

Torrance, California
March 20, 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, at 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, March 20, 1956.

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

The salute to the Flag was led by Commander Mason of the Planning Commission.

The meeting was opened with an invocation by Reverend Taylor.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held March 13, 1956.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A request from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association dated March 12, 1956, and signed by John K. Kesson, President, that the City Council check carefully on the Glenburn Storm Drain project before it is completed and accepted by the County.

Mr. Nobbe of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association was present, and asked that the letter be read in full, which Deputy City Clerk Hallanger did.

Mayor Isen moved that copies of this letter, along with an appropriate letter from City Manager Stevens, be sent to each member of the Board of Supervisors.

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

City Manager Stevens told the Council, in reply to a question from Councilman Drale, that this matter was now being carefully considered by all concerned, and that some of the County Supervisors have already made inspections of this project, and that the contractor has assured both the Supervisors who have checked and the City Manager, as well as the City Engineer, that he will put all this in the order it should be in before he leaves the job.

Mr. Jack White, of 3930 West 176th Street, presented to the Deputy City Clerk after reading, a petition signed by residents of 86 pieces of property in the Glenburn area, asking that the City Council take action to prevent the County from completion payment to the contractor on this job until the conditions he has brought about are cleaned up.

Councilman Benstead moved that copies of this petition go to the County Supervisors along with the letter to be written on the storm drain project by City Manager Stevens.

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

2. A protest dated March 12, 1956, and signed by M. L. Hoffenberg of 365 Calle Mayor, against the acquisition of 90 acres for park purposes, and giving his reason for protesting.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the letter in full.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

3. A claim for damages by James Gilbert Peterson, a minor, and his parents, presented by Hirson & Horn and Albert Grossman.

Councilman Benstead moved that this be denied and referred to the Legal Department.

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

4. Claim from Martha E. Riggle for damages, presented by Eric A. Rose. There were no objections, and this was ordered refused and referred to the Legal Department.

5. A request from the Shoreline Planning Association of California, Inc., for payment by the City of their annual dues, in the amount of \$50 per year. This was dated March 14, 1956, and signed by Carl P. Stahl, President.

Councilman Benstead moved that these dues be paid.

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

6. A letter dated March 13, 1956, and signed by Tom V. Watson for the Board of Directors, asking that additional traffic police be used in the downtown area during the peak periods of traffic and especially on Friday afternoons.

At the request of the Mayor, Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read this in full.

Councilman Benstead asked Chief of Police Haslam if this was not already being done, and Chief Haslam said it is.

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

7. A letter dated March 9, 1956, from W. E. Bowen, asking for change of traffic signal posting at Via Calle Mayor and Via Los Altos.

Councilman Drale moved this be referred to the Traffic Commission.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

8. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a letter from John H. Ard, of 2802 Winlock Road, dated March 13, 1956. This letter pointed out the use of Rolling Hills Road between the hours of 6:00 P. M. and 8:00 A. M. by the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company, and protested the condition of a ditch running the length of Rolling Hills Road and at the back of his property.

Councilman Drale recommended that copies of this letter be sent to the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company in order that they may know that they are disturbing the residents of the area by their non-conformance with stipulations set out by the Council governing the hours their trucks may use the road in question.

Councilman Drale then asked the City Manager if the ditch is not a City problem.

City Manager Stevens replied that the City did not make the ditch; it is a natural ditch. He said that consideration of this ditch would be embodied in the over-all drainage study now being made.

Mayor Isen referred the letter to the City Engineer and the City Attorney, with the Engineer to consider the drainage problem and the City Attorney to determine if Torrance Sand and Gravel is in violation of any Ordinances of the City.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens if Torrance Sand and Gravel was not supposed to report to the City Council before the end of February on their plans for beautification of their property.

City Manager Stevens replied affirmatively, and the Mayor instructed him to contact the responsible parties and ask for the report.

Chief of Police Haslam told the Council he has received two notices from the company under discussion recently advising of emergency jobs. He said he had investigated, and found their statements were correct. The Chief added that he would say they were trying to carry out their work as expeditiously as possible.

9. March 14, 1956, letter from County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, asking that the site for the branch of the Municipal Court of the South Bay Cities Judicial District be identified by legal description.

Councilman Drale moved that City Manager Stevens be authorized to make the necessary survey and thereafter the land be deeded to the County

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for the new Municipal Court.

