

Torrance, California  
May 8, 1956

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular session at 8:00 P. M. Tuesday, May 8, 1956, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. J. E. Kettler led the salute to our Flag.

Father MacInnis of the Nativity Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Isen commented upon the news coverage of our City being made by the Mirror News, and introduced their reporter who was present to cover this meeting.

Councilman Jahn moved that a correction be made in the Minutes of the meeting of May 1, 1956, on Page 9, under Tract 19835. He said the motion did not carry.

Mayor Isen said the point was well taken, and ordered the phrase "The motion carried" struck out and the phrase "Roll call vote" substituted for it, showing that when Mr. Benstead withdrew his "Yes" vote on this motion, it did not carry.

City Attorney Hall suggested that the words "during the Pre Council Meeting" be struck from Lines 2 and 3 of the fifth paragraph on Page 1 of the Minutes of the May 1 meeting of the Council, and that in the eighth paragraph on Page 1 of the same Minutes, all three lines be struck and the following inserted in their place: "The petitions were filed with the City Clerk for an examination as to the sufficiency of the petitions."

Councilman Jahn moved to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 1956 meeting of the Council with the corrections as shown above.

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

HEARINGS:

VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT: Hearing on Resolution of Intention No. 2908.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Affidavit of Publication of Resolution of Intention and of mailing notices of passage of Resolution of Intention and time of hearing.

Councilman Blount moved these be accepted and filed.

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

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place fixed for the hearing of all written protests against the proposed work or against the extent of the district to be assessed, or both.

There were none.

The Mayor asked if anyone present wished to protest.

No one came forward.

Councilman Blount moved the Hearing be closed.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read:

COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2919

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING THE WORK OF IMPROVING THE VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO POST AND PUBLISH A NOTICE INVITING SEALED PROPOSALS:

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

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2919.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2920

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ASCERTAINING THE PREVAILING RATE OF PER DIEM WAGES FOR EACH TYPE OF CRAFT OR WORKMAN NEEDED TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AND ALL OTHER ITEMS OR WORK INCIDENTAL OR APPURTENANT THERETO.

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

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2920.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2921

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DIRECTING THAT THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN THE VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER DISTRICT, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, BE MADE BY THE CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE:

Councilman Jahn 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. 2921.

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

CASE NO. 379: Third and final Hearing before the City Council on Petition of Don Ja Ran Construction Company, Inc., et al, for Change of Zone from R 3 to R-4 on the following described property: Lots 143 to 168 inclusive, Tract 18379, situated at 601-649 Paseo de la Playa Hollywood Riviera, to enable petitioner to develop this property as a resort type hotel development with parking areas, restaurant facilities and cocktail facilities, including recreational and other facilities ordinarily found in such a development, recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the affidavit of publication.  
Councilman Blount moved this be accepted and filed.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place for filing of written protests.

City Clerk Bartlett read in full a letter of protest from Warren T. and Nancy F. Shallies, which was referred from the meeting of the Council held April 24.

The City Clerk reported that there was also a letter of protest from Theodore F. Verrall dated May 4, 1956, and a letter of approval from E. L. Callahan and Gertrude G. Callahan.

Mayor Isen ordered the letters filed in connection with this Case.

Mayor Isen then called for oral statements regarding this Case, but there were none.

Councilman Benstead moved the Hearing be closed.

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

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Case 379.

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

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter from the County Boundary Commission of Los Angeles County re the proposed annexation to the City of Torrance of "El Nido". Legal description of the area attached as revised.

There were no objections, and this was ordered filed.

2. A request dated April 30 1956, from H. Neumann, that a refund of \$15.00 be made to his contractor, Mr. Joseph Jean, as this was a duplicate payment for a Variance. This refund was recommended by J. V. Russell, Superintendent of Building.

Councilman Jahn moved the refund be granted.

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

3. A letter from Mrs. E. W. Clark expressing the hope that no qualified names be excluded from the proposed bronze plaque commemorating men and women who served in the armed forces during the War which has been planned for the new Civic Center. This letter was dated April 27, 1956, and gave Mrs. Clark's home address as 341 East 25th Street, Long Beach, California.

Councilman Benstead said the plaque is to contain only the names of those service people who had given their lives for our country, and that evidently Mrs. Clark had been misinformed.

Mayor Isen directed the City Clerk to write to Mrs. Clark and give her the correct information on this.

4. City Clerk Bartlett read in full a letter from the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, dated April 20 1956 and signed by William L. Barclay, Chairman of Traffic Committee, recommending one-side-of-the-street parking in that district.

Councilman Jahn commented that Communications 5 and 6 were in support of this letter. He said he did not know what motion would be needed to put this suggestion into effect. He said he believed that at one time the Councilmen had made the suggestion that the people in Hollywood Riviera get together and make a suggestion on this subject which they could all support.

Councilman Jahn moved to accept the recommendation of these three associations and instruct the City Attorney to draw up an Ordinance to cover the suggestion.

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

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5. A communication dated April 23, 1956, from the Riviera Parent Teacher Association, signed by Grace F. Noeth, Corresponding Secretary in support of Item 4. This was covered by the action on Item 4.

6. A letter from the Newton School P. T. A., endorsing one-side-of-the-street parking; this was signed by Adrienne C. King, Corresponding Secretary, and dated April 23, 1956. This letter was also in support of the Item 4 on the Agenda, and was covered by the action on that item.

7. A letter dated May 3, 1956, from the Del Amo Estate Company asking rezoning of some of their property to Zone C-2. Councilman Benstead moved this be sent to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn. no objections so ordered.

8. A recommendation dated May 8, 1956, from City Clerk Bartlett recommending the cancellation of Oil Well Bond #385255, covering Lot 15, Tract 15, oil well known as McCaffrey #5, Neaves Petroleum Development Principals and the Travelers Indemnity Company, Surety.

The well has changed hands and is now owned by L. W. Raley and covered by Blanket Bond #S1093266, the City Clerk said.

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

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

9. City Clerk Bartlett read aloud an invitation dated May 7, 1956, to the City Council to attend the rally for Honorable Senator Kefauver and share the speaker's platform when he is here on the evening of May 9, 1956. This was signed by C. Leo. Benstead, of the Committee for Kefauver and handed to the City Clerk by the Mayor at this time.

The communication was ordered filed.

#### Communications from the City Manager:

##### PERSONNEL:

1. John R. Cosgrove was employed as Laborer in the Water Dept. commencing May 1, 1956, at the first salary step. No. 1 on the Eligible List.
2. John Higginbotham was employed as Bus Operator (as a relief driver during vacation period) on May 1, 1956, at the first salary step. No. 1 on the Eligible List.
3. Nickolas B. Kalinin was employed as Janitor (replacing Joseph Phoenix) commencing May 3, 1956 at the first salary step. No. 1 on the Eligible List.
4. Antonio C. Martinez employed as Park Maintenance Man commencing May 3, 1956, at the first salary step. No. 1 on the Eligible List.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Personnel recommendations 1 through 4, inclusive, made by the City Manager.

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

##### APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the purchase of a self propelled 26" Atomic Renovator for the Park Dept., the sum of \$785.00 plus tax.
2. For the purchase of a new T.F.D. Wisconsin motor for the stripping machine in the Paint Dept. the sum of \$426.75 plus tax.

3. For the purchase of a new IBM electromatic typewriter with 16" carriage to replace a 10-year-old machine in the City Clerk's office, the sum of \$425.00 plus tax. \$62.50 will be obtained for a trade-in on the machine to reduce the net cost.
4. For the installation of asphalt tile floors in the new Recreation buildings at McMaster Park, Seaside Park and WALTERIA Park, as follows:

McMaster Park	\$ 325.00
WALTERIA Park	511.00
Seaside Park	511.00

The buildings were originally designed with tile floors, but the tile was deleted to reduce the contract price.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations 1 through 4 made by the City Manager under the heading of Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens made the following oral recommendations:

1. That a change order be made on the new City Hall to permit relocating of the heating and ventilating system from side wall heating registers to ceiling diffusers, at an approximate cost of \$1268.86.

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

2. That the City Council be authorized to attend the Mayors' and City Councilmen's Conference in Monterey May 24 and 25, 1956, with appropriate expenses paid.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

1. A letter from the Civil Service Board, dated May 4, 1956, recommending that the members of that Board be paid for their services at the rate of \$10.00 for each meeting attended, but not to exceed two meetings per month.

Councilman Jahn moved the communication be filed.

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

Councilman Drale said he was in favor of paying the members of this Board as members of the Planning Commission are paid.

2. A communication from the Civil Service Board advising that at their meeting of May 2, 1956, they had approved a request from Ladeene B. Chamberlain for an extension of her leave of absence for a period of six months, commencing May 1, 1956. The request for extension of leave without pay, had the approval of Mr. George W. Stevens.

Councilman Blount moved the request be granted.

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

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3. A communication from the Parks and Recreation Commission, dated May 4, 1956, asking approval of a change in policy concerning the use of recreation buildings on our parks throughout the City, and outlining their reasons for this request.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with this request.

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

#### REPORTS AND OPINIONS:

1. A report from G. Whitacre, License Inspector, with reference to matter of pro-rating business licenses, and reporting upon procedures in neighboring cities. This report suggested that our License Ordinance be changed to permit pro-rating of license fees by unexpired quarters.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the License Inspector.

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

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney be instructed to draw the necessary amendments to our License Ordinance.

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

2. A report from the Building Department with reference to the matter of pro-rating business licenses was due, but was not available.

3. An opinion of the City Attorney re "No" vote on any tract that comes before the Council if a member of the Council has a financial interest in such tract. This was dated May 4, 1956.

Attached to this was an opinion regarding the personal liability of Council members in withholding approval of final tract maps, also dated May 4, 1956. Both were signed by City Attorney Hall.

Mayor Isen said he had not received this in time to study it.

Councilman Blount asked to have the reports read in full but the Mayor said there was not time, and that they would require study.

Councilman Blount asked the City Attorney if these letters contained his opinion, and the City Attorney replied that they did, and that he had contacted the League of California Cities and they concurred with him in this. He said he expects to have a written opinion from their offices by Thursday or Friday of this week.

Mayor Isen moved that Items K4, K5, and K6 on the Agenda, along with the City Attorney's opinion, be held over until next week, providing the opinion from the League of California Cities is available by that time.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Joseph H. Barton, representing Property Management Inc. at 15502 South Crenshaw Boulevard asked if the items called K4, K5, and K6 by the Mayor were tracts, and asked if he could have a copy of the City Attorney's opinion.

Mr. Barton protested further postponement of action on the tracts.

Mr. Janson also protested.

Mayor Isen read a prepared statement as follows:

"I have been misquoted in regards to my statements of last week.

I did not say, "I would not vote for any matter where another Councilman abstained from voting", as quoted in a local newspaper.

What I did say was that "I would hereafter vote 'no', as a matter of policy, whenever a tentative tract came for approval from the Planning Commission to the City Council and a Councilman abstained from voting because of financial interest or commissions earned with reference to the sale of the real property involved for tract purposes."

There are rare occasions where the proper legal and ethical thing to do is for a Councilman to abstain from voting.

However, in my opinion, when a Councilman has acted as a real estate broker, and has collected his commissions, either before or after approval of the tract by the Planning Commission and City Council his actions in abstaining from voting may be technically within the law, but the entire

procedure is improper by ethical and moral standards, because his real estate dealings should not be before the Planning Commission and City Council for approval."

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

At 8:40 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council reconvening at 8:50 P. M.

Mayor Isen announced that the Evening High School Civics Class was in the audience. He welcomed them to the meeting.

Mayor Isen said that Mr. Babb wished to present a petition regarding the Don Ja Ran petition for Change of Zone which had been acted on earlier in the evening.

Mr. Babb came forward, saying he lived in the Riviera Beach Estates and the petition was not against the hotel itself, but against the hotel using the streets of the tract for entry ways and asked that entry to the hotel be from the highway.

Mayor Isen instructed Mr. Babb to turn this petition over to Mr. Powell of the Planning Commission for consideration in connection with the case, and said that Mr. Powell would file this with the City Clerk.

Mr. Joseph Barton of Property Management came forward again and said the two Tract Maps 19835 and 22495 which were on the agenda for consideration this evening were presented by his company. He said both had been approved by members of the City Council when they were before them as Tentative Maps. He went on to say that holding these tracts up for two weeks harms their interest considerably financially. He said he had a copy of the State Subdivision Map Act in his hand, and asked if this applied to the City of Torrance. He added that they feel it is unfair to oppose the tracts as it is their belief they are held up because they are caught between two factions of the Council, and not from any fault in the tracts.

Mr. Janssen of Anderson Janssen who presented Tract 22413, also protested the action of the Council in postponing action on this tract, the tentative map of which had been approved some time ago.

4. City Clerk Bartlett then read in full a letter from I. J. Hallanger, Deputy City Clerk, dated May 7, 1956, in reply to the Mayor's request for information about the Mental Health Foundation. The body of the letter follows:

"The Mental Health Foundation, being newly incorporated, limits the source of information concerning its activities.

However, the serious import of proposed legislation regarding care and treatment of mental patients and/or alleged mental patients before the State Legislature and United States Senate should be studied individually by members of the Council before they resolve to permit any organization to solicit funds in Torrance -- funds which may be used to promote passage of the bills."

Mrs. Clyde Haslett of 4915 Milne Drive spoke to the Council asking that the request of the Foundation to solicit funds in Torrance be denied. She cited the so-called "Alaska Bill" and AB3300 as her grounds for such request.

Mrs. Herma Tillim spoke favorably of the organization.

Councilman Blount moved the request of the Mental Health Foundation to solicit funds in the City of Torrance be denied.

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

5. Report from Ronald W. Bishop, City Engineer, dated May 4, 1956, on the Del Amo Boulevard Improvement District. This letter gave the City

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Engineer's recommendations for improvement of the area.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the report.

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

Mayor Isen instructed Mr. Bishop to proceed with the necessary planning for implementation of the improvements.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. A recommendation dated May 4, 1956, from John R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, that the City accept the bid of Warren-Southwest Inc., to supply asphalt material for the fiscal year of 1956-57. Warren-Southwest bid as follows:

100-300 tons	\$ 5.60 per ton
301-600 tons	5.60 per ton
601-1000 tons	5.60 per ton
Per ton, delivered to City Yard	5.10
Per ton, at Supplier's plant	4.60

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of Mr. Patrick.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2922

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND WARREN-SOUTHWEST, INC.

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

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2922.

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

2. Letter of May 3, 1956, from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommending the release of Subdivision Improvement Bond No. 16 3960 54 on Tract No. 19857. Attached: (a) letter from Park Department giving approval of trees; (b) sketch of tract.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Engineer for the release of this Bond.

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

3. TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 22912: Transmittal form from Planning Commission and Engineering Department recommending approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 22912, located easterly of Walnut Avenue, southerly of Huber Street and northerly of 233rd Street, containing 19 lots presented by Mr. John E. Kettler. Attached: (a) Letter from L. A. County Flood Control District; (b) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of April 4, 1956; (c) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of March 3, 1954; (d) Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engineer, dated March 20, 1956; (e) Sketch of tract.

Mr. Kettler was present and said this tract had been approved once by the Council, but it was done over a year ago due to the lapse of time. Mr. Kettler said the tract was brought back here tonight. He said there were no changes in the map. He said the lots are all over 6,000 feet in size.

Councilman Jahn said he was disturbed by the "canal" shown at the

back of these lots. Mr. Kettler explained that this was actually a gutter with curbs, and would serve to drain the back of the lots in the tract to the streets.

Mr. Kettler added that this channel had been straightened out now and would not have any curves or bends in the channel.

Mayor Isen questioned Mr. Kettler as to whether he had paid a second filing fee when this tract was presented for the second time. The Mayor said if he had not, it would seem that his rights stemmed from the first fee paid and the results of it.

Mayor Isen moved to hold this over for a week for the City Attorney to check on Mr. Kettler's position on this tract map, in view of the opinion expressed above.

4. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 19835: (Held over from May 1, 1956, for opinion of City Attorney) Transmittal form from Planning Commission and Engineering Department recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 19835, located westerly of Arlington Avenue and northerly of 174th Street, containing 43 lots, and presented by Property Management Corporation. Attached: (a) Letter from Property Management Corporation dated April 26, 1956, regarding utility poles; (b) Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, dated April 18, 1956; (c) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of April 18, 1956; (d) Sketch of tract.

This tract was one of those held over by the action taken earlier in the evening when the City Attorney's opinion was presented.

5. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 22495: (Held over from May 1 1956 Council Meeting, for opinion of City Attorney). Transmittal form from Planning Commission and Engineering Department recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 22495, located northerly of 170th Street, southerly of Dominguez Channel and easterly of Tract 18852, containing 21 lots presented by Property Management Corporation. Attached: (a) Letter from Property Management Corporation dated April 26, 1956, regarding utility poles; (b) letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, dated April 18, 1956; (c) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of April 18, 1956; (d) Sketch of tract.

This tract was one of those held over by the action taken earlier in the evening when the City Attorney's opinion was presented.

6. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 22413: (Held over from May 1, 1956, Council Meeting, for opinion of City Attorney). Transmittal from Planning Commission and Engineering Department recommending approval of Final Tract Map No. 22413, located on 179th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Casimir Avenue, containing 49 lots presented by Anderson and Janssen. Attached: (a) Letter from Anderson Janssen dated April 24, 1956, regarding utility poles; (b) Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, dated March 20, 1956; (c) Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of March 21, 1956; (d) Sketch of tract.

This tract was one of those held over by the action taken earlier in the evening when the City Attorney's opinion was presented.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2923

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF SALE OF FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A PIPELINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2923.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2924

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

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. 2924.

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

An Ordinance was to come before the Council 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. 372.

Councilman Jahn asked for more information on this Ordinance, and George Powell, Planning Director, explained that the Change of Zone had been granted with certain stipulations, and that this Ordinance contained these stipulations.

In reply to a question from Councilman Jahn, City Attorney Hall said the Council had voted three-to-two to grant the zone change, subject to the stipulations in this Ordinance.

Councilman Jahn asked what would happen if this ordinance failed to pass, and City Attorney Hall said it would die, in all probability. He said this is a legislative matter and there is an element of discretion. Councilman Jahn said, "Supposing this would materially affect anyone, is there any liability?"

City Attorney Hall replied that he would prefer to give this question some study.

Councilman Jahn said he is not prepared to vote on the Ordinance at this time.

Councilman Jahn moved to hold this over for a week for a written opinion from the City Attorney on his last question.

Councilman Drale said he had no objection to that, and seconded the motion.

There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen read a Proclamation proclaiming May 11th "Adlai Stevenson Day" in Torrance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Attorney Hall asked authority to settle a property damage claim on behalf of the City for the sum of \$500.00, which he said he felt to be a fair sum, and recommended the settlement.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney.

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

City Attorney Hall reported to Councilman Jahn that he had checked on the noise of train whistles as Councilman Jahn had requested him to do. The Attorney said he found that trains, which operate under the I.C.C. are required by law to blow their whistles a certain number of times at certain types of crossings, and have no option but to do so. He added

that if the trains which the Councilman had complained about were blowing their whistles too often at certain crossings at night and material could be accumulated to substantiate this the train companies could be asked to conform with the practice recommended by the rules of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney be authorized to start condemnation proceedings on fifty acres immediately north of the new Civic Center site for park and recreational purposes.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Mayor Isen informed the audience that this acreage had been cut to fifty from ninety acres as a result of a poll taken of the members of the Park & Recreation Commission.

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

Councilman Drale explained his vote by saying he favored community parks rather than a central park of this type.

Councilman Benstead moved the money for a title search and necessary action by the City Attorney be appropriated, in an amount not to exceed \$250.00.

Councilman Drale asked how the City would pay for the property when the proceedings are finished.

Mayor Isen replied the property would be paid for by a bond issue.

Councilman Jahn seconded the motion.

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

Councilman Benstead moved this information be presented to the Park & Recreation Commission for their suggestions as to some way of raising the necessary funds.

Councilman Drale asked how long the property could be tied up if the bond issue did not pass.

City Attorney Hall said by filing action the prices could be frozen for a year; if there is a delay past that length of time through no fault of the defendant, the value depends on the value of the land at the time the final action is taken.

The City Attorney said the action could be abandoned, and if the City begins it and withdraws before the trial and prior to 90 days before the trial, it must pay the defendant's costs.

Councilman Drale said to have such a bond issue it would be necessary to have a Special Election or wait two years for an election.

Councilman Benstead agreed, saying that is why he moved to refer this to the Park and Recreation Commission for their suggestions on some other way to raise the money than by bond issue.

Councilman Jahn seconded Councilman Benstead's motion.

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

Mayor Isen moved that in this connection the Park & Recreation Commission also make a study of additional parks and recreational facilities throughout the City, with the end in view that they come up with either a plan or plans alternate to a bond issue.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Mrs. Herma Tillim, Park & Recreation Commissioner, said the Commission has already sent letters to the Homeowners' groups in various sections of the City and particularly North Torrance, asking for their suggestions as to what needs they have for such facilities.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount read in full the opinion of the City Attorney headed "Opinion re personal interest of City Councilmen in matters coming before the City Council" under date of May 4, 1956.

Councilman Blount then asked the Mayor if he might make a few remarks on the subject,

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and was told by Mayor Isen to proceed.

Councilman Blount proceeded as follows:

"I want to make a personal remark, and then I'm going to let it go. You gentlemen are crucifying, to the best of your knowledge and ability a man who has served the City of Torrance and served the City of Torrance well. You are doing it from a purely personal standpoint. It is not gaining the City of Torrance any stature in the State of California or the surrounding communities. You are gaining nothing.

Mr. Drale is in the real estate business. I don't believe he is going to change that business. He sold some raw land. This raw land was bought by a company who has built literally hundreds of houses in this City, and Mr. Drale, in his capacity as a real estate man, sold the land to them. He was honest. He put his own name on the escrow. He didn't have to. He could have avoided it. He could have had someone else's name put on it. But he's a man of honor. He put his name on it, and he came up before you gentlemen, and he rightly, in my opinion, and honorably, and I'm proud of him for doing it, so that there would be no shadow of any doubt as to whether he was trying to "push" anything through the City, abstained from voting. You gentlemen have taken and made a great to do over that.

Now I say to you that the spoils system is a great thing, and to the victors go the spoils, and you gentlemen have won the election and Mr. Drale and I are going to take our lickings, but I also say to you that a great number of people in the City of Torrance are sick of this personal bickering, and I request you gentlemen to get off the gentleman's back.

He's an honorable man and he's done no wrong. Don't try to make it appear that he's a crook.

You've crucified him, you've caused him great personal embarrassment. His children have been embarrassed by their school playmates and it's entirely unnecessary. Put yourself in the same chair particularly you Sir, and see if you like it."

Councilman Bonstead said there had been nothing personal in his actions, that he had merely asked for an opinion from the City Attorney which a man on the Council has a right to do.

Councilman Jahn said he wondered if there wasn't an angle here that had been overlooked that we needed go further into and get an opinion. He commented that it has been the practice of the City to accept the streets and sewers in tracts, for which we accept the responsibility for maintenance. He expressed a question as to whether the matters involved were not a little deeper than the report which has been read. Councilman Jahn added that there was nothing personal in his feelings on these tracts.

Mayor Isen replied that this really hurt him; as a public official, however, he said he felt this must be aired in public. The Mayor went on to say that the City Attorney had taken the facts for granted in this case, and that no investigation was made. He said that no one knew if the land in question was involved in bona fide sales or whether it was still in escrow, with the outcome awaiting the action of this Council. He said there had been nothing personal in it at all.

Councilman Blount said we have taken a number of steps toward establishing a Parking Authority in the City, and that certain lots have been specified for Parking District use. He said he believed steps should be taken now to protect the lots now used for parking by zoning them for parking, so that they could not be put to some other use later, thus creating further parking problems. He pointed out that businesses in our City now provide free parking in a number of locations, but that under present zoning, buildings could be erected on these lots.

Councilman Blount moved the City Attorney be instructed to immediately prepare an Ordinance covering the lots now used for parking purposes and zoning them for parking.

Mayor Isen said this was an excellent motion, and suggested that the motion be amended to include the lots marked for condemnation under the new Parking Assessment District.

Councilman Blount declined to amend his motion, saying he did not know which lots were involved.

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

Mayor Isen said he liked Councilman Blount's motion, and thinks it should also refer to lots in the District before we lose some of them. The Mayor showed the Councilmen a map which accompanied the petitions to form the Assessment District which indicated the new lots intended for parking purposes.

Mayor Isen moved that the lots shown as parking lots on this map be included in a similar zone to that proposed by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Blount said all those lots might not be required, and asked who would decide this.

City Attorney Hall said that is the proposed acquisition and if we sell the bonds we will buy all of them.

Councilman Benstead asked if this zoning could be done before the District is set up.

City Attorney Hall said it would be set up to go in or out of the District.

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

Mayor Isen then made the following Committee appointments for the Council:

FINANCE: Albert Isen, Chairman  
W. G. Blount  
N. O. Drale  
  
R. B. Jahn } Alternates  
V. E. Benstead Jr. }

PARKS & RECREATION: V. E. Benstead, Jr., Chairman  
Albert Isen  
N. O. Drale  
  
R. B. Jahn } Alternates  
W. G. Blount }

INSPECTION, AUDITORIUM,  
TRANSPORTATION: W. G. Blount, Chairman  
R. B. Jahn  
V. E. Benstead  
  
N. O. Drale ) Alternates  
Albert Isen )

POLICE & FIRE V. E. Benstead, Jr. Chairman  
R. B. Jahn  
Albert Isen  
  
W. G. Blount ) Alternates  
N. O. Drale )

STREET & SEWER N. O. Drale, Chairman  
W. G. Blount  
V. E. Benstead, Jr.  
  
Albert Isen ) Alternates  
R. B. Jahn )

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AIRPORT: R. B. Jahn, Chairman  
 Albert Isen  
 N. O. Drale

V. E. Benstead, Jr. } Alternates  
 W. G. Blount }

TRAFFIC COMMISSION: Albert Isen  
 W. G. Blount

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:  
 W. G. Blount.

Mr. A. J. Setting of 16706 Faysmith then spoke to the Council, asking for oiling and gravelling land used by the Little League in North Torrance. Mr. Setting said the land is owned by the Del Amo Estates, who allow the Little League to sublease it for their use for the sum of \$1.00 a year.

Mr. Setting said they would like to have this done before opening day of the season, May 20.

Mayor Isen moved the request be granted.

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

Councilman Benstead said he voted "No" on this because the City Attorney had said this action was open to question.

The Mayor directed the record to show the City would try to get this work done before May 20, when the baseball season begins.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 P. M.

*A. H. Barthold*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City Clerk of the City of

APPROVED:

*Albert Isen*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor of the City of Torrance