

Torrance, California
January 31, 1956

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 January 31, 1956, at 5:30 P. M.

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

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

The Reverend Milton Sippel opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings of January 24, 1956, and January 25, 1956, as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objection, so ordered.

Mayor Isen expressed the thanks of the Council to everyone who aided during the recent disastrous rain, and particularly the Street Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Building Inspectors, and all others who helped, including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Civilian Air Patrol, American Legion, and the National Guard.

Councilman Drale suggested that letters of thanks be written. Mayor Isen directed City Manager Stevens to write such letters.

Councilman Drale asked that Ruby's Food Service, of 1623 Cravens Avenue, who had served hot coffee to the men working in the North Torrance area, also be thanked for their help.

HEARING ON ASSESSMENT:

239th STREET SEWER DISTRICT:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place fixed for the continued hearing of appeals from or objections to any act or determination of the Street Superintendent or Engineer or the quality of work performed, or the legality of additions to or omissions from the contract, or the correctness of the assessment or diagram.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard from the floor.

Bob Watson, of 23927 Pennsylvania Avenue spoke to the Council. He said that Mr. Rippy would allow him an easement across the property he must cross to use the sewer, but that it was with the stipulation that he lay his sewer at once in order that it would not interfere with Mr. Rippy's projected building. Mr. Watson said he could not do this now, as the expense is more than he can bear at present. He asked, therefore, to be excluded from the sewer district.

City Engineer Bishop told the Council that Mr. Watson has a large lot, and good soil, and that the cesspool there now is working well. He expressed the opinion that it is not vital to have a sewer for Watson's property now, and especially as there is a possibility that another street will go in and a sewer will be more accessible to Mr. Watson in the not too distant future.

The City Engineer recommended that Mr. Watson be left out of the sewer district, and that the expense of the sewer be re-apportioned.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Engineer. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale asked if anyone else was being excluded from the District except Mr. Watson, and the City Engineer replied that no one else would be excluded.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone else wished to be heard; no response.

Councilman Blount moved that the Hearing be closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved the City Engineer be instructed to make the changes necessary and present the corrected Resolution at the next regular meeting of the Council. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter dated January 23, 1956, from Bonnie Bright, City Clerk, City of Hermosa Beach, with copy of Resolution urging improvement and widening of Aviation Boulevard and Pier Avenue.

There were no objections, and this was referred to the City Attorney for his recommendation to the Council at their next regular meeting.

2. Transmittal from the Mayor of San Marino, dated January 16, 1956, with statement by the City Council of San Marino enclosed and copy of a letter from S. Smith Griswold, Air Pollution Control officer, concerning burning in incinerators, etc.

There were no objections, and this was referred to the City Manager and the City Attorney for their recommendations to the Council.

CAAO 11

3. Postcard dated January 20, 1956, from City Manager Swanson of Manhattan Beach, announcing State Water Pollution Control Board hearing of appeal from Regional Board's Hyperion Ruling.

There were no objections, and this was ordered filed.

4. Invitation dated January 21, 1956, signed by Mrs. Iris C. Critchell, Chairman, Long Beach Chapter of the Ninety Nines, Inc., inviting City officials to attend CAA Flight Safety Clinic on Saturday, February 4, 1956.

Councilman Blount said that he was going to attend this meeting, and Mayor Isen expressed his regret that a previous engagement kept him from attending, and asked Councilman Blount to give the assemblage greetings from the City.

There were no objections, and the communication was ordered filed.

5. A claim for damages from Roy G. Smith for damages in automobile collision with car driven by Torrance police officer; letter dated January 23, 1956.

Councilman Benstead moved the claim be denied and referred to the City's Legal Department and insurance carrier. Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

6. Request dated January 24, 1956, from the Salvation Army for permission to conduct annual Salvage Week campaign in Torrance from April 23 to 28, 1956.

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

7. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a letter from the American National Red Cross, received in the City Clerk's office January 27, 1955, listing the city employees who made blood donations on January 23, 1956.

There were no objections and the letter was ordered filed.

8. Protest of Frank E. Strange, dated January 26, 1956, against the annexation of Victor Tract, was read in full by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger.

There were no objections and the letter was ordered filed.

9. Request from South Bay Council of Girl Scouts for permission to conduct Cookie Sale in the Hollywood Riviera district February 17-29, 1956.

