

Torrance, California
April 17, 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. April 17, 1956, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

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

Councilman Drale opened the meeting with an invocation,

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the Minutes of the Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Council held April 11, 1956.

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

Councilman Schwab joined the meeting at 5:38 P. M.

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for opening of bids on sporting equipment for the Recreation Department.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Notice to Bidders. There being no objections, this was accepted and ordered filed.

Councilman Schwab moved that due to the length of the bids, the bids be opened and that the reading of them be dispensed with and they be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation to the Council at the next regular meeting.

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

Councilman Drale asked if it would be possible for the Councilmen to have the totals of the various bids for the next regular meeting so they can compare them.

Councilman Benstead said he would like to have a copy of the recommendation in advance.

Mayor Isen said all bidders should be advised that such bids would be in the City Manager's office for inspection.

City Clerk Bartlett then opened bids for sporting equipment from:

- Proctor's Sporting Goods Company;
- W. A. Goodman & Sons;
- Tennis Supply Company;
- William Lane Company;
- Conlin Brothers;
- Wilson Sporting Goods Company;
- Hammatt & Sons Sporting Goods;
- Sportsmen's Paradise;
- Fredericks & Company;
- Torrance Cycle & Sports Shop.

Mayor Isen ordered these turned over to City Manager Stevens for his recommendation at the next regular meeting of the Council.

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for opening bids for office equipment and furniture for the new City Hall, the new Police Station, the Recreation Department and the Fire Department.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the affidavit of publication.

There was no objection, and this was accepted and ordered filed.

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Councilman Schwab moved these be opened and referred to the City Manager for his recommendation at the next meeting of the Council. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked that the location of the bidders be shown. City Clerk Bartlett opened bids from:

Pacific Desk Company, Los Angeles;
 Southern California Safe Company, Los Angeles;
 Parrish Stationers, Torrance;
 Yawman & Erby, Los Angeles;
 Floyd Stationery Company, San Pedro;
 Pacific Desk Company, Los Angeles;
 Hollywood Office and Appliance and Furniture Co., Hollywood;
 Torrance Desk and Office Equipment Co., Torrance;
 Miller Desk and Safe Co., Los Angeles;
 Los Angeles Desk Company, Los Angeles;
 General Fireproofing Company, Los Angeles.

Mayor Isen ordered these bids referred to the City Manager for his study and recommendation.

CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time for the canvass of the returns of the General Municipal Election held April 10, 1956.

City Clerk Bartlett read in full his letter to the Council dated April 17, 1956, as follows:

"Please be advised that 27 applications for Absent Voter's Ballots were issued; 26 were returned.

26 Absent Voter's Ballots were issued. 26 were returned.
 All were returned by April 16, last day for receiving same.

Ballot numbers issued were Nos. 22361 to 22386 inclusive."

City Attorney Hall ruled that it would be in order to count the Absentee Ballots at this time.

The City Attorney asked the City Clerk if he had compared the signatures on the applications for absentee ballots with those on the envelopes and the City Clerk replied that he had, and that they were in order.

City Clerk Bartlett distributed to the Councilmen the necessary material for tallying the absentee ballots.

Mayor Isen ordered that the envelopes be slit and then, with the identification envelope "B" enclosed and with the application for Absent Voter ballot be passed from the City Clerk to Councilman Blount at one end of the Council table, and then passed by him through the hands of the Council for verification before being voted. This order was adopted.

The following absentee ballots were voted:

1. W. E. Irwin

2. Valda W. Wilkins

Mayor Isen challenged this vote because there was nothing on the outside envelope to show when it was received in the office of the City Clerk.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger reported to the Council that the last of the absentee ballots was received in the City Clerk's office at about two o'clock in the afternoon of April 16, 1956.

Mayor Isen asked if Deputy City Clerk Hallanger would make this statement under oath, and the Deputy City Clerk said he would.

