

Torrance, California
July 10, 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 8:00 P. M. Tuesday, July 10, 1956, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by the City Clerk were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Jahn, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount. Also present were City Manager Stevens and Acting City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mrs. Pat MacDonald led the salute to the Flag.

Reverend Mittoon opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Isen made the following correction in the Minutes of the Council Meeting of July 3, 1956: In Paragraph 1 under Oral Communications, in Line 2, the amount granted the National Guard last year was \$300.00 instead of \$500.00.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the Minutes of the July 3, 1956, Meeting as corrected.

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

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for opening bids for floor coverings and draperies for the new City Hall.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Affidavit of Publication, which was accepted and ordered filed.

City Manager Stevens opened and City Clerk Bartlett read the following bids:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
ZANDT CARPET CO. 1122 N. Vine St., Hollywood	Carpet only	\$2,987.36
CONSOLIDATED CARPET CO. Long Beach 13, Calif.	Carpet only	\$2,733.49
VAN'S MATTRESS & UPHOLSTERING CO. Torrance Blvd., Torrance	Carpet only Draperies only	\$4,729.20 \$3,578.60
ZANDT CARPET CO. 1122 N. Vine St., Hollywood	Draperies only	\$3,300.88
BARTLEY & CO. Pasadena, Calif.	Carpet only	\$3,346.67
PORTER'S YARDAGE STORE Torrance, California.	Draperies only	\$4,239.04
NETTIE'S DRAPERY STORE W. Pico, Los Angeles, Calif.	Draperies only	\$5,500.00 plus tax
BAER'S DRAPERIES & CURTAINS Torrance	Draperies only	\$4,009.41

Councilman Drale moved these bids be referred to the City Manager for recommendation later in the evening.

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

HEARINGS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for the Second Hearing on the Budget Estimate for the Fiscal Year 1956-57.

City Manager Stevens reported that he had obtained the preliminary unofficial estimate of assessed valuations, which normally proves to be very close to the final figures. Based on these figures and the public utility estimate furnished by the State Board of Equalization, the assessed valuations will be about \$123,000,000.00 against \$115,000,000.00, which latter figure he used as an estimate in preparing the Budget under consideration here tonight. Therefore, he added, it appears the Budget as prepared can be supported without an increase in the over-all tax rate of \$1.184.

Mr. Mack Thorington of 1651 W. 213th Street, representing Oil Workers' International, Local 1519, comprised of about 930 men, said his group objects to the amount of money given to the Chamber of Commerce under this Budget.

Mayor Isen pointed out that this is less than was given to the Chamber in the past Fiscal Year.

Mr. Thorington was glad to get this information, and said his group had believed the sum to be an increase over previous contributions or payments to the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager in regard to his report. Due to the increase to \$123,000,000.00 in assessed valuations, that the tax rate remain the same as it was during the 1955-56 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Isen pointed out that the motion might be out of order at this time, as the tax rate cannot be set until the final assessed valuation figures are received.

Councilman Jahn seconded the motion made by Councilman Drale; there were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn said he wanted to make a few remarks. He explained that he has attended several meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, and in order to better relations between the City and the Chamber, he has given the matter a great deal of thought and study concerning the appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce. He added that he has studied their Minutes and actions, and has noted from the action taken that they back the moves and feelings of the United States Chamber of Commerce. He ended his statement by saying the actions of the United States Chamber of Commerce do not always fit the entire City of Torrance. Having that feeling, he said, he had prepared the following motion, in writing, concerning the \$14,000.00 appropriation:

"I move that the \$14,000.00 listed in the Budget under Chamber of Commerce be approved, and a contract be drawn with the following conditions:

1. That quarterly \$125.00 be paid to the Torrance Mounted Police and \$75.00 to the National Guard;
2. That quarterly an amount be paid to the Chamber equal to a voucher or statement submitted by them listing what the expenditure is for and showing the money has gone for promotion and advertising of Torrance, including (a) paid advertising; (b) maps; (c) brochures; (d) surveys and reports; (e) letters and postage; (f) any special event approved by this City Council.
3. That we continue free rent and custodial service."

Councilman Drale pointed out that the National Guard should get more money than \$300.00 a year.

Councilman Jahn seconded his motion to a quarterly payment of \$125.00 to the National Guard.

Councilman Drale seconded the motion.

Mayor Isen said he thought the Chamber should get some money for overhead until it becomes self-sustaining from dues. He said running

the office and having the personnel there does, in some measure, contribute to publicity. The Mayor agreed that the Council is not in full accord with some of the actions of the Chamber, however, the publicity function of the Chamber is vital. The Mayor pointed out some of the actions taken by the Chamber which do not fit the needs of the City. He went on to say that, if the Chamber were self-supporting, it would be their own affair if they took negative action in certain matters, but if they use public money, they should use it only for the purposes for which it was intended.

The Mayor concluded his remarks by saying he agrees with the motion, and believes the door can be left open until the Chamber becomes self-sustaining.

Councilman Drale said he feels in agreement with some of the points raised here, but not all. He said the Council is elected to serve the whole City, including industry as well as labor and business groups. He added that the work which the Chamber does has never been bid on by another group. He finished his remarks by saying he feels Councilman Jahn's motion, which he seconded, simply asked for a report of how the money is spent, which the whole Council would like to see.

Councilman Jahn said he feels his motion actually lists the things for which the money can be spent, and limits the method of spending the \$14,000.00 to promotion and advertising.

Councilman Drale said such things as postage and salaries, etc., can be charged to the activities which Councilman Jahn has listed.

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

Councilman Benstead said he abstained because this whole thing is against his principles.

City Manager Stevens asked for confirmation of the wish of the Council to transfer \$2500.00 to the Park and Recreation Commission for the purpose of supporting the Torrance Area Youth Band.

Mayor Isen said it is the wish of the Council.

Councilman Jahn moved the Hearing be closed.

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

Councilman Drale moved to accept the Budget as presented.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. July 2, 1956, notification from Richfield Oil Corporation that no pipelines were laid, removed or abandoned from January 1, 1956, to June 30, 1956, under Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinances Nos. 1358-1361 N. S., within the limits of the City of Torrance. This was signed by H. W. Schmidt, Supervisor of Right of Way for D. M. Acres, Chief Right of Way Agent.

There were no objections, and this was ordered filed as a matter of record.

2. July 2, 1956, notification from Tidewater Oil Company that no permits were issued and no pipe lines were laid or removed from January 1, 1956, to June 30, 1956, under City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 127, or Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinances Nos. 1014 and 1351. This was signed by F. E. Coyle for the Western Division of the Tidewater Oil Company.

There were no objections, and this was ordered filed as a matter of record.

3. A claim for damages to automobile submitted by Daniel Darnell Jr., claiming such damages to have been sustained when said automobile

struck traffic control device on Palos Verdes Drive opposite Lutheran Church.

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

4. Transmittal letter dated June 28, 1956, from the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission, signed by Earle J. Esse, Chief Deputy Director of Planning for Milton Breivogel, Director of Planning. Enclosed were minutes of a meeting held by their Interdepartmental Engineering Committee with the South Bay Cities' Highway Committee in the office of the Daily Breeze, 131 South Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach, on Tuesday, May 22, 1956.

There were no objections, and these were ordered filed as a matter of record.

5. A letter dated July 5, 1956, from the South Bay Cities Highway Committee, signed by E. J. Rea, Chairman, requesting that the City Engineer be appointed a permanent member of the Six Cities Highway Committee.

Councilman Benstead moved this request be granted.

Councilman Jahn asked if this is the Committee on which Councilman Drale serves, and Councilman Drale replied it is.

Councilman Drale went on to say that all other Cities have five representatives on this Committee, and that Mr. Gregory has not been in attendance regularly. Councilman Drale suggested that Mayor Isen make another Citizens' appointment, preferably from the Hollywood Riviera area, so that all sections of our City will be represented.

Mayor Isen ordered a letter written to Mr. Gregory asking if he wished to continue serving on this Committee, and asked Councilman Drale to give this some thought and make a recommendation to him.

Councilman Jahn seconded Councilman Benstead's motion.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

6. A letter dated June 30, 1956, from Loyd-Jones & Cooper, Consulting Engineers, submitting a preliminary sketch, No. 62756, showing proposed lighting plan for 1200 feet along Frontage Road.

Councilman Benstead asked City Manager Stevens if it will be the responsibility of the City to light that property.

City Manager Stevens said the School District intends to dedicate the access street to the City, and will pay for the installation of the lights, but the City will pay for the energy used.

Mayor Isen referred this to the City Manager, and asked that he prepare a recommendation on it for the Council at their next meeting.

City Manager Stevens agreed to do so, and said he would be sure the Council also got copies of the print submitted.

7. An estimate from Edward R. Lovell, Landscape Architect, dated June 30, 1956, for preparation of landscape plans for the new Civic Center, in the amount of \$750.00.

City Manager Stevens said Mr. Clemmer, Park Foreman, asked to have professional help with the plans, and added that he believes we need the plans.

Councilman Drale moved to employ Mr. Lovell.

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

8. An estimate from Crouse-Hinds Company dated June 29, 1956, of \$5,216.20 plus 10% for lighting the Airport.

Councilman Drale moved this be referred to the Airport Commission. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

9. A letter dated June 29, 1956, from Edwin L. Searle, Attorney, explaining his fee for defending the City in the matter of application of Dominguez Water Corporation No. 27685 before the Public Utilities Commission.

There were no objections and this was ordered filed.

10. A letter dated July 6, 1956, from Mrs. Delbert J. White, 1716 Date Street, requesting permission to extend a block fence to adjoin an existing wall behind the Fire Station at Carson and Crenshaw.

City Manager Stevens reported that this had been taken care of. There were no objections, and the letter was ordered filed.

11. Letter dated July 25, 1956, from A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of Torrance Municipal Water Co., recommending that the City quitclaim certain easements formerly held by C. H. and Hannah Quandt as requested by A. E. Thomas. A copy of A. E. Thomas' letter to Mr. McVicar asