

Torrance, California
December 20, 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 December 20, 1955, at 5:30 P. M.

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

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

The Reverend Northrop opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held December 13, 1955, as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

HEARINGS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and date set for public hearing on Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Torrance repealing Appendix I in its entirety, of "The Code", and substituting a new Zoning Ordinance therefor, which shall be known as Appendix I.

Councilman Blount protested, saying the Ordinance has not been published.

Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer confirmed that this had not been done. Mr. Remelmeyer said he believed it would require published notice. Mayor Isen asked if that meant, in case this is adopted as an Ordinance after its second reading, it has to be published again.

Mr. Remelmeyer replied that he believed we must give notice to the public of the Hearing, in order that they may speak regarding this if they wish.

Councilman Drale said he went along with Councilman Blount on this. He expressed his opinion that it should be published.

Mayor Isen asked who should publish this, and Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer replied that ordinarily this is done by the City Clerk's Office, but that the City Attorney's office had agreed to prepare this Notice.

Councilman Blount told Mayor Isen that it had been his thought that this should not be passed until there was no shadow of a doubt that every thing which should be done had been done.

Mayor Isen agreed, and asked Mr. Remelmeyer how long a period should transpire between publication of the Notice and action by the City Council.

Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer replied that "a reasonable time" was the requirement, and that a period of ten days was customary.

Councilman Drale moved that the Legal Department take the necessary action to assure publication of the Notice ten days before date of the Hearing.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A transmittal from the West Basin Municipal Water District, dated December 8, 1955, signed by Carl Fossette, General Manager, and enclosing a Certified Copy of their Resolution 280, to approve short term borrowing of funds for construction purposes.

This letter was ordered filed as a matter of record.

2. A letter from John B. Feltes, Recording Secretary of Local 218, International Brotherhood of Operative Potters, asking about the possibility of having a stop light installed in front of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation, or having some other method of traffic control there between the hours of 7:00 A. M. and 7:30 A. M. and from 4:00 P. M. to 4:30 P. M.

Councilman Drale moved this be referred to the Traffic Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

Mayor Isen directed City Manager Stevens to reply to this letter, and outline to the writer the action concerned in getting the traffic light at the entrance to the Douglas Aircraft Company on Western Avenue, and that the request had been referred to the Traffic Commission.

3. Copy of a letter from James M. Hall, City Attorney, dated December 16, 1955, to Mr. William W. Leavitt, regarding water service to Tract No. 21588. A copy of Mr. Leavitt's letter to the City of Torrance Water Department under date of December 7, 1955, was attached.

Councilman Blount moved that City Attorney Hall be advised that the City Council concurred with his reply and that the letters be filed. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, so ordered.

4. Petition sent by Ralph Bezanson, bearing 38 signatures, and received in the office of the City Clerk on December 14, 1955, requesting the reappointment of R. S. Whitcomb to the Planning Commission.

This was ordered filed as a matter of record.

5. A letter from Mrs. Gordon Rogers, of 22603 Anza Avenue, dated December 12, 1955, asking what could be done to have stop signs put in at the corner of Anza and 226th Street.

This was referred to the Traffic Commission, and the City Clerk directed to inform Mrs. Rogers of the action taken.

6. A missive signed by John K. Kesson, President of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, Inc., dated December 13, 1955, and giving their whole-hearted approval of the annexation of the El Nido area.

Councilman Drale went on record as saying the El Nido area should be annexed to the City of Torrance, and will be a valuable addition to the City.

Councilman Drale moved this annexation be placed on the agenda of the next Regular Meeting of the Council.

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

Mayor Isen directed Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to notify both the El Nido Civic Organization and the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association of this action in order that they may be present and be heard if they so desire.

7. Letter of commendation to the Council from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, dated December 13, 1955, and signed by John K. Kesson, President, on the clean-up campaign. The letter assured the Council of their support.

The letter was ordered filed as a matter of record.

8. Request from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, dated December 14, 1955, and signed by their President, for the installation of traffic signals at 182nd Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. This letter also asked the status of the request for installation of traffic signals at 174th Street and Yukon Avenue.

The request for a signal at 182nd Street and Crenshaw was referred to the Traffic Commission, and the Deputy City Clerk was instructed to write to the Association and inform them of that action.

City Manager Stevens was directed to write a letter to the Association and outline to them the present status of the proposed signal at 174th Street and Yukon Avenue.

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9. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full the following letter from the Home Savings and Loan Association of Los Angeles dated December 16, 1955, and signed by Kl D. Childs, Jr., Construction Division.

"Re: Move-ins Tract 18747

Gentlemen:

Due to the present Rock & Gravel Strike we are unable to pave the streets in the above tract although the houses on Antonio Street are now ready for occupancy. There are many families who have purchased homes on said Antonio Street who are in dire need of a place to live; we, therefore, request that your Honorable Body issue a waiver of the existing ordinance which requires the streets in a tract to be paved prior to the occupancy of any house in the tract. We have oiled the subject street to the specifications of your Engineering Department and it is now level, hard and passable.

The lots involved in this request are Lots 27 to 76 inclusive, Tract 18747, Book 554, Pages 6 to 8 of Maps.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

Councilman Drale moved this be referred to the Staff meeting on Monday morning for their recommendation.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, who commented that he thought the Staff should carefully consider the stipulations made in other cases of this nature.

10. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following memorandum to the Council from the City Clerk's office:

"We have received Resolutions requesting the Board of Supervisors to establish a Municipal Court in Torrance from the following organizations. See attached sample.

Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 of the American Legion
Civitan Club of Torrance
General Petroleum Unit of Local 1-519 OCAW-CIO
Government & Civic Employees Organizing
Committee - CIO Local 1135

Kiwanis Club of Torrance
Ladies Auxiliary to Post 3251- Veterans of Foreign Wars
Legion of Guardsmen Torrance Post 7
Lioness Club of Torrance
Loyal Order of Moose No. 785
North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, Inc.
Pilot Club of Torrance
Torrance Exchange Club
United Steelmakers of America L. U. 1414
Walteria Parent Teacher Association
Torrance - Lomita Realty Board
Nativity Mothers Club
Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce
Business & Professional Women's Club of Torrance
Ladies Guild of the Central Evangelical Church
Optimist Club of Torrance
Torrance Lions Club, Inc.
Torrance Terrace Garden Club.

Dated: December 16, 1955"

A copy of the Resolution adopted by these organizations was attached. Councilman Drale moved these Resolutions be forwarded to the Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to be read at their next regular meeting.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered. Mayor Isen instructed Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to write a letter

to the County Board of Supervisors and send these Resolutions to them for the Agenda of their next meeting.

Councilman Blount said he felt more attention would be gained if the letter was presented by some of the Councilmen themselves, and suggested that he and Councilman Drale take the letter and the Resolutions and present them to the Supervisors.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that Councilmen Blount and Drale should take the letter written by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger and the Resolutions to the Supervisors, and take care of the matter from there on at their own discretion, but with the privilege of conferring with the offices of the City Attorney, City Manager, or City Council if they wish to do so.

11. A recommendation from James M. Hall, City Attorney, that the Charter be amended re appointment of Assistant City Attorney. This dated December 16, 1955.

Mayor Isen commented that this had been taken care of at the Pre-Council Meeting, and the letter was ordered filed.

12. A letter dated December 20, 1955, from John V. Russell, Superintendent of Building, with reference to the application of the Richfield Oil Company to place two ground signs on their property at 18166 Crenshaw Boulevard.

This had been referred to tonight's meeting of the Council from the Regular Meeting of December 13.

There was a short discussion between the Councilmen of this request, and Councilman Drale moved that to avoid any discrimination, this request be granted.

The Council was informed by Councilman Benstead that the Ordinance governing such signs is being rewritten.

Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer said the Attorney's office is working on this and will bend every effort to present the new Ordinance to the Council at their Regular Meeting of December 27.

Councilman Drale rescinded his motion, and moved this request be tabled until the new Ordinance is presented to the Council. There was no objection and it was so ordered.

13. A request from Grand Construction Company, Inc., that buyers of homes in their Tract 20803 be permitted to move into homes completed in that tract before the streets are completed. The request is based on the hardships being caused by the rock and gravel strike, and stipulated that waivers would be signed by people moving into the tract.

Councilman Drale moved this request be referred to the Staff meeting on Monday morning as the similar request earlier in the evening had been, and with the same recommendations.

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

14. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following letter in full:

"Reference: Bid on Modernization of Torrance Water Department Building.

Gentlemen:

On Tuesday, December 13, 1955, bids were due in the City Clerk's office at 5:00 P. M. according to the official public notice inviting bids for the above mentioned project.

It is my understanding that one of the bids was not received until 8:00 P. M. Therefore, if this be true, as a matter of principle, I shall have to protest the acceptance of the above mentioned bid.

Although I was not affected by what I believe to have been the improper procedure, I feel that if such an incident passes by uncontested, that it will serve as a precedent for any future discrepancies in the building procedure.

I know that you, gentlemen, realize the importance of deadlines and the advantages of a few hours in the preparation of a bid. As an inter-

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ested local contractor, I am confident that the whole incident will merit your most generous reconsideration.

Yours truly,
S/Don B. Wolf
General Contractor"

City Manager Stevens recalled to the Council that the matter of the one bid being late had been reported to the Council at the time, and that the Council had agreed to consider the bid along with the others. The City Manager said he had since talked to City Attorney Hall about the bids, and the City Attorney said that while he was not prepared to make a definite ruling on this, he felt that if a protest was received he would have to rule that we could not award the contract to the person who bid late if he should be the low bidder. The City Manager said while this was not a conclusive ruling, he was not prepared to make a recommendation to the Council on the bids.

The City Manager went on to say that Mr. Ames, the late bidder, was the low bidder. Mr. Stevens added that two of the sub-contractors on the bid were known to Mr. Varner, who did not feel that they were the most suitable for the work that the City will demand. He said that Mr. Ames, upon being made aware of this, had agreed to change these two sub-contractors.

Councilman Benstead asked City Manager Stevens if, when the bid had come in late, it had not been pointed out to the Council that the time of acceptance of bids had been published as 8:00 P. M.

City Manager Stevens said not in the official publication, but in the "Green Sheet", which most contractors use as a guide.

Mr. Ames was in the audience, and spoke to the Council. He said the specifications given to him had not contained a statement of the closing time for the bids. He said he had gone by the Green Sheet, which is a publication recognized by contractors.

The Council discussed its right to refuse all these bids, and call for new ones.

Mr. Ames said he would rather withdraw his bid than have this done. He said the Council has every right to weigh all the requirements, and expressed the opinion that this resolved to a moral issue, and that no legal points would hold sway.

Councilman Blount suggested that the Council postpone action of any kind until a final ruling can be obtained from City Attorney Hall.

Mayor Isen agreed, and said he would like to have a written opinion from the City Attorney's office by the next meeting of the Council. There was no objection and it was so ordered.

15. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following letter signed by Stanley E. Remelmeyer, Assistant City Attorney, and dated December 20, 1955:

"SUBJECT: Responsibility for Maintenance of Dominguez Channel.

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the instructions of your Honorable Body I have investigated the legal responsibility for the maintenance of the existing pipe culvert crossings in the Dominguez Channel.

It is my opinion that the County Flood Control District is responsible for the maintenance of said pipe culvert crossings.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES M. HALL
City Attorney
By Stanley E. Remelmeyer."

The communication was ordered filed.

At this time, City Engineer Bishop introduced to the Council Mr. W. J. Manetta, who is in charge of the Investigating Division of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and Mr. Roy Purdy, who prepares the letters containing the flood hazard reports which the City received from the Flood

Control District.