City Attorney Hall said that on the basis of this statement, the ballot was received within the time limit and he would have to rule the challenge be disallowed.

City Clerk Bartlett produced a written record showing that the ballot was returned on March 23, 1956.

Councilman Drale moved the ballot be considered valid.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, on the basis of the Deputy City Clerk's statement of when these ballots were received.

City Clerk Bartlett explained that many of these ballots were voted in the Clerk's office over the counter and handed in at once, rather than having been mailed in.

Councilman Schwab asked if there was a record on these ballots, and City Clerk Bartlett replied that there is.

Mayor Isen asked to see the record, and City Clerk Bartlett handed it to him.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

The ballot was voted.

3. Cora M. Schwartz.

Councilman Blount challenged this on the grounds that there was no signature on the application for the ballot. Councilman Blount said if the City Attorney ruled to him that it was not necessary for the application to be signed, he was willing to drop his challenge.

Mayor Isen said if that was a motion, he seconded it.

City Clerk Bartlett said the ballot was issued on instructions from the office of the County Registrar of Voters.

City Attorney Hall read the section of the Code governing such applications.

Motion to disallow the vote of Cora M. Schwartz carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

4. Edward A. Schwartz

Councilman Blount moved to disallow the vote of Edward A. Schwartz because there was no signature on the application for ballot.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

5. Ida F. Graves

This lady had neglected to sign the identification envelope, and the ballot was not inside the envelope provided therefor.

Councilman Blount moved to disallow this vote.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Schwab, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

6. Gaudia E. Millstead.

This ballot was voted without challenge.

7. Lela M. Smith

Mayor Isen challenged this ballot on the grounds that there was no mark on the outer envelope to show the date this was received in the City Clerk's office.

Councilman Blount moved this ballot be received and counted.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

8. Joseph McKenna

This was challenged by Mayor Isen because there was a typed note on the outside of the outer envelope saying that two ballots were enclosed, Mr. McKenna's and that of his wife, Anna.

Councilman Blount challenged because there was no signature on the application for ballot.

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

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9. Anna McKenna

Councilman Blount challenged because there was no signature on the application, as covered in the action on the ballot of Joseph McKenna.

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

10. Addie W. Parks

Mayor Isen challenged this because there was no postmark or stamp showing date of receipt in the City Clerk's office.

Councilman Blount moved this ballot be accepted and counted.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

11. Fay L. Parks

Mayor Isen challenged this ballot because there was no postmark or stamp showing date of receipt in the City Clerk's office on the outside envelope.

Councilman Blount moved this ballot be accepted and counted.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

12. Alicia Loranger

This ballot was voted without challenge.

13. Harriet Ryland

This ballot was not inside the envelope provided therefor, but otherwise was in order.

Councilman Blount moved the ballot be accepted and counted, as there was substantial compliance with the law shown.

Motion seconded by Councilman Schwab.

As there was no challenge, the roll call was not asked for, and the ballot was voted.

14. Laura E. Cusick

Mayor Isen challenged this for the reason that there was no postmark or date stamp on the outer envelope to show when this was received in the City Clerk's office, and objected also on the grounds that there were certain ambiguities on the application. The Mayor also asked how difficult it would be to secure the original signature of the voter when she registered to vote.

City Clerk Bartlett said an affidavit could be secured from the voter as to the correctness of the material under examination here.

Councilman Blount moved this ballot be received and counted.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

When envelope "B" was opened to deposit the ballot in the ballot box, it developed that the number on the ballot had been removed.

Mayor Isen challenged this ballot on the grounds that when the Clerk opened the envelope the number was not on the ballot, but had evidently been removed by the voter.

City Attorney Hall said there was no provision that he knew in the Code to cover this.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney to check very carefully, and then declared a recess at 6:30 P. M., with the Council re-convening at 6:40 P.M.

When the Council re-convened, City Attorney Hall read the valid reasons for challenge to the Council.

