

Torrance California  
March 6, 1956

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting at 5:30 P. M. March 6, 1956, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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.

Mr. Mark Moss led the salute to our Flag.

Reverend Taylor opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 1956, as written.

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

HEARINGS:

1. Continued Hearing on Resolution No. 2872 of Intention to Annex Victor Precinct, to wit: That certain unincorporated territory in the County of Los Angeles described as follows: Beginning at that certain angle point in that certain portion of the boundary line of the City of Torrance situate at the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Hawthorne Avenue, as said boundary line existed on April 1, 1953; thence Westerly along that certain portion of the boundary line of the City of Torrance situate partly within Torrance Boulevard, as said boundary line existed April 1, 1953 to the easterly boundary line of the City of Redondo Beach, as the same existed on April 1, 1953; thence northwesterly along said boundary line of the City of Redondo Beach to that certain course of the boundary line of the City of Torrance situate partly along Del Amo Boulevard (formerly known as Huntington Street), as said boundary line existed on April 1, 1953; thence easterly along said boundary line of the City of Torrance and southerly along that certain portion of the boundary line of the City of Torrance situate along Hawthorne Avenue, to the point of beginning.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented the Affidavits of Publication. These were received and ordered filed.

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place for protests against this Annexation.

Mr. Parker Wood of 845 South Orange Drive, Los Angeles, protested. He told the Council that he owns four acres at the corner of Victor Street and Torrance Boulevard. His objection was based upon the premise that the zoning of the property would automatically be changed if the Annexation is accomplished.

Upon being asked by the Mayor, City Manager Stevens replied that it is his belief that the uses to which the property is already committed are not automatically changed by Annexation.

City Attorney Hall agreed, and added that there will be an interim period after the Annexation, if it is successful, when the Planning Commission will make a complete study of the area before recommending land uses.

Councilman Benstead asked Mr. Wood if his four acres face Torrance Boulevard, and Mr. Wood said 244 feet of his land face it.

Councilman Benstead said he asked the Planning Commission some time ago to make a survey of large acreages, and that to his knowledge there has only been one piece of land covered. He added that if the Annexation carries,

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the City Council should go on record as being in favor of leaving commercial property so zoned.

Mayor Isen told Mr. Wood that he would have the right to be heard when zoning of his land is established.

Mr. Wood said he knows that, but it is a long procedure.

Councilman Drale said he believed it was the Council's intention that if this annexation goes through, the land is to be annexed "as is", and said the Council should not let anything happen to this idea. He added that zoning changes are made at the behest of the owners of property as a rule, and that it is not the wish of the Council to change zones otherwise.

Councilman Schwab agreed.

Mr. Strange of 4721 Torrance Boulevard spoke briefly in protest against the annexation.

Councilman Schwab moved the Hearing be closed.

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

City Attorney Hall reported on the validity of the protests received at the last meeting of the Council. He told the Council that the protests received by them are insufficient under the Code to stop the Annexation proceedings at this stage. He said the land value of the protestants' holdings is roughly \$58,000, while the actual value of the land under consideration is about \$500,000.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Council deny all protests and find that the protests are insufficient under the law to stop the proceedings.

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

Mayor Isen said the date of the election on this annexation would be set next Tuesday at the regular meeting of the Council at 8:00 P. M. March 13, 1956.

Councilman Drale asked if there is any way to notify the residents of the Victor Precinct that it is not the wish of the Council to change zoning of the property.

City Attorney Hall said publicity could be given to the wishes of the Council.

Mayor Isen ordered this referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendations in writing as soon as possible.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Statement from Shell Oil Company, dated February 24, 1956, for Pipeline Franchise, 1955, with check attached in the amount of \$844.48.

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

2. Letter dated February 28, 1956, signed by Colin M. Kiggins, with application for business license to operate a used car lot at 3830 Pacific Coast Highway.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted subject to the recommendation of the License Department and the Chief of Police.

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

3. A notice from the Public Utilities Commission, State of California, of Hearing in the matter of Dominguez Water Corporation regarding water main extensions.

City Attorney Hall was asked about this, and said we wish to support the Dominguez Water Company to the end result that the request will be approved, but said it will be quite a period of time until this is decided. He asked, therefore, that he be authorized to engage Mr. Edward Searle on behalf of the City, with no commitment on salary until the report can be prepared. City Attorney Hall outlined Mr. Searle's qualifications briefly.

Councilman Blount moved that the City Attorney be granted the authority to make such an association on behalf of the City.

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

4. Recommendation dated March 2, 1956, from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, for cancellation of Oil Well Bond No. 1898, as a new bond has been issued as replacement.

Councilman Drake moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Clerk.

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

5. Request dated February 27, 1956, signed by Don C. Grayson, Trustee, from the South Bay Amateur Radio Association to hold monthly meetings in the Fire Station Building, Cravens Avenue.

Councilman Schwab moved the request be granted.

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

6. Request for flood control improvements in the area of Paseo de Gracia in Hollywood Riviera, this dated February 25, 1956, and signed by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Marvel.

Councilman Drake asked the City Manager if there had not been a report from the City Engineer regarding a drain in that area not too long ago.

City Manager Stevens said there had been a proposed plan at one time, but said it is no longer a feasible plan. He said this problem is now being considered in the City-wide survey for a bond issue for flood control.

Councilman Drake asked the City Manager to reply to this letter and give that information to Mr. and Mrs. Marvel, and the City Manager said he would do so.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

7. Letter from Marion J. Varner, architect for the new Civic Center, recommending a Resolution be passed to deed to Southern California Edison Company conduits, vaults, etc., so the installation of electrical service facilities at the new Civic Center may proceed. This letter was dated February 16, 1956, and enclosed copy of letter from Southern California Edison Company of February 15, 1956, and a copy of Mr. Varner's letter to R. E. Payne on the same subject dated February 16, 1956.

Councilman Blount moved the City Attorney be authorized to prepare such a Resolution to present to the Council

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

8. A request dated March 1, 1956, from the Crippled Children's Society of Los Angeles County, signed by Howard E. Miller, Executive Director, asking permission to place coin containers in Torrance during the Easter Seal campaign period, from March 10 to April 10, 1956.

Councilman Blount moved that the request be granted.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

##### PERSONNEL:

1. The following employees promoted from Laborer to Truck Driver in the Street Department, effective March 1, 1956, at the first salary step, from Eligible List, in order of standing on list as indicated:

1. Richard Garcia
3. Henry Specht
4. Robert G. Bell
5. Edward Jones

(#2, Lawrence Smith, was passed over at his own request).

2. The following employees promoted from Truck Driver to Power Equipment Operator No. 1, in the Street Department, effective

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March 1, 1956, at the first salary step From Eligible List, in order of standing on list as indicated.

1. Joseph J. Golias
2. William H. Volmerding
3. Richard E. Newby

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Final Tract Map No. 22109: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 22109, located easterly of Ardath Avenue and Tract 19810, northerly of Tract 18852 and southerly of the Dominguez Channel, containing 13 lots presented by Grand Construction Company. Attached: Letter from Grand Construction Company dated February 28, 1956; excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes dated January 4, 1956; letter of J. R. Patrick, Ass't to City Engineer, dated January 4, 1956; sketch of tract; letter from Grand Construction Company dated March 2, 1956, presenting a letter from Southern California Edison Company dated February 28, 1956, regarding location of utility poles.

Councilman Benstead moved that this be tabled until 168th Street, which has been badly damaged during construction of this tract, is repaired to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Mr. Gordon Garbell, representing Grand Construction Company, spoke to the Council in opposition to the Motion. He said the Grand Construction Company is making every effort to fix the responsibility for the damage done to the street and to have them repair it.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

REPORTS:

1. An oral report had been requested from City Manager Stevens and Assistant City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer on the McDonald and Burns request for permission to use and operate certain pipelines being purchased from California Southern Oil Company.

City Manager Stevens reported that this application was for the operation of a gathering line for waste from oil wells. He said they want to do this without a franchise. Mr. Stevens reported that this is something the City has wanted done for some time. The wastes are to be carried in a separate gathering system, treated, and released through the sewers at off-hours. He recommended that permission be granted to operate this system, subject to installations and maintenance being in compliance with the City's requirements in every way and subject to approval by the County Sanitation District.

Councilman Blount pointed out to the City Manager that these streets should be repaired to the City's specifications if they are torn up in any way by this operation.

City Manager Stevens agreed, and said this is a part of his recommendation.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the City Manager's recommendation, with the stipulation that the parties involved be particularly warned about the backfill.

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

2. A report from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, on the erosion problem in Victoria Knolls, Portobello Drive, was requested by the Council at their meeting of February 28, 1956.

A written report from City Engineer Bishop under date of March 2, 1956, was presented, and the Deputy City Clerk read the last three paragraphs of this letter.

City Engineer Bishop was present, and told the Council that he has contacted the subdivider and has reason to believe that he will be cooperative

Councilman Blount asked how old the tract in question is now, and Mr. Bishop said it is about a year old.

Councilman Benstead asked who was responsible for the slippage, and City Engineer Bishop replied he believes the builder to be morally responsible.

Councilman Blount asked how much of the damage in question is due to a faulty storm drain, and the City Engineer replied none; he added that he does not consider the storm drain faulty, and explained why

Mayor Isen instructed the City Engineer to contact the subdivider and see what can be worked out, and if necessary ask the subdivider to meet with the Council. The Mayor asked Mr. Bishop to report on this at the next meeting of the Council.

3 George C Powell had been asked for an oral report on the matter of the complaint against Ajax Oil Company

Mr. Powell gave the Council this report at the Pre Council meeting however, at the request of Councilman Blount, the Mayor requested that Mr. Powell file a written report on the matter for the Agenda of the next meeting of the Council in order that the report may become a matter of record

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2883-A

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

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 2883  
Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote

RESOLUTION NO. 2884

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN  
GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No 2884  
Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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RESOLUTION NO 2885

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF  
OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED  
FROM A. ROCHLIN.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Reso-  
lution

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No 2885.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 798

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 Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of the  
Ordinance.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Ordinance No 798 at its  
second and final reading.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 799

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN  
PORTION OF BLUFF STREET, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the  
Ordinance

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No 799 at its  
second and final reading

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

ORDINANCE NO 797

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, IMPOSING  
A CITY SALES AND USE TAX; PROVIDING FOR THE  
PERFORMANCE BY THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
OF ALL FUNCTIONS INCIDENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION,  
OPERATION AND COLLECTION OF THE SALES AND USE  
TAX HEREBY IMPOSED; SUSPENDING THE PROVISIONS  
OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 16 OF "THE CODE OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", AND ORDINANCE NUMBERS  
753, 754, AND 773 DURING SUCH TIME AS THIS  
ORDINANCE IS OPERATIVE. AND PROVIDING PENALTIES  
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No 797 at its  
second and final reading

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

ORDINANCE NO. 800

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF FLORENCE AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 800 at its first reading

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

ORDINANCE NO. 801

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 374

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 801 at its first reading

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported that he had talked with Assemblyman Vincent Thomas today regarding the following matters:

1. The need for a site for the Motor Vehicle Department offices. The Department wants to lease a building on a suitable site, preferably near the new Civic Center.

The Council and City Manager Stevens discussed this, and agreed that having the Department here is a great convenience to our citizens. While the Council as a body can do nothing, as individuals they decided to help in any way they can. It was the concerted thought of the group that some of the people who had presented plans for post office buildings might be interested in erecting suitable quarters for the Motor Vehicle Department.

2. Assemblyman Thomas told City Manager Stevens that he had submitted to the Governor today the following matters:

- a. The need for a Municipal Court Judge for Torrance;
- b. Request for sessions of the Superior Court in Torrance;
- c. School matters.

The Assemblyman told the City Manager these three matters will be considered by the Governor for inclusion on the Agenda of the Special Session of the State Legislature.

3. Assemblyman Thomas told the City Manager that there is a proposed additional 1/2¢ tax on gas and fuel oil, to be effective for 17 months only, to provide revenue to be used to repair roads damaged by the

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past winter's torrential rains and floods.

The Mayor commented to City Manager Stevens that this might encompass the repairs to our City's streets which were damaged by the floods.

The Council directed the City Manager to reply to Assemblyman Thomas as required.

City Manager Stevens reported to the Council that the rates of pay for workers at election polls for County, State, or National elections are set by the County, with a maximum of \$18 and \$15. The City sets the rates for Municipal elections, but was asked by the County not to exceed the rates given above.

City Manager Stevens asked the Council if they wished to grant permission to the new Gallenkamp Shoe Store to use the three parking meter spaces adjacent to their store during their grand opening March 9th and 10th, 1956, with \$25,000 and \$50,000 P.L. and P.D. bond and proper permit.

Councilman Drale moved the permission be granted subject to the approval of the Chief of Police.

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

Councilman Benstead said the City should move to accumulate at least 20 acres north of the new Civic Center. He pointed out that the City should move now to get this land, which could be used for a park or recreation area or for more Civic Center buildings. He asked that this suggestion be referred to the Park and Recreation Commission for their study and recommendation.

Mayor Isen agreed, saying that this area north of the Civic Center would be a desirable auditorium site, for an excellent location for a youth center, a State building, a Court House, or any similar adjunct to the Civic Center.

Councilman Benstead moved to refer this to the Park and Recreation Commission for their study and recommendation.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale asked whether the City has the cash available now, and City Manager Stevens replied negatively.

Mayor Isen brought out the point that if the City begins condemnation proceedings, they will have the time to raise the money.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen asked that the record show that the Park and Recreation Commission is meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, March 7, and asked that this portion of the Minutes be forwarded to them for their consideration at that time.

Councilman Drale asked that the matter of a traffic signal at the intersection of Arlington and 174th Streets be considered by the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Drale then read a motion that the City Manager be authorized to proceed with securing an appropriate bronze plaque at the new Civic Center to indicate the gratitude, respect and honor of the people of Torrance for the Veterans of World War II and all wars. The motion also suggested that the work of one of our local artists be the basic pattern for this plaque, and that it be installed with proper ceremony when it is completed.

Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab.

Councilman Drale filed a copy of his statement with the Deputy City Clerk.

Councilman Benstead agreed with the motion, saying he had made a similar motion about two years ago, and it had passed at that time.

Councilman Drale replied that his motion tonight was to ensure such a memorial at the new Civic Center.

Mayor Isen said everyone would favor such a plan, and that he had hoped that we would have room at the new Civic Center for a real memorial.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab asked when the repairs on Glenburn Avenue are to get under way.

City Engineer Bishop said he had just today discussed this with the contractor, who said this should be finished within the next two weeks.

Mayor Isen then presented two Proclamations for the record, which he read and filed with Deputy City Clerk Hallanger.

The first of these proclaimed the week of March 11 to 17, 1956, as Girl Scout week.

The other proclaimed the week of March 5 to 10, 1956, as Dental Health Week, and urged the observance of it.

Mayor Isen went on to compliment the Board who is making Dental Health Week such a success.

The Mayor then congratulated Robert Jahn upon being elected President of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association.

Mayor Isen then read a letter from the California Recreation Society, Inc., signed by Howard B. Holman, Chairman of the California Board of Recreation Personnel and dated February 24, 1956. This letter congratulated Lester F Breitenfeldt upon being granted a certificate as a Registered Recreation Leader in the State of California.

Mayor Isen expressed pleasure at this information, and congratulated Mr. Breitenfeldt.

Councilman Drale moved that all bills properly audited be paid.

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

Mayor Isen announced that the Tournament of Roses Committee headed by Dick Miller had been asked to delay any further action until the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, who have the responsibility of Ways and Means, complete their survey.

Mr. Mark Moss asked the Council if they would consider his offer for the City Yards property, and was told that this would be discussed at the Pre-Council meeting at 7:00 P M. March 13, 1956.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P M

By Irvin J. Hallanger *A. H. Bartlett*  
DEPUTY City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert Isen  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

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