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

10. Request of Harbor District Girl Scouts for free use of Civic Auditorium on Sunday, February 5, and request that February 17-25 be proclaimed as Girl Scout Cookie Week in Torrance; this dated January 27, 1956, and signed by Mrs. E. C. Osterlind, Cookie Coordinator, Harbor District.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted. Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

11. Copy of letter from County Counsel to Board of Supervisors re amendment to Ordinance 5861 with reference to holding sessions of the Municipal Court in Redondo Beach and Torrance. Attached, copy of draft of proposed Ordinance amending same. Letter dated January 11, 1956, and signed by Edward H. Gaylor, Deputy County Counsel.

Mayor Isen commented that he had been told that the Supervisors had acted on this today.

There were no objections, and this communication was ordered filed.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. John V. Agapito and Donald M. Minor, promoted from Fire Engineer to Fire Captain, effective February 1, 1956, at the second salary step.

Councilman Benstead asked if this recommendation had not been made last week, and City Manager Stevens replied that the appointments had been confirmed but that the salary had not not been specified.

At this point Mr. Tony Rizzo, a delegate from the International Association of Fire Fighters, appointed by Mr. Richardson, Secretary of the International Association of Fire Fighters, asked to speak to the Council. He protested the fact that two men who had passed the test for Captain had been bypassed several times when the appointments had been made, and questioned the method of making such appointments. Mr. Rizzo had the efficiency reports dealing with one or both of the men involved, saying they showed "Satisfactory" performance of duties, and said that the action taken in these two cases was perfectly legal, but that a matter of morale was involved.

Councilman Benstead moved that the Council set aside its action of the last regular meeting on these two appointments, and that the matter be investigated by the Personnel Officer of the City and that the Council be given a written explanation from the Fire Chief as to why the men named had been bypassed when appointments were made.

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

Councilman Drale suggested at this time that the Civil Service Ordinance now being re-written specify that the Number One person on the list should automatically receive appointment. There was a short discussion of this suggestion.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the purchase of a Remington Electric Typewriter for the Building Department, this with 15-inch carriage, \$425.00. Two of the four typewriters in this Department are no longer dependable because of their age, and this typewriter is needed for that reason.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a recommendation from the City Manager that the City's contract for collection of garbage and non-combustible rubbish with Mr. George Green be renewed. This letter contained the

terms suggested for the renewal.

This letter also contained a recommendation from the City Manager that Mr. Green be allowed to establish a transfer station on his present lease, subject to approval by the City of the plans and operation of the station.

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

Oral recommendations of the City Manager:

1. City Manager Stevens recommended that \$850 be granted from the unallocated funds of the Budget to put the Auditorium in shape for added recreational activities.

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

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

2. City Manager Stevens said the American Legion had asked for the use of the Civic Auditorium, and that the City Council had granted permission to them to use it with the customary custodial fee. Mr. Stevens said the Commander of the Post had suggested that the custodial fee be waived in view of the Legion's contribution to the City of the use of their Hall free of charge during the recent flood disaster. The City Manager pointed out that the expense to the City would have been extremely large if this Hall had not been used to house evacuees.

Councilman Drale commented that he had made this motion before, and would now move that the American Legion be granted the use of the Auditorium on the date requested and that the custodial fee be waived.

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

Recreation Commission Matters:

1. Request from the Recreation Commission, signed by Robert M. Almond, Chairman, and dated January 18, 1956, that Mrs. Herma Tillim's expenses be paid to attend the annual California Recreation Society Conference at San Diego, February 12-15.

Councilman Benstead moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Engineering and Planning Commission Matters:

1. CASE NO. 373: Transmittal form from Planning Commission, recommending approval of request of Robert G. Ohrt for Variance to construct building supply business in A-1 Zone, between Del Amo and Spencer.

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

Councilman Blount seconded the motion, providing that the sketch specified in the Planning Commission's recommendation is presented.

Planning Director George Powell was present, and tendered a plan to the Council.

Councilman Blount objected, saying that this was not a sketch.

Mr. Dale Worthington, of 4701 Tower Street, spoke to the Council, saying that it is his intention to buy the land in question if the Variance is granted. He explained that this building would be used for an equipment rental office, and that it had been his belief that a plot plan would fulfill the conditions of the Planning Commission. He added that there is now heavy industry in the whole area, mentioning a lumber yard and ready-mix concrete plant in the immediate vicinity of the land.

Councilman Blount went on record as saying that he believed this matter had not been well-handled by the Planning Commission, and that he felt the ambiguity of their wording was responsible for the confusion here about what sort of sketch was required.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 20475: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 20475, located on the Weston Ranch Property adjacent to Tract 20873 and easterly of Crest Road, containing 19 lots presented by the Ambassador Construction Company. Attached: Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of January 4, 1956; letter of John R. Patrick dated January 4, 1956.

City Engineer Bishop explained to the Council that this tract was on top of a hill and there will be no drainage problem; rather, he said, there is a question of erosion control, which he considers vital.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Engineering Department and Planning Commission subject to approval of the erosion control recommended by the City Engineer.

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

3. Letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, dated January 27, 1956, submitting two easements for storm drain and recommending that said storm drain be constructed between Calle Castellana and Via los Miradores in Block E of Tract 10304, was read in full by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger. With the letter were the necessary Resolution authorizing acceptance of easement over portion of Lot 25 in Block E and sketch attached, and Resolution authorizing acceptance of easement over portion of Lot 11 in Block E and sketch attached.

After a short discussion of the money involved, as well as the size and adequacy of the pipes mentioned, this was referred to City Manager Stevens for his study and recommendation.

Reports:

1. Report by City Attorney concerning Ordinance suggested by the Mayor of the City of Manhattan Beach. Subject: Water Pollution in the Santa Monica Bay.

City Attorney Hall said the proposed Ordinance does not fit Torrance, as it is designed for Cities owning tidelands. He suggested we join with Mayor Foy in his opposition to what Los Angeles proposes to do, and prepare a Resolution to fill our need.

There were no objections, and the City Attorney was instructed to draw the appropriate Resolution and present it to the Council when it is ready.

2. Report from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, relative to installation of street surfacing on 239th Street; this was read in full by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger, being dated January 27, 1956.

Councilman Benstead asked City Attorney Hall if the oil company was not responsible for all re-surfacing costs. City Attorney Hall replied that they should be responsible for all costs relating to the damage they have done.

Mr. Carl Backlund of 223-239th Street was present, and expressed the opinion of the residents on the street that the oil company had very poorly repaired the damage they did to the street, and that they had done a great deal of damage.

There was no objection, and the Mayor asked the City Attorney to work with the City Engineer in ascertaining the damage done by the oil company and the amount of the repairs they should pay for, and suggested that the two of them contact the oil company and attempt to settle this matter, and report back to the Council on their findings. The Mayor also instructed the City Engineer to advise the oil company that the settlement they propose on resurfacing 239th Street is not acceptable to the City.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2869RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
TO CONTRACT PROVIDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2869. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2873RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE FIXING THE TIME OF MEETINGS OF
SAID CITY COUNCIL AND REPEALING RESOLUTION
NO. 2642.

CAA011 Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2873. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab.

Councilman Drale spoke briefly in opposition to the Resolution, expressing an opinion that the 8:00 P. M. meeting hour allowed more citizens to attend the meetings of the Council.

Councilman Schwab disagreed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2874

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION BY THE SAID CITY OF TORRANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, TO WIT: THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF A DRAINAGE STRUCTURE OVER AND ACROSS CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2874. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 792

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING PARAGRAPH "K" OF SECTION 15 OF APPENDIX I (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791) OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, 1954" RELATING TO ACCESSIBILITY TO BUILDING SITES AND LIVING QUARTERS.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 792 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 793AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 785.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 793 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 795AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 24 OF "THE CODE
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" AND AMENDMENTS
THERE TO AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW CHAPTER 24 TO
SAID CODE RELATING TO SIGNS.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 795 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Benstead asked City Manager Stevens if the John Wiley Jones Company has moved, noting that this was the last day of the extension of time granted to them.

The City Manager said he would check and report at the next meeting of the Council.

Councilman Blount moved the Planning Commission be informed that it is the policy of this Council that if a drainage sump is absolutely necessary, it should be fenced and the fence should be described in great detail, and all such fences should be wire mesh fences.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Blount said there are three sumps in the City with solid board fences around them, and that if children climbed these fences and got into the sumps, it could take too long to reach them to accomplish a rescue if it became necessary. Councilman Blount said the City Engineer has worked out a set of specifications for fences around sumps which is excellent, and expressed the opinion that any sumps which are absolutely necessary should be fenced in conformance with these specifications.

Councilman Blount replied that he did not know how much this would cost to replace these fences when he was asked the question by Councilman Drale.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount reported the large sump on Maple Avenue between Carson and Torrance Boulevard, saying this sump is 100 X 60 feet in size and has 20 feet of water in it and has a 75° slope of walls. He said there is no fence around this sump, and that it constitutes a very real hazard. He added that he had not been in favor of allowing the subdivider who built the sump to erect houses in that area at the time the permits were sought, but that it had been done; he said the sump should be fenced at once.

Councilman Blount moved that no more inspections be made of the houses being built there until the sump in question is fenced in accordance with the specifications of the City Engineer.

Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab, who added that he was glad

Councilman Blount had brought this up. Councilman Schwab went on to say that where the largest drainage sump in our City has been built, in a Kauffman tract, the sump was properly fenced before the houses were done, and that he believes all builders should take this attitude.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens said it is his understanding that the sump in question is to be fenced at once when the ground is stable enough.

Councilman Blount went on record as considering the condition of that sump at present as gross negligence on the part of the builder.

Councilman Drale moved the Engineering Department be asked to provide the Council with a survey of the storm damages throughout the City, and at the same time present plans and recommendations for a bond issue to provide more storm drain systems throughout the City which can be placed before the public at a future date.

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

Councilman Drale said he hoped sumps and similar drainage problems could be eliminated by such a master drainage plan.

CAA011

Councilman Drale asked the Mayor to allow a group from Glenburn Street to address the Council at this time. He said the County is putting a drainage facility on that street, and the condition of the street is now unspeakably bad. He added that, while this is not a City project, and the contractor there is retained by the County, he believes the City should make some effort to have the County prevail upon the contractor to rectify the serious condition of the street at once.

Mr. John Wolf, of 16704 Glenburn, spoke to the Council. He elaborated upon Councilman Drale's statements, saying that the street was nearly impassable in many places, and that the contractor had rendered many of the driveways of residences useless; that there is no effort being made to speed this construction; that the heavy equipment of the contractor has ruined many of the driveways on the street; that the sewer has been taken up; that sewage is pumped down the street, and that the flood has added to the hazards already mentioned on the street.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall what rights the City has in such an instance, and the City Attorney replied that it is the County's job and that they probably will consider the contractor responsible.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Attorney and City Manager to contact the proper person or persons in the County to get this condition corrected.

Mr. Robert Collins of 16606 Glenburn complained to the Council that his driveway had been ruined, and that when he repaired it himself, the repairs were dug out by the contractor.

Mr. Wolf spoke to the Council again, saying that during the recent flood evacuation, the men from the Torrance Water Department who worked on Glenburn had gone at their job in a confident, able manner, and that he felt all the residents wanted to thank the City for sending such a fine crew to their assistance.

Mr. Milton Hunter, of 16715 Falda, said the ditch dug by the contractor in question at 168th Street is left unguarded, and it seems to him it is a death trap. He invited the residents of Glenburn Street to attend the meeting of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association on Thursday evening of this week, and asked any member of the Council who is interested to attend the meeting as well.

It was agreed that the City Attorney should prepare any communications necessary to get the condition of Glenburn Street corrected, and present any recommendations he might have at the next regular meeting of the Council.

Mayor Isen suggested the Police and Street Departments make inspections

Councilman Benstead said he thought the contractor responsible for the condition on Glenburn should be required to barricade the danger points of the job under way there.

Councilman Drale said he thought a copy of any communication the City Attorney prepares to go to the Supervisors or responsible parties in the

County should go to the contractor as well.

There was no objection and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen read Item 2 under "Communications" of the Minutes of the December 13, 1955 meeting of the Council, which required reports from the Health Department, Building Department, and Land Use Department on December 27, 1955. These reports have not come in, and the Mayor asked the City Manager to check with the various Departments and ask them to forward their reports at once.

Mayor Isen then read a Proclamation, proclaiming the week of February 12 through February 18, 1956, as National Beauty Salon Week, and calling to the attention of our citizens a week during which recognition is given to hairdressers and cosmetologists whose services are dedicated to the grooming of women for greater beauty.

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

The Council adjourned at 7:10 P. M.

By I. J. HALLANGER


Deputy City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance