

Torrance California  
February 9 1956

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, at 5:30 P. M. February 9, 1956.

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

Mrs. Mary Louise Owens led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Schwab opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Drale reached the meeting at 5:33 P. M.

Mayor Isen read a Proclamation proclaiming February "Go Navy Month".

Purpose of Meeting: To meet with Fire Chief Benner and members of the Fire Department.

City Manager Stevens read his recommendation to the Council in full, as follows:

"I recommend that a change in policy in the manner of appointing personnel from an Eligible List be adopted, as follows:

That the appointing officer be furnished a Certified List of the top three names on the Eligible List when an appointment is to be made, and the appointing officer shall select any one of the three on the list, with the exception that in going down the list, no one may be passed over more than two times unless said person has indicated that he or she does not want the appointment at that time.

Further, I recommend that all the rules and regulations governing the probationary period remain unchanged."

Councilman Benstead asked City Attorney Hall if this could be made part of the Civil Service Ordinance, and the City Attorney replied that it could.

There was a short discussion of the effect of this recommendation on the promotional examinations.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney be authorized to draw up the necessary papers to make this a part of the Civil Service Ordinance of the City.

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

Councilman Drale said that he would stand by his original recommendation that the No. 1 man on the list automatically be appointed.

Mayor Isen moved that the policy set in this motion be approved. Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, & Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Fire Chief Benner came forward and told the Council that he would adhere to this recommendation in all future instances.

The Fire Chief then added that he recommended that the No. 1 and No. 2 men on the Eligible List for Fire Captain, being Slonecker and Langum, be appointed as Captains to serve their probationary periods, effective February 13, 1956, each in the second step.

Councilman Benstead asked if the Chief had found any way to recompense the two men whose appointments will be rescinded for the supplies they have bought, and the Fire Chief replied that he has not as yet done so.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Fire Chief on the appointments.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

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

Mayor Isen commented to Chief Benner that he thought he was a good man with a great deal of character, and that this action would work for the good of the Department and the City, and congratulated him.

Mr. Rizzo came forward and spoke to the Council, telling them that he thought this had been admirably handled, and said they had acted for the good of the Fire Department.

Al Salcido, First Vice President of the local Fire Fighters' Association came forward and thanked the Council, saying that the men would be behind Chief Benner a hundred percent from now on, and that this was a good thing for the morale of the Department.

Councilman Benstead moved to adjourn; there were no objections, and it was so ordered. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P. M.

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

APPROVED:

Albert Isen  
Mayor of the City of Torrance