Mayor Isen requested Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to mail a copy of the opinion from the Attorney's office to Mr. Manetta, and asked that Mr. Manetta refer this to the County's counsel for their opinion on the responsibility for maintenance of the Dominguez Channel in order that this may be agreed.

City Engineer Bishop suggested that the Councilmen would be able to get the definitions of the various terms used in flood hazard reports from these two gentlemen at dinner.

Mayor Isen replied that some of the Councilmen might not be able to meet with them at dinner after the meeting, and asked if the Council might, therefore, get some information from these men now.

Mr. Purdy explained at some length to the Council the function of the County Flood Control District, which is to guide the County and the various Citities in the planning of their construction to avoid flood hazards whenever possible. Mr. Purdy had with him, and presented to the Councilmen, sheets giving the definitions, as used by the County Flood Control District, of flood hazards.

At the request of Mayor Isen, copies were also given to the Press.

Mr. Purdy then read these definitions to the Council.

(Sheet dated January 1955, Revised May 28, 1948)

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- Inundation is used to indicate ponded water or water in motion of sufficient depth to damage property due to the mere presence of water or to deposition of silt.
- Flood Hazard indicates overflow water having sufficient velocity to transport or deposit debris, to scour the surface soil, or to dislodge or damage buildings. It also indicates erosion of the banks of watercourses.
- Possible flood hazard indicates possible extension of areas denoted as subject to "flood hazard," also the uncertainty of degree or extent of bank erosion.
- Sheet overflow This type of overflow indicates water of minor depths, either quiescent or flowing, at velocities less than those necessary to produce serious scour. We consider this type of overflow as a nuisance rather than a menace to the property affected.
- Ponding of local storm water indicates standing water in local depressions As distinguished from sheet overflow, this water originates on or in the vicinity of the property and due to the condition of the ground surface is unable to reach a street or drainage course.
- To indicate the frequency with which these various hazards may occur we use the following terms:
- Frequent Is used when a condition can occur at intervals of ten years or less when averaged over a long period of time. For example, over a 500 year period, a "frequent" hazard may be expected to occur at least 50 times. Several of these conditions may occur in a single decade or there may be no such occurrence for a period of time much greater than 10 years.
- Infrequent is used to denote an average interval between occurrences of more than 10 years.
- Remote is used when the occurrence is dependent upon conditions which do not lend themselves to frequency analysis, such as a stream diversion from its present bed due to the breach of channel bank, deposition of debris or other channel obstructions.

Mr. Purdy said these same definitions had been adopted by San Bernardino County, Orange County, San Diego County, and Santa Barbara County.

Councilman Drale told Mr. Purdy that there is a wide channel between Western and Vermont, but that beyond Western there is nothing, and he thinks the bottleneck in drainage is in that area. He asked what the plans

of the County Flood Control are for that condition.

Mr. Purdy replied that he had written a letter to the City Engineer containing that information, but that he would hesitate to quote dates or plans without references.

Mr. Manetta told the Council that there was a comprehensive plan, and that in their budget for this year and next there is a sum of four million dollars for the improvement of the Channel. He said they had two million dollars for the improvement of the Channel above Main Street, and plan to begin work in 1957. He said they will start at Vermont and go upstream. Some expensive bridges are to be built there, he said, and from the best estimate they can make at present of funds they will have available, he believes it will be about three years before they reach Redondo Beach Boulevard with this work and another two or three years before they have the channel done to Crenshaw.

Councilman Blount told Mr. Manetta that the City of Torrance has put \$1,400,000 into the Flood Control District and had not had five cents worth of good out of it.

Mr. Manetta replied that the Dominguez Channel to date has cost the Flood Control District over \$4,000,000.

Councilman Blount replied that he knew that, but it would be another three years before Torrance was fully benefited, if his understanding of the plans of the District was correct.

Mr. Manetta replied that an initial unit had been put in the City. He agreed that the Channel has less than a quarter of the capacity planned for it, and said it will be two or three years before it was really activated in this area; he said, however, that in many parts of the County it will be longer.

Councilman Blount remarked that we had not even had maintenance of the culverts of the Channel for our money. He questioned whether or not the plans of the Flood Control District could be changed by the Board of Supervisors, and was told that they could.

It was suggested by Mayor Isen that further discussion of the problems concerning Torrance and the Flood Control District be postponed until later.

16. A ruling from the City Attorney's office, dated December 20, 1955 and signed by Stanley Remelmeyer, regarding the City paying premium prices on concrete for the swimming pool, as suggested by the contractor. This ruling was requested by the Council at the meeting of December 13, 1955.

Councilman Drale moved that City Manager Stevens be authorized to inform the contractor that the City will not pay the premium on this work.

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

17. A procedure to be followed by applicants for taxicab licenses outline for the Council as prepared for the City Council by the office of the City Attorney, dated December 20, 1955, and signed by Stanley Remelmeyer.

Councilman Drale moved to hold this until the next regular meeting for further study. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, so ordered.

AWARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS

City Manager Stevens recommended that the Council accept the bid of Essick Machinery Company in the amount of \$3358.60 on the air compressor on which they had bid.

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

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2856

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF FLORENCE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

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 adoption of Resolution No. 2856. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. A letter from Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommending release of subdivision improvement bond for Tract No. 17378. Letter from Park Superintendent and sketch attached.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Engineer to release the bond for Tract No. 17378.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale at this time asked City Manager Stevens if Hickman Drive was not to be paved, and the City Manager replied that if it were not for the strike this would already have been done, and that it would be done when the time comes that it is possible.

3. TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 20252: Letter from Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, regarding solution to flood hazard on this tract, as requested by the City Council at its meeting of December 6, 1955. Transmittal form and attachments resubmitted.

City Engineer Bishop assured the Council that the streets in the tract have been raised and that this will now be an excellent tract.

In reply to a question from Councilman Schwab, City Engineer Bishop said all that could be done to make this tract safe from flood hazard has been done.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Engineer.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

4. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 20829 - REVISED: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Revised Tract Map No. 20829. Attached: Letter from J. R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, dated November 16, 1955, Planning Commission Minutes of November 16, 1955, and sketch of tract.

City Engineer Bishop said some lots had been deleted here, which is permitted under the Ordinance.

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

5. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 21725: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 21725. Attached: Letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, dated December 16, 1955; Los Angeles County Flood Control report dated November 30, 1955; excerpt from minutes of Planning Commission dated December 14, 1955; letter from Dominguez Water Corporation dated November 29, 1955.

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City Engineer Bishop told the Council that this was substantially the same as approved Tentative tract map had been. He said his letter comments on the documents which we should get.

Mr. Bishop then said he had been told by Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer that there was a technical difficulty in the drainage easement which would have to be cleared up.

Mr. Wilson, of Kauffman-Wilson Construction Company, builder of this Tract, said the difficulty had been corrected.

The Council discussed this matter at some length with Mr. Wilson.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and City Engineer, subject to the stipulation that this have the approval of the Legal Department in writing.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Schwab asked Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer if this met with his approval, and was told that it did.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

6. Recommendations from the Planning Commission for approval of the following:

- a. George W. Lundquist - Willard W. Lundbom (co-owners) 24257 Ward Street. Requesting waiver of 20' front yard setback from the lot line requirement.

Councilman Blount asked what the setback would be under the waiver, and Planning Director Powell, who was present, replied that it would be fifteen feet.

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

- b. Recommendation from the Planning Commission that the City Council start necessary procedure for the detachment and annexation outlined in tentative map and letter from Mr. Kettler, as shown in: Knolls Construction Co. (J. E. Kettler) Application re detachment and annexation proposal, City of Torrance, per letter of explanation and tentative map submitted.

Mr. Powell said this was where the Los Angeles and Torrance Boundaries meet, and that there is a section where the lots overlap. This is an even exchange of land which is suggested, and would straighten out the boundary in this area. Mr. Powell said he and City Manager Stevens had met with a City of Los Angeles engineer, and it was agreed that this would be simply a relocation action.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Planning Director George Powell told the Council that the Ordinance governing sumps, etc., would be effective December 23, and he asked that he be directed to present his report next week at the Council meeting.

There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

2. Planning Director Powell reported that the two dilapidated buildings south of Sepulveda Boulevard and east of Hawthorne Boulevard which were reported at the last regular meeting of the Council by Councilman Benstead have been demolished.

3. City Manager Stevens reported that he had hoped to have a letter from the Airport Manager regarding the conditions reported to the Council

by the Airport Commission. The letter has not yet arrived, and the City Manager asked to have this report postponed for a week.

There was no objection and it was so ordered.

4. City Manager Stevens had been asked at the last regular meeting of the Council to report at this meeting his recommendation about paying the premium price for concrete and related materials for the swimming pool.

The City Manager pointed out that action had already been taken on this earlier in the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2857

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING EXECUTION OF LEASE AND MODIFICATION OF LEASE WITH HDY'S PACIFIC-CRENSHAW, INC.

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 adoption of Resolution No. 2857. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 787

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING A WATER COMMISSION, FIXING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS THEREOF, ESTABLISHING THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND FIXING THE TERMS OF OFFICE THEREON.

Mayor Isen said this had been discussed with the Manager of the Water Department at the Pre-Council Meeting, and the question now is whether the Councilmen still approve the Ordinance creating a Water Commission or whether they want to remove it from the Agenda.

Councilman Blount said he has at no time been able to see the reason for this Commission.

Councilman Schwab said he felt somewhat the same way.

Councilman Benstead said he felt it would help the Department to have such a Commission.

Councilman Drale said this revenue-producing Department should have a Commission to aid in their work.

Mayor Isen said that after hearing what Superintendent McVicar of the Water Department had to say, he thought that regardless of anything else, Section 5 of this Ordinance should be rewritten.

Councilman Blount moved that this Ordinance be tabled. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen moved the City Attorney confer with the Superintendent of the Water Department with alternative writings of Section 5 of this Ordinance, because he thinks as written it would hamstring the Department.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, failed by the following roll call vote: YES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Schwab explained to Councilman Drale that it was his thinking that it would be difficult to get men qualified to efficiently carry on the work of such a Commission.

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Councilman Drale replied that he thought these Commissioners, carefully chosen, could be laymen, as are members of the Board of Education, the Councilmen, and many other administrative officers and Commissioners of the City.

ORDINANCE NO. 789

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING TO STANDARD GAS COMPANY, AN IDAHO CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A PIPELINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

Mr. Mece, representing the Standard Gas Company, said the publication and bid both say "Pipelines" instead of "Pipeline", as written here.

After a short discussion, Mayor Isen instructed Deputy City Clerk Hallanger that it was the intent of this Ordinance that the word "Pipelines" be substituted for "Pipeline", and that the word "a", immediately preceding the word "Pipeline" be struck from the title of this Ordinance.

The Deputy City Clerk said the correction would be made.

Councilman Schwab moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 789 as corrected at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens to have the proposed Ordinance covering rubbish collection charges before the Council at the next regular meeting. The City Manager said he would make every effort to do so.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Isen asked Deputy City Clerk Hallanger for a report on City Clerk Bartlett's indisposition, and Mr. Hallanger replied that he had called on Mr. Bartlett just last evening. He reported that City Clerk Bartlett is quite ill.

Mayor Isen asked the Deputy City Clerk to extend to Mr. Bartlett the regrets of the Council at his illness.

City Manager Stevens said the Comprehensive Liability and Property Damage insurance of the City should be renewed, and the cost for the next year will be \$23,957.87. The City Manager said this showed an increase over last year's cost for this insurance, but in view of the growth of the City and the other factors involved, he recommended approval of this matter.

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

City Manager Stevens said Del Amo Boulevard has been graded and oiled, and should have been paved, but due to the rock and gravel strike this work has not been done. He said there had been an opportunity to get this done by paying a premium on the materials, and that the premium would reach a total of over a thousand dollars. He said this was an area with adobe soil, and in case of rain it could cause great inconvenience to have the street unpaved.

Councilman Benstead asked if the sidewalks and gutters are in, and City Manager Stevens replied that the curbs and gutters are in.

Councilman Benstead moved that the City Manager proceed to have this work done.

Councilman Drale suggested that the Council wait another week before taking action, as it is hoped the strike will be over by that time.

Councilman Benstead withdrew his motion, and it was agreed to wait for another week before considering this.

City Manager Stevens said he would send to the Councilmen this weekend a resume of a question on the inter-communication system in the new Civic Center. He said the time has come to decide whether there will be a separate inter-communication system or whether we will use the telephone company's system. He said the cost is very nearly the same, but a decision is necessary.

City Manager Stevens told the Council that in past years, the City Hall has closed at noon on Christmas Eve, and asked the wishes of the Council on closing at noon on Friday, December 23rd, this year.

There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

City Manager Stevens said he had a letter on Bond Interest and Redemption Funds of the City and Water Department which Deputy City Clerk Hallanger should read.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following:

"Subject: BOND INTEREST AND REDEMPTION FUNDS OF THE CITY AND WATER DEPARTMENT.

Coalition of the Torrance MWD #3 Bond Interest and Redemption Account and the City of Torrance Bond Interest and Redemption Accounts (1954 and 1955) into a single account to be known as "City of Torrance Bond and Coupon Redemption Account" is recommended because:

Due date interest coupon payments and matured bond payments are, in the majority, paid by Agent Banks in New York City and Chicago who draw on Bank of America Accounts. Bank of America, in turn, draws on City of Torrance account for their reimbursement. The Bank of America in Los Angeles must await actual receipt of the coupons and/or bonds to ascertain whether the payments were made for Water Department obligations or for those of the City. The bonds and/or coupons are received by Bank of America periodically, and they issue to us a memorandum of the withdrawal, and all bonds and coupons are forwarded to the City Treasurer with a statement each month for payments which they have made.

The use of a single Bond and Coupon Redemption Account by municipalities is a general or nationwide practice, according to officials of the Bank of America. I understand the City of Los Angeles has some eighty or more bond issues handled through a single account.

Authorization for transfer of the Water Department and City Bond Interest and Redemption Accounts to a new account titled "City of Torrance Bond and Coupon Redemption Account" should be made as soon as possible. Date of the transfer should be retroactive to December 1, 1955, since some of the 1954 bonds and interest payments have already become due and were paid by Bank of America.

S/I. J. Hallanger, Accountant
Dated December 20, 1955."

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager if he would recommend this, and City Manager Stevens said it seemed logical to him, if such action is legal.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager subject to approval of the Legal Department.

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

Councilman Blount told the Council that he would be away on vacation next week, and that tomorrow was his birthday.

The Mayor said that the Council wished Councilman Blount "Happy Birthday", without singing, and incorporated it into the record.

Mayor Isen said Councilman Blount and Councilman Drale were to take

the letter from the Deputy City Clerk and the Resolutions regarding the establishment of a Court in Torrance to the Board of Supervisors. He asked them to be sure to emphasize to the Supervisors that the City of Torrance would donate the land for the Court.

Mayor Isen asked the Deputy City Clerk to have prepared copies of the Resolution for the Councilmen to take with them to the Supervisors' meeting and present a copy to each Supervisor. He suggested that when this is done, the Councilmen point out to the Supervisors that part of the Resolution which stipulates that Torrance will donate the land.

The Mayor said the Council hopes that everyone has a very merry and happy Christmas.

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

The Council adjourned at 7:35 P. M.

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

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance