

Torrance, California
February 28, 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. February 28, 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. Viko led the salute to our Flag.

Reverend Taylor of the First Methodist Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Schwab moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 21, 1956, with corrections as follows:

- a) Page 9, Paragraph 8 regarding proposed museum site should read: "the Mayor had invited him to inspect the location being offered by our City."
- b) Page 9, Paragraph 1 should read: "attend the City Managers' Meeting at Anaheim on March 1" instead of "Meeting at Disneyland".

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

Councilman Schwab moved to correct the minutes of the regular meeting held February 14, 1956 as follows:

Page 12, Item 19 under Written Communications should read: "that the City Attorney attend a League meeting of City Attorneys in Santa Barbara on April 19 and 20, 1956, with appropriate expenses paid", instead of "attend a League meeting of City Attorneys on February 15, 1956."

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

HEARINGS:

CASE NO. 374: Third and Final Hearing before the City Council on Case No. 374, petition of Hayes Furnace Manufacturing and Supply Company for Change of Zone at 1860 West 174th Street from M-1 (Light Manufacturing) recommended for approval with certain stipulations.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented the affidavit of publication, which was accepted and ordered filed.

There was no one present who wished to be heard with regard to this Petition.

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

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission providing all their stipulations are observed.

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

Hearing on Resolution No. 2872 of Intention to Annex Victor Precinct:

Mayor Isen directed the attention of the Council to protest petitions against this annexation signed by the following:

Laurence A. Wagner
LeMoyne Wheeler
Mable B. Rogers

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Joseph Richard Corsaro
 Betty Lee Corsaro
 Charles E. Wagner
 Frank O. Fletcher
 Sarah A. Fletcher
 L. D. Browning
 Emma F. Browning
 J. W. Webb
 H. Rudolph
 Lucy A. Rudolph
 John R. Cassinelli
 Elsie King
 Fred C. King
 Jabez E. Neville
 Hazel Till Neville
 David Vaccaro Jr.
 M. Alma Vaccaro
 Parker Wood
 Opal B. Wood

The petitions were made a part of the Minutes by reference.

Councilman Blount moved the Hearing be continued for one week and the City Attorney be asked to report to the Council on the validity of the protests.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Walteria Civic Organization dated February 20, 1956, and signed by Bessie Slonecker, Secretary, enclosing copies of letters sent to the Planning Commission regarding trailers in Walteria, and copy of the reply from that Commission. The Civic Organization expressed dissatisfaction with the reply from the Planning Commission and asked the Council for further consideration.

George Powell, Planning Director, was present, and told the Council that he has asked the Fire Department to check the trailers in question and that it is the province of the Building Inspectors to check trailers used for cooking or living quarters, and that he has asked them to check.

Councilman Drale moved that this be referred to the Zoning Investigator.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen told Mr. Powell that this letter was to be referred back to him for reply.

2. Protest from Walteria Civic Organization dated February 20, 1956, signed by Bessie Slonecker, Secretary, against the new meeting hours of the Council.

Councilman Drale asked to have this read in full, and Deputy City Clerk Hallanger complied.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council go back to the meeting hours observed before the recent change, namely, to meet at 5:30 P. M. on the first, third, and fifth Tuesdays of each month and to meet at 8:00 P. M. on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

There was a short discussion of the various reactions the members of the Council have observed concerning the new meeting hours.

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

The City Attorney was instructed to prepare the necessary Resolution and present it at the next regular meeting of the Council.

3. Complaint from the Walteria Civic Organization dated February 20, 1956, and signed by Bessie D. Slonecker, Secretary, regarding storage of trucks, cranes, etc., at the corner of 242nd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilman Schwab asked Mr. Powell, Land Use Investigator, if he knew about this situation, and Mr. Powell reported that he had investigated and found some of the equipment was actually on the right-of-way. He talked to the owner of the equipment about it, and as a result the owner moved one piece of equipment off the lot entirely and agreed to comply with his lot boundaries in the future.

Councilman Benstead asked what zone this was in, and Mr. Powell said that it is a C-2 zone.

The letter was ordered filed.

4. Claim for flood damages from Theodore F. and Florence Daiell, dated February 24, 1956, in the amount of \$1910.00

There were no objections, and this was denied and referred to the City Attorney.

5. Letter dated February 18, 1956, signed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wade Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad P. Berwanger, and Mr. and Mrs. Keith J. Secord, requesting correction of erosion problems on their properties located at 2755, 2749, 2743 and 2737 Portobello Drive in Victoria Knolls.

This was referred to the City Engineer for investigation.

Councilman Drale asked if 'erosion planting' had not been stipulated in this area.

Councilman Schwab asked if the bond had been released.

Councilman Benstead said if it had not, it should not be released until the situation has been corrected.

City Engineer Bishop came forward, and told the Council that the bond has been released, but that the builder of these homes is doing other building in the City, and has been contacted. He has agreed to plant the slopes of the properties in question.

The City Engineer said he would report back to the Council on the problem these people have encountered.

6. Letter dated February 20, 1956, from Henry J. Ferrera, owner of the Torrance Trailer Park, calling the attention of the Council to the conditions existing at the site of a sulphur company property on 213th Street and asking for correction.

Councilman Schwab moved that this be referred to the Staff.

There was no objection and it was so ordered.

7. Transmittal from the Southern California Edison Company dated February 17, 1956, enclosing a Grant of Easement covering the proposed construction of an electric line to provide service to Hi-Shear Rivet & Tool Company at 2650 West 247th Street, and covering the existing line located on 247th Street, which was not previously covered by an easement.

Councilman Drale moved that the grant of easement be made, and that the City Attorney be authorized to draw the necessary Resolution to be presented to the Council at their next regular meeting.

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

8. Request dated February 21, 1956, from MacDonald and Burns, signed by E. Robert Burns, Vice President, for permission to use and operate certain pipelines being purchased from California Southern Oil Company.

There was a short discussion of the request, and this was referred to the City Manager and Assistant City Attorney Remelmeyer for their recommendation.

Councilman Drale moved this also be sent to the County Sanitation Board, as they are concerned with such applications.

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

Recommendations from the City Manager:

1. Leasing of Police Department Vehicles:

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- a. That the patrol cars and station wagons be leased from Paul's Chevrolet, Inc., for seven and one-half cents (7½¢) per mile.
- b. That the traffic and pursuit cars be leased from Oscar Maples for nine cents (9¢) and nine and one-half cents (9½¢) per mile.

The City Manager recommended that during the coming year we keep an accurate accounting of the total cost of leasing Police cars, and next year recommend leasing based on actual costs, and possibly a recommendation will be made to buy our cars outright.

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

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

2. That the Council authorize the necessary repairs for the City owned D-4 Caterpillar skip-loader.

City Manager Stevens said that with these repairs, the machine would need nothing but normal upkeep for several years.

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Letter dated February 24, 1956, from John R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, presenting easement for storm drain over a portion of Lot 66 in McDonald Tract. Attached: (1) Resolution authorizing acceptance of Grant of Easement from Harry Klassman; (2) location sketch.
Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2879

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
TO ACCEPT THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM
HARRY KLASSMAN.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2879. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, dated February 24, 1956, and presenting sewer easement over portion of Lot 58 in Tract 22024. Attached: (1) Resolution authorizing acceptance of Grant of Easement from Bernard Homes, Inc.; (2) location sketch.
Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2880

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
BERNARD HOMES, INC.

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. 2880.

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

3. TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 22495: Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 22495, located northerly of 170th Street, southerly of Dominguez Channel, and easterly of Tract 18852. Attached: Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of February 1, 1956; Los Angeles County Flood Control District letter dated January 26, 1956; letter from J. R. Patrick dated January 18, 1956; sketch of tract.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission on Tract 22495.

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.

REPORTS:

1. George C. Powell read to the Council his letter covering inspection of the proposed Gymnasium at the Hollywood Riviera Clubhouse. Mr. Powell recommended that the sign advertising Mr. Bryan's gymnasium should be a small, neat sign not exceeding 1' X 3', and should be near the door which serves as the entrance to the gymnasium.

Mr. Powell's letter recommended that a business license be issued to Mr. Bryan, and gave his reason for that recommendation. Mr. Powell also recommended that the opinion of the Building Superintendent be sought before the release of the license.

R. W. Shea, who lives directly across the street from the entrance to the proposed gymnasium, protested the issuance of such a license.

Park E. Bryan, who is applying for the license to operate a gymnasium, spoke to the Council and outlined his plans for the gymnasium.

Councilman Benstead moved this be referred to the Planning Commission for their study and recommendation.

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

2. The office of the City Clerk reported that there is now on file in that office the 1955 copy of the Digest of SEWERAGE ENABLING ACTS of the State of California, transmitted by the State of California Water Pollution Board.

3. The office of the City Clerk reported that there is on file in that office the report of the General Manager and Chief Engineer for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the report of the Controller of the Metropolitan Water District, both reports covering the month of January, 1956.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2881

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE APPROVING ELECTION PRECINCTS AND
APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS FOR GENERAL
MUNICIPAL ELECTION APRIL 10, 1956.

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. 2881.

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

Councilman Drale asked the City Manager who established the rates

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of pay for the election workers, saying that they seemed very low.

City Manager Stevens said he believed that the rates are set by the County, but that he will check to be sure.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Manager be instructed to investigate the possibility of raising the salary of the people who work at the Polls in the City of Torrance.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2882

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT PROVIDING FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 3 IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAKING ITS EMPLOYEES MEMBERS OF SAID SYSTEM.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2882. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2883

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE COLLECTION OF LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES.

Councilman Schwab moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 2883.

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

Councilman Schwab moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2883.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, 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 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. 798 at its first reading.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, 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 Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 799 at its first reading.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, 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 PROVISION 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.

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

Councilman Blount moved that Ordinance 797 be approved and re-introduced at this time and that the date of March 6, 1956, be set for final adoption.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented a transmittal memorandum dated February 14, 1956, from Southern California Edison Company, enclosing check in the amount of \$33,905.61 as franchise payment for the calendar year of 1955.

Councilman Drale moved that this be accepted and that the check be deposited with the City Treasurer.

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

Land Use Investigator George Powell spoke to the Council about the complaints received from the area surrounding Redondo Beach Boulevard and Arlington about flies. Mr. Powell said he had been out to the area, and found that fields nearby where cauliflower had been raised were filled with fly larvae, and asked that he be authorized to contact the owners of the land and ask that they plow it under.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. Powell be authorized to proceed as he finds necessary in this matter.

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

Councilman Drale moved that the City Manager be authorized to buy trash cans for the Walteria and North Torrance business areas.

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

Councilman Drale read a statement which he filed with the Deputy City Clerk asking that a history of the City of Torrance be prepared, showing the development of the Charter form of City Government and the School District formation.

Councilman Drale moved that a Committee be set up to prepare such a history, and that the Committee be composed of Frank Selover, C. T. Rippy, A. H. Bartlett, and Mervin Schwab as Chairman.

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

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Councilman Drale asked if the City Manager would give the Council a report on the progress made toward the extension of Arlington Avenue.

City Manager Stevens replied that he had held meetings with representatives of both the Dominguez Estates Company and Bethlehem Steel Company, and both had indicated their willingness to grant easements providing drainage can be worked out. This is now being worked out by the City's engineers, Mr. Stevens concluded, and as soon as there is something concrete to report, he will bring it to the Council.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P. M.

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

APPROVED:

Albert J. ...

Mayor of the City of Torrance