees in Tract 19103; (c) sketch showing location of tracts mentioned.

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

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4. Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, recommending approval of the request of Quinton Engineers to connect NIKE site sewer main (just outside of Torrance City Limits) to the existing sewer in Barbara Street within our City Limits. Following attached: (a) letter from Quinton Engineers; (b) sketch showing plan of proposed sewer.

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

5. Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, recommending approval of County of Los Angeles' request to connect to Walnut Street Sewer. A copy of letter from County of Los Angeles, Department of Engineers, attached.

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

6. REVISED TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 21744. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission RESUBMITTED, as requested by Council at its meeting of November 1, 1955. Tract is located southerly of 182nd Street, northerly of 186th Street and easterly of Prairie Avenue, containing 173 lots, presented by Dartmouth Homes, Inc.

The action on this Tract had been postponed until a reply was received from the Board of Education regarding the proposed school in the area.

Councilman Benstead asked what is north of this tract, and was told that most of the land is vacant.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, with the specific stipulation that special attention is to be given the stipulations of that Commission.

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

7. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 19581. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 19581, located at the junction of 166th Street and Cerise Avenue

northerly of Tract No. 18540, containing 11 lots, and presented by the B. & A. Investment Company. Attached were (a) letter from J. R. Patrick dated September 6, 1955; (b) letter from L. A. County Flood Control District dated September 20, 1955; (c) location sketch of tract; (d) copy of Planning Commission minutes.

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

8. TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 20252. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 20252, located southerly of Dominguez Channel, westerly of Arlington Avenue and northerly of 170th Street, containing 27 lots, and presented by Property Management Corporation. Attached were the following: (a) letter of J. R. Patrick dated October 5, 1955; (b) letter from Los Angeles County Flood Control District; (c) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of November 2, 1955; (d) location sketch.

City Engineer Bishop pointed out that the Flood Control Report on this particular tract pinpoints the lots subject to flooding.

Councilman Blount said the persons buying these lots should have this knowledge.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of the Engineering Department and Planning Commission.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, lost by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Blount. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

Councilman Blount said he would vote for approval of this tract if he could get some assurance that the buyers of the lots subject to flooding were so informed before they bought the lots.

Councilman Blount then moved that this be referred back to the

Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger 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 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 adoption of Resolution No. 2845. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2849

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING AND/OR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS DURING THE PENDENCY OF ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE VARIOUS STATE LAWS APPLICABLE THERETO, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2849. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 784

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF REESE ROAD, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance 784. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 784 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 785

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF VIA COLUSA, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Ordinance 785 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief of Police Haslam asked to arrange a meeting with the Traffic Commission very soon. Mayor Isen suggested Thursday, November 17, at noon. It was agreed that this would be a suitable time.

City Attorney Hall said he had copies of the Civil Service Ordinance and would distribute them to the Council for study if they so desired. The City Attorney said this had been before the Civil Service Board, who had made changes which he had not had an opportunity to draft. He said copies of this had also been sent to the County, but since that time our contract with them had been cancelled, so it comes up again as to whether or not the Council wants to consider a revision of this.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if he recalled which group wanted to meet with the Attorney and Council and discuss this.

City Attorney Hall said Section 13, the section in question, had been changed.

Councilman Benstead said he thought it should be discussed with the employees' organization who had asked to discuss it.

Councilman Drale asked if this Ordinance brought all the Civil Service ordinance into one, and whether or not it delineated the duties of the Civil Service Board, as well as the authority they have.

City Attorney Hall replied that this ordinance clarified the points mentioned.

Councilman Benstead expressed his opinion that something should be adopted on this in the near future.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall to prepare the changes made by the Civil Service Board and bring the ordinance and those changes to the next Council meeting for distribution to the Councilmen for study.

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140 City Attorney Hall then brought up the fact that two or three years ago it had been necessary to spill waters which threatened the safety of a school and some homes in the Riviera area over private property. The owners of the property had sued the City. He said the Court has indicated that its judgement will be that the City pay the cost of removing the asphalt, and that there will be an injunction against such use of the property unless the City goes through condemnation proceedings. City Attorney Hall recommended that the City accept this judgement.

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

Councilman Benstead said he had been called concerning a school crossing at Rolling Hills Road and Dalemead, and asked the Chief of Police to see that this crossing is marked.

Councilman Drale said that the crossing would be inspected when the Traffic Commission meets on Thursday, and Mayor Isen also expressed the intent of the Commission to check the crossing on Thursday.

Mr. Morning, representing the Kissel Construction Company, read a letter to the Council. The letter was addressed to Mr. Stevens, the City Manager. In the letter, Kissel Construction Company explained that due to the strike which is now going on in the sand and gravel industry, and in order to complete the access road which is needed for the Kissel developments in the Riviera section of Torrance, they are asking for permission to erect a mixing plant so the road can be built. Mr. Morning said this would be done subject to approval of the City Engineer, and the concrete used would be subject to tests required by the City Engineer.

Councilman Schwab moved to grant the approval requested, with the stipulation that the City Engineer approve the location of the plant and the operation of it.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Mr. S. H. Burns of 5880 West 8th Street said he was planning to build on his property at the intersection where Torrance Boulevard and 213th Street join Cabrillo Avenue. He said that when the property had been cleaned after the disastrous fire there several years ago, some suitable debris had been left to help fill in the foundations of future buildings. He said this debris had been cleaned away at the insistence of the City, at a cost of \$1400 to him. He says he has now been billed for \$207 by the City Dump on this same material. He says the land will have to be filled for building, and under the circumstances he asked the City to waive the \$207 dumping fee.

Mayor Isen directed Mr. Burns to write a letter to the City Manager and itemize the expense of clearing the land.

Councilman Drale suggested the matter be considered later.

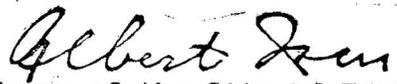
Councilman Benstead moved that all bills properly audited be paid, Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved to adjourn to 7:00 P. M.; November 22, 1955. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Council adjourned at 6:50 P. M.

By 
I. J. HALLANGER
Deputy City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor-of the City of Torrance

November 15, 1955