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

10. Petition signed by fifty residents in the Lincoln Avenue, Western Avenue, 228th Street, and Cabrillo area, against operations by a manufacturer dealing in helicopter products, and particularly the practice of installing props at this location.

This matter was referred to Land Use Investigator George Powell for a report at the next Council meeting, and the City Attorney was instructed to make a report as well on whether or not this use of the land was in violation of any Ordinances of the City.

11. A request dated March 9, 1956, from the Southern California Edison Company for an easement covering cross-arms and wires which will overhang the southerly line of City-owned Lot 382.

There were no objections, and the City Attorney was instructed to prepare the necessary Resolution to be on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Council.

12. A request signed by J. W. Stimson, dated March 9, 1956, for approval of his application to operate a Used Car Lot at 24218 Hawthorne Boulevard.

Chief of Police Haslam told the Council that he has approved the location but has not had information on the applicant.

Councilman Drale asked George Powell to check the zone of the location.

Mayor Isen instructed Mr. Powell to work with the Chief of Police on this, with their recommendation to come to the City Council when ready.

13. A request from Chief of Police Haslam, dated March 16, 1956, for permission to send Sgt. D. C. Cook and Officer Leo Gonzales of the Juvenile Division to a Convention of Juvenile Officers at Fresno, California from March 22 to 24, inclusive, with appropriate expenses paid.

Councilman Drale moved that the request be granted.

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

14. A communication from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, submitting a list of applicants for licenses to sell fireworks in the City for the Fourth of July was the next item on the Agenda. This transmittal was dated March 15, 1956.

A copy of a letter from the Torrance Scout Center was attached, asking that a free license be granted to them and to the Torrance Junior Women's Club.

This request was the first consideration of the City Council.

City Attorney Hall replied to a question by saying that the City has an Ordinance governing the sale of fireworks which covers all organizations.

Mayor Isen commented that he considered himself a friend of both the Junior Women's Club and the Scouts, but that he believed no free licenses should be issued.

Mayor Isen moved the request for free licenses be denied.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger pointed out that two organizations have applied for the same location west of Crenshaw on Torrance Boulevard, on on City-owned property.

Mr. Hallanger then spoke to the Council as a citizen and Legionnaire, and said he felt that the sale of fireworks on the Fourth of July is most important to the various Veterans' organizations, and they should be the people given every preference. He pointed out that they had used the location mentioned for the past two years.

The Chief of Police said the Legion is the only organization asking for this privilege who have presented a list of the locations they seek

to the Police Department for approval.

Councilman Schwab said he, too, feels that the veterans' organizations should be given the privilege of making these sales over July Fourth.

Mayor Isen moved the American Legion be given the exclusive use of the location under discussion.

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

Councilman Blount said he voted "No" on this because we have an Ordinance that covers such instances, and he could not vote "Yes" under that Ordinance.

Councilman Benstead said he hopes there will be no children working in or operating these fireworks stands.

Councilman Drale asked if the stand operated on City-owned property had "hold harmless" clauses protecting the City in case of accident.

City Attorney Hall said he believes this is covered by the Ordinance.

Councilman Drale asked that it be checked.

Mayor Isen moved all locations be approved subject to the approval of the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.

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

Councilman Drale asked if this meant the Scouts are barred from having a fireworks stand, and the Mayor said it did not.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. Evelyn P. Coles, promoted from Typist-Clerk to Account Clerk, in the Building Department, effective March 16th, 1956, at the second salary step. Mrs. Coles stood No. 1 on the Eligible List for Account Clerk.
2. James J. Lynch, transferred from Janitor to Laborer in the Water Department, effective March 12th, 1956, at no change in salary. This transfer had the approval of both Departments involved, as well as the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with recommendations 1 and 2 of the City Manager.

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

3. I recommend that a member of the Fire Department be authorized to attend the Fire and Arson Investigation Short Course in Berkeley June 11 - 15, 1956, with appropriate expenses paid in the amount of \$135.00.

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

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. Purchase of two Gonset #144-148 MC-FCDA Type 6 VDC-110 VAC portable radio units for Civil Defense operation and training. Similar units were borrowed during the recent flood emergency and proved to be of great value to the City. A budget item.

Councilman Benstead asked the cost of these, and City Manager Stevens said \$250 each.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation.

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

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2. \$2000 be appropriated to purchase the rights of Robert Marsh and Company, Inc., in Lot 1, Block 298, Tract 1952. The City is attempting to obtain a clear title on Lot 1 so that it may be sold or used in connection with Torrance Park. ^{see 3/27/}

City Attorney Hall explained to the Council that this would be a matter of re-opening the estate of a bankrupt, in order that the City may have a marketable title.

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

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

City Manager Stevens made the following oral recommendations:

1. That the 30-day leave without pay approved by him as Department Head and by the Civil Service Board for Charlotte Smith, PBX operator, be approved by the Council, effective Mar. 13, 1956.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the request.

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

2. That the City employ George B. Sands as Assistant Building Inspector.

City Manager Stevens explained that Mr. Sands had been trained for this work, and that after interviews by himself and by Mr. Russell, Superintendent of the Building Department, it is believed that Mr. Sands will be most satisfactory.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation.

Councilman Benstead asked that the record show we will call for an examination for this classification.

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

3. City Manager Stevens then brought up the matter of purchasing property offered to the City by Shirley Felts for the Parking Assessment District. The City Manager recommended that the City purchase the property at the price quoted, \$16,000.00.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation.

Councilman Blount asked if this would be paid for out of the funds already earmarked for the Parking District, and the City Manager said yes.

Councilman Blount seconded the motion.

Councilman Drale said he owns property within the proposed District, and asked the City Attorney if he could vote on this. City Attorney Hall said yes.

Mayor Isen re-outlined the use of parking meter funds, the money to be lent to the District by the City, and the part the property owners in the District are to pay towards financing this District.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Park and Recreation Commission Matters:

Mayor Isen said the motion made by Councilman Benstead at the Council meeting of March 13, and seconded by him, was now off the table. The motion, as amended, follows:

"That the City Attorney tie this land up immediately for condemnation."

Councilman Benstead spoke briefly to the effect that we would be very short-sighted if we did not take action to make this park available to the future residents of our fast-growing City.

Mayor Isen said he has given the matter a lot of thought, and feels the area will serve as a wonderful buffer zone to the North of the Civic Center, and at the same time make land available for expansion of the Civic

Center's services.

The Mayor went on to say that there had been some criticism of this measure on the grounds that it removed available land from industrial use, and so he had asked Planning Director Powell to give him figures on this, and found that there are 1431 acres, including this 90 acres, available for industrial use, not including the property on the airport. He expressed the view, therefore, that this will not substantially reduce the land available for industrial use.

Mayor Isen suggested that the Park and Recreation Commission might consider other land as well, and start condemnation proceedings on alternate sites, so that if this issue comes to a vote of the people they will have a choice of areas.

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

Councilman Drale read a prepared statement saying that he agreed more parks and recreation areas are needed, but going on record as being of the opinion that one big central park in Torrance will not serve the people properly.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Council appoint a commission of three men, Mr. George "Bud" Bradford, President of the Optimists Club, Mr. Robert Wagner, who has served on the Recreation Commission, and Mr. Hamilton R. Black, who has served on the Planning Commission, to make a special survey of the park needs of this City, to the end that the recreation and park program be designed to serve all the people, where the people are.

Councilman Drale presented a copy of his statement and motion to the Deputy City Clerk.

Councilman Benstead pointed out to Councilman Drale that land would some day be needed for an auditorium and many other facilities. He asked if Councilman Drale did not think it wise to take action now to claim this property.

Councilman Blount seconded the motion.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if the motion was legal, and the City Attorney replied affirmatively.

Councilman Benstead said he would go along with the motion if the Councilman would include the Park and Recreation Commission as part of the Committee to make this study.

Mrs. Tillim, member of the Park and Recreation Commission, came forward and said she considers this a good idea. She agreed that this needs a lot of study, and said this whole idea is predicated upon the belief that the park is to serve a city of a hundred thousand people. She said the Recreation program is not just to serve children, but to plan to include culture, and to serve adults more as they have more leisure time. She added that this was proposed to prevent industry from going into the land and building so that the City could never get the land, and to prevent the value of the land from rising too greatly.

Mrs. Tillim said the Park and Recreation Commission would be glad to meet with this group and the Planning Commission, because she said the neighborhood recreation areas would still be needed.

Councilman Schwab said he believes such a joint planning meeting is a very good suggestion.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens if part of the property has already been sold for a muffler factory, and the City Manager said he has heard that it has, but he does not know this to be true, and the only way it can be ascertained is by a title search.

Councilman Benstead asked Councilman Drale to amend his motion to include Mrs. Tillim's recommendation.

Councilman Drale said he would rather have the Committee he has recommended work with the people of the areas to be served.

Councilman Schwab asked if the Recreation Commission would receive the reports, and Councilman Drale said yes.

Councilman Schwab asked if they would have information for a joint meeting such as has been proposed.

Councilman Schwab said he believed other areas not too far from this proposed park site should be checked on by the joint committee.

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Councilman Blount asked why anyone objected to additional laymen to work with the Park and Recreation Commission.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Olson said he had listened to this discussion, and suggested that the Committee proposed tonight be asked to work with the Commission so that everyone could work together and have one meeting and get this settled.

Mr. Olson said other areas would be needed as well, but that the large central park would serve all areas of our City.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen then moved that the City Attorney be instructed to begin legal proceedings merely for the beginning of condemnation to acquire this 90 acres north of the Civic Center, and that the first order of business for the Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and the three-man lay committee be to meet to consider that for their recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Schwab said he would vote on this action after the recommendations come to the Council and not now.

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

Engineering and Planning Commission Matters:

1. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 21676. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 21676, located easterly of Anza Avenue, northerly of Sepulveda Blvd. and southerly of Torrance Blvd., containing 735 lots and presented by Kauffman-Wilson Co., et al. Attached: (1) Copy of letter from Kauffman-Wilson Co. dated March 7, 1956, confirming ownership; (2) Copy of letter from Kauffman-Wilson Co. dated March 7, 1956, re: placement of utility poles at rear of lots; (3) Excerpts from Planning Commission Minutes of August 10, 1955, and March 7, 1956; (4) Copy of letter from John R. Patrick, Ass't. to City Eng'r. to Planning Commission dated March 6, 1956; (5) Copy of letter from Dominguez Water Corporation to R. W. Bishop, City Eng'r., re: water service dated March 2, 1956; (6) Copy of letter from L. A. County Flood Control District dated February 29, 1956.

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

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

At 6:30 Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council re-convening at 6:38 P. M.

Mayor Isen commented that Recreation Commissioner Olson had an appointment that caused him to be in a hurry, and so asked him if he would like to speak at this time.

Mr. Olson asked Councilman Drale if, should the joint work of the Recreation Commission, the lay Committee and the Planning Commission result in recommendation of this 90-acre park site, the Councilman would vote for it.

Councilman Drale said he was not able to answer the question until such a recommendation was laid before the Council in finished form.

Councilman Schwab commented that Commissioner Olson's question was unfair at this time.

2. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 22654. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract No. 22654, located southerly of 182nd St., northerly of the proposed Freeway and westerly of Moneta Water Co. property, containing 51 lots and presented by Property Management Corporation. Attached: (1) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of March 7, 1956; (2) Copy of letter from Rolling Acres Development Co. to Engineering Department re: ownership dated Feb. 28, 1956; (3) Copy of Flood Hazard Report dated Feb. 27, 1956, from L. A. County Flood Control District; (4) Copy of letter

from John R. Patrick, Ass't. to City Eng'r., to Planning Commission dated February 13, 1956; (5) Sketch of tract.

Councilman Blount: With the special conditions of the Planning Commission, I move to concur with the Planning Commission.

Councilman Benstead: Second.

Mayor Isen: Roll Call, Mr. Hallanger.

Councilman Benstead: Yes.

Councilman Blount: Yes.

Councilman Drale: Excused.

Councilman Schwab: Yes.

Mayor Isen: I'm adopting a new policy; I'm going to vote "No" on any tract where a Councilman excuses himself from voting without pointing the reason.

Councilman Drale: I have a financial interest in this.

Mayor Isen: All right.

3. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 22758. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract No. 22758 located northerly of 182nd Street and westerly of Arlington Avenue, containing 60 lots, presented by R. A. Watt. Attached: (1) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of March 7, 1956; (2) Copy of letter from L. A. County Flood Control District dated Feb. 27, 1956; (3) Copy of letter from John R. Patrick, Ass't. to City Eng'r., to Planning Commission dated Feb. 13, 1956; (4) Sketch of tract

Councilman Blount asked if the City Attorney could give a run-down on the litigation now going on between the City and the Moneta Water Company. City Attorney Hall said one case has been set for trial, but that off-hand he was not prepared to give a summary.

Councilman Blount moved this be held over for a week until the City Attorney has the information for the Council about the legal ramifications we find ourselves in as regards the water service.

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

4. TENTATIVE TRACT NO. 22660. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract No. 22660 located westerly of Arlington Avenue and southerly of 178th Street, containing 46 lots, presented by Property Management Corp. Attached: (1) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of March 7, 1956; (2) Copy of letter from Rolling Acres Development Co. re: ownership, dated Feb. 28, 1956; (3) Copy of letter from John R. Patrick, Ass't. to City Eng'r., to Planning Commission, dated Feb. 13, 1956; (4) Copy of letter from L. A. County Flood Control District re: flood hazard dated Feb. 8, 1956; (5) Sketch of tract.

Councilman Blount: I would move to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission, including all special conditions.

Mayor Isen: How about it being subject to possible service by the Torrance Water District?

Councilman Schwab: This one is outside.

Councilman Blount: Isn't this the one that's outside?

Mayor Isen: Yes, but he -

Councilman Blount: Well, I'm assuming that this one is being served.

Mayor Isen: No, in the letter from Mr. Powell it says 22660 is located outside, but is subject to possible service by the Torrance Water District.

Councilman Blount: Yes, I wish to make that part of my motion. Thank you.

Mayor Isen: As one of the conditions?

Councilman Blount: Yes.

Mayor Isen: Fine, that's -

Councilman Benstead: There's one thing that I would like, your Honor.

Mayor Isen: Mr. Blount? I'm sorry - Mr. Benstead?

Councilman Benstead: I notice there's a proposed tract to the west of this. I'm wondering if there shouldn't be a road between 178th and 182nd Street between this tract and the proposed tract 22712.

Councilman Blount: You mean a north-south road?

Councilman Benstead: No - Yes. A north-south road. It appears we are going on and on east and west here.

Councilman Blount: There's 24 lots - I don't know how wide they are. How about proposed tract 23660? Is that the one we just held, or is that the one we just passed?

Mayor Isen: That's the one we're working on now, isn't it?

Councilman Blount: I mean Tract 22758, excuse me. That's the one we held, isn't it?

Mayor Isen: That's the one we held a week - yes.

Councilman Blount: Well, if the Council decided that good planning would designate a street down there we will have to hang it on that one too, would we not?

Councilman Benstead: Yes, I think we would.

Councilman Blount: We have two tracts running from one street to the other - How about existing Tract 20561? How we going to get through, from 178th? And in 20652? Don't you get my point, Mr. Benstead?

Councilman Benstead: Yes, I do. I hadn't noticed that.

Councilman Blount: Apparently there's no existing street from 178th down to the beginning of these tracts.

Mayor Isen: Have you made a motion on that?

Councilman Blount: Yes, I did.

Mayor Isen: Is there a second to that?

Councilman Schwab: And I seconded it.

Mayor Isen: Oh, you did, Mr. Schwab?

Councilman Schwab: Yes.

Mayor Isen: I'm sorry.

Mayor Isen: Any further discussion? Roll call, Mr. Hallanger.

Mr. Benstead: Yes.

Mr. Blount: Yes.

Mr. Drale: Excused because of financial interest.

Mr. Schwab: Yes.

Mr. Isen: Vote no for the same reason given on Tract 22654. *see 3/27/56*

CARROLL

- 5. Recommendation of Planning Commission for the Vacation for an extension of Lomita Boulevard; and recommendation for improvement of Lomita Boulevard, between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Anza Avenue. (Held over from March 13 meeting).

Councilman Blount moved this be filed as a matter of record. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

- 6. CASE NO. 376. Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of D. O. Guaderama for Variance to conduct a boarding home for the aged at 3426 Maricopa, in Land Use Zone A-1.

Planning Director George Powell told the Council where this property is, and said that the lady who will manage it was in the audience this evening if there are any questions.

Mrs. Carolyn White of 3426 Maricopa, who will manage the property, told the Council that her proposed home has been inspected by both the State and County, but that they will not give her their permits to proceed until this variance has been approved by the Council.

Chief of Police Haslam said she would have to comply with all State regulations before she could go into this business, and added that the State regulations are quite stringent.

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

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

- 7. CASE NO. 377. Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending denial of request of Dr. Harold Cozen for Variance to operate a doctor's office at 4346 W. 177th Street, between Hawthorne Avenue and Amie Avenue, in Land Use Zone R-1.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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

REPORTS:

1. A report from Deputy City Clerk Hallanger and W. H. Haslam, Chief of Police, had been requested by the Council at their last meeting relative to the sale within the City of Torrance of products made by the blind.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger reported that four organizations are franchised under the Los Angeles Center of California Industries for the Blind. He said the four are: Pacific Blind Products, California Blind

Products, State Standard Blind Made Products and State Blind Made Products. Chief of Police Haslam said he recommended that each of these companies which wish to work inside Torrance should register with the Police Department the number of solicitors they will use and the names of the solicitors. He said only one of these firms has complied with the request to date, and he recommended that a license be issued to them, and if the others will comply, he said, he will be happy to make the same recommendation on their requests.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police.

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

2. The next matter considered by the Council was Mr. George Powell's recommendation regarding the issuance of a license to the proposed gymnasium at the Hollywood Riviera Club. Attached: (1) Excerpt from the Planning Commission Minutes dated March 7, 1956; (2) Letter from the City Clerk of Redondo Beach, declining any action on this matter.

Mr. Powell reviewed this matter with the Council; he said he had recommended to them that the license be issued subject to the approval of the Building Superintendent; the Council then referred the matter back to the Planning Commission, who had approved the application and stipulated that a sign be permitted. Since that time, Mr. Powell said, the sign has been taken down by mutual agreement of the operator of the gymnasium and the Huntington Land Company.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission except that no sign is to be erected on the building.

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

3. The next matter considered was Mr. Powell's report on the Ajax Oil Company's violation of the City's ordinances covering safe operation and maintenance of oil wells.

Mr. Powell reported that the matters which could be accomplished without the presence of the owner have been done by the superintendent of this property, but that the owner of the property is still away, and that part of the work requiring him to be present still has not been done.

Mr. Powell said the moving parts should be shielded and fenced.

Councilman Drale moved that the Legal Department take immediate action to secure compliance with City ordinances governing such operations.

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

4. The next matter considered was the report from Mr. Chamberlain, Superintendent of the Bus Department, regarding transportation of underprivileged children to Al Malaika Shrine-sponsored circus. Mr. Chamberlain did not recommend that the City furnish this transportation.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Bus Department Superintendent.

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

5. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full Mr. Chamberlain's recommendation covering bus transportation in the area of Victoria Terrace.

The communication was ordered filed, with the comment that no action is necessary.

6. It was reported that a pictorial report by the Air Pollution Control District, County of Los Angeles, for the year 1954-55, is available in the City Clerk's office.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Drale said that sometime ago he had asked Mr. McVicar to make an investigation of the Narbonne Ranch Water Company. He said several people who are served by them want to form a District to be part of the Torrance Water District.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. McVicar be notified of the desire of the Council that the necessary petitions be circulated to include that

area in the Torrance Water District.

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

Councilman Drale then read a prepared statement which embodied the following recommendations for street improvements for the City of Torrance:

1. Dominguez should be widened and improved to Sartori from Crenshaw Boulevard, and Sartori paved its full width from its junction with Dominguez to Torrance Boulevard.

2. That no time should be lost in opening Arlington Avenue from 190th Street to 203rd Street, and in improving Arlington Avenue from 203rd Street to Sartori Avenue.

3. Carson Street should be extended from Madrona Avenue to the Anza Freeway, or Redondo Beach.

4. Calle Mayor must be opened from 101 Highway to Sepulveda.

5. We should work to have Hawthorne Boulevard extended through Palos Verdes hills to Marineland and that area.

6. Torrance Boulevard should be improved, widened and paved from Western Avenue to Sartori.

7. We should work to have Torrance Boulevard improved east of Western Avenue to Normandie Avenue, in the City of Los Angeles.

8. Sepulveda must be widened through Torrance.

9. The widening of Crenshaw between Dominguez and Carson should be done.

Councilman Drale then moved that the City Council instruct the City Manager to use all haste in bringing to reality such a program.