Mayor Isen expressed the opinion that this was a technical challenge, and asked the City Attorney for a ruling.

City Attorney Hall replied that he believed the ballot to be valid even though the number was removed, because there is substantial compliance.

Councilman Blount moved the ballot be accepted and counted.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

15. Nancy Ruth Miller
This ballot was voted without challenge.

16. Mervyn H. Porter
Mayor Isen challenged this ballot because there was no postmark on the envelope and no mark showing when it was received in the office of the City Clerk.

Councilman Blount moved this ballot be accepted and counted.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

17. Rose Rothleder
Mayor Isen challenged the validity of the signatures on the application for ballot and on the identification envelope.
Councilman Drale said he believed the woman was known to both him and Mayor Isen as a blind woman, and that he would not challenge even though the handwriting did not seem identical.

Councilman Benstead asked if, as Councilman Drale said, this is a blind woman, whether someone is authorized to endorse for a blind woman.

City Attorney Hall said there is assisted voting for those disabled, but that there is nothing here to indicate whether or not this lady was so disabled.

Councilman Benstead asked the City Attorney for an opinion.
City Attorney Hall replied that unless she has taken an affidavit that she is one of those who, under the law, needs assistance, and if someone else had written it for her, it would have to be disallowed.

Councilman Drale moved the ballot be accepted and counted.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

18. Ruth I. Porter.
Mayor Isen challenged on the grounds that the envelope bore no mark signifying date of receipt in the office of the City Clerk.
Councilman Blount moved to accept and count this ballot on the statement of the Deputy City Clerk as to the dates of receipt of the ballots.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMAN: Isen.

19. R. P. Wightman
Mayor Isen challenged on the grounds that the envelope bore no stamp signifying date of receipt in the office of the City Clerk.
Councilman Blount moved this ballot be accepted and counted based on the statement of the Deputy City Clerk as to date of receipt.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

20. Mark K. McIlvaine
This ballot was voted without challenge.

21. Mary L. Cadenhead
Councilman Blount said there was no residence address shown on the identification envelope.
Mayor Isen challenged on the grounds that no residence address was noted on the envelope and she may have moved from the precinct.
City Attorney Hall was questioned on this, and said there is no answer in the Code on this point.

Councilman Drale moved this ballot be accepted and counted.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

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22. James Cadenhead
 Mayor Isen moved to disallow this ballot on the grounds that it was voted on April 15, 1956.
 City Attorney Hall ruled that this was automatically disallowed.

23. Bonita Friberg
 Mayor Isen challenged on the grounds that the envelope bore no stamp sigifying date of receipt in the office of the City Clerk.
 Councilman Schwab asked Clerk Bartlett when this was received in his office, and the City Clerk said on April 5, 1956.
 Mayor Isen asked if that was not too close to election date, and then challenged on the grounds that the application was not returned within the provisions of the Election Code, five full days before the election.
 Councilman Blount said in view of the fact that the local newspapers had given publicity to the last day as being April 5, he moved that this ballot be accepted and counted.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

24. Bernice L. Lenton
 Mayor Isen challenged this on the grounds that it had not been received within the time specified by the Election Code.
 Councilman Drale moved that the ballot be accepted and counted.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.
 The number had been removed from the corner of this ballot, and Mayor Isen challenged on those grounds.
 Councilman Blount moved to accept and count this ballot as there was substantial compliance with the law.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

25. Mrs. Sarah Montgomery
 Mayor Isen challenged on the grounds that the application was not received within the time limitation set by the Election Code.
 Councilman Blount moved the ballot be accepted and counted.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen.

26. Eugene L. Shackelford
 Mayor Isen challenged this ballot because the application was not received within the time limitation set by the Election Code.
 Councilman Blount moved this be received and counted.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Isen.

City Attorney Hall announced that six of the 26 absentee ballots had been disallowed.
 City Clerk Bartlett reported there were 20 ballots in the box.
 The ballots were then opened and the votes counted.

Mayor Isen declared a recess at 8:05 P. M., and the Council re-convened at 8:15 P. M.

The Council, acting as an Election Board, tallied the votes, and signed the necessary papers, completing the necessary work of such a Board. This material was turned over to the City Attorney and the City Clerk respectively.

In canvassing the precincts, the following precincts were questioned: 37, 38, 63, 69, 73, 76, 85 M-Z, 89, and 100.

Mayor Isen moved these precincts be included in the canvass of votes.
 Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2906

RESOLUTION DECLARING RESULTS OF GENERAL
MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD IN THE CITY OF
TORRANCE APRIL 10, 1956.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2906. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen instructed City Clerk Bartlett to read the Statement of Result of the election.
City Clerk Bartlett read:

"I, A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby adopt the foregoing Resolution No. 2906, and the entire content thereof, as the statement of the result of the aforesaid election, required by Section 9919 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the same as if set forth in full by me.

Entered April 10, 1956.

A. H. Bartlett

City Clerk of the City of Torrance,
California."

Mayor Isen then announced that Councilman Victor Benstead and Councilman Nickolas Drale had been re-elected to the City Council for four-year terms and that Robert Jahn has been elected for a four-year term as the new member of the City Council.

Mayor Isen then expressed to Councilman Schwab the respect and regard which everyone has held for him during his term of service as Mayor and Councilman in our City, and expressed to him the deep regret felt at his leaving the Council. The Mayor then presented to Councilman Schwab a gift from the Council.

Councilman Schwab thanked everyone, and extended to the new Council his very best wishes for the future.

Councilman Schwab then left the rostrum after a standing ovation from those present.

City Clerk Bartlett then administered the oath of office to Councilmen Benstead, Drale, and Jahn.

Councilman Benstead moved that Albert Isen be seated as Mayor of the City.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Drale expressed himself by saying that he believed each Councilman should have the opportunity to be Mayor of the City, and felt a man who has served as Mayor for a year should vacate and give another Councilman the opportunity to fill the Mayor's chair in the City of Torrance.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale.

Councilman Jahn then thanked all who supported him in his campaign for election to the Council.

Councilman Drale expressed his gratitude to those who voted for him in his campaign for re-election.

Councilman Benstead thanked his many supporters, and promised to serve to the best of his ability.

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Mayor Isen said he appreciated re-election as Mayor. He said he has made every effort to serve to the best of his ability and will continue to do his best for the people of Torrance.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. Mayor Isen set the date for the third and final Hearing before the City Council of Case No. 379, petition of Don Ja Ran for a Change of Zone as 8:00 P. M. May 8, 1956.

2. VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT

City Clerk Bartlett presented the plans and specifications as previously authorized by Resolution.

Councilman Blount moved they be received and filed.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2907

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ASSESSMENT DISTRICT EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM THEREIN:

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2907.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2908

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ORDER THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN MONTEREY STREET AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS IN SAID CITY, WITHIN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT: DECLARING THE WORK TO BE OF MORE THAN LOCAL OR ORDINARY PUBLIC BENEFIT; AND DESCRIBING THE DISTRICT TO BE BENEFITTED BY SAID WORK AND TO PAY THE COSTS AND EXPENSES THEREOF; DETERMINING THAT BONDS SHALL BE ISSUED TO REPRESENT SAID COSTS AND EXPENSES; AND FIXING THE TIME AND PLACE SET FOR HEARING OBJECTIONS TO SAID WORK OR IMPROVEMENT, OR TO THE EXTENT OF THE DISTRICT TO BE ASSESSED OR BOTH:

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. 2908.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger presented the estimate of cost of the proposed project in the amount of \$27,370.88.

Date of the hearing was set for May 8, 1956, at 8:00 P. M.

Councilman Blount moved to receive the estimate of cost and that it be filed.

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

Councilman Benstead moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The Council adjourned at 9:50 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance

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