Councilman Drale pointed out that the State and the City of Los Angeles would take care of some of these projects.

Councilman Benstead asked where the money would come from.

Councilman Drale said it could be managed.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager about this, and City Manager Stevens outlined the sums available to the City from State and County gas tax funds, and that some money is available to the City from the County for the improvement of Arlington.

Councilman Benstead asked if the improvement of Arlington as mentioned here is not already under way.

City Manager Stevens said some progress has been made, and that both Dominguez Land Company and Bethlehem have agreed to give the easements necessary for this if the City will attend to the drainage problem, which the City Manager said is a very serious and complicated matter. He added that the Engineering Department is working on this now.

Councilman Blount seconded the motion.

Mayor Isen moved to table the motion until recommendations are received from the City Manager and City Engineer as to priorities in these suggestions and a breakdown of the necessary costs.

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

Mayor Isen moved to table this motion until after April 10, 1956.

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

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Schwab asked City Manager Stevens what is being done about carrying Crenshaw on south of 101 Highway, and City Manager Stevens said some progress has been made toward arranging for the County to do that work.

Mayor Isen said he had been asked by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to nominate two of our citizens to a group known as the "Honored Hundred", an annual award to be made to citizens of Southern California who have given generously of themselves to make this a better place to live.

Mayor Isen said he had nominated one man and one woman, as he was asked to do, and read the following two nominations:

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OUTSTANDING MAN: SAM LEVY:

For constructive community and welfare work that he has done for the past 38 years. When city funds were short, he took it upon himself to supervise the building of our YWCA Building and a much needed addition to the fire station. He worked on and spearheaded innumerable charity drives, and whenever there is a job in this community to be done, it seems to be given to Sam and he loves it.

OUTSTANDING WOMAN: DOROTHY JAMIESON:

Mrs. Jamieson has been librarian at the Torrance library for the past 25 years. She is one of the earliest residents of the City of Torrance and over the years has worked actively for local charities and the Torrance Memorial Hospital. She has helped to guide and mold the character of thousands of our young people, out of the line of ordinary duty, by helping them to select proper reading, helping them with their home work assignments, and generally has been of inspiration to them.

The Mayor filed a copy of his letter with the Deputy City Clerk.

Mr. Jim Thompson of 2031 Gramercy asked for permission to hold a political rally and parade on April 9th, 1956, from 5:00 P. M. until dusk. Mr. Thompson said he had cleared this with the Chief of Police.

Councilman Blount moved the request be granted.

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

Mr. Conrad Berwanger of Victoria Knolls was present, and asked if the report on his property had been overlooked.

It had been, and the Council immediately asked City Engineer Bishop for his report.

The City Engineer reported that the lot Mr. Berwanger lives on, as well as other lots in the immediate vicinity, have definitely slipped. Mr. Bishop said he feels that the contractor should make the necessary repairs, but the contractor disagrees emphatically. City Engineer Bishop said he has asked for a report from Fred Converse & Company in Pasadena, and when it is received he will submit it to the Council. He added that we cannot, under our present ordinances, force the contractor to do the work.

Councilman Benstead asked the City Attorney if the City was in any way responsible for the conditions prevailing on the land in question, and City Attorney Hall said no.

Councilman Drale said that about a year ago he had asked for a grading ordinance, and asked what had happened to it.

City Engineer Bishop said he is now working on and studying three ordinances preparatory to presenting a final draft to the Council.

City Attorney Hall said this should be brought forward with all haste, as the City has no legislation to use in an instance such as this.

After some discussion, Mayor Isen moved the subdivider be advised by Mr. Bishop that the City Council wants him to make these repairs.

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

Councilman Blount asked if the subdivider had been heard from, and Mayor Isen said the Council would be glad to have the subdivider attend the next meeting of the Council, and instructed the City Engineer to so advise the construction company.

Mr. Robert Jahn of 440 Via Linda Vista said the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners' Association has written a letter to the City Clerk asking for information as to whether or not they can have time on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Council to discuss the Hollywood Riviera Sewer District No. 2.

Mayor Isen said there would be, and in the meantime referred Mr. Jahn to the City Engineer.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P. M.

By Irvin J. Hallanger *I. J. Hallanger*
DEPUTY City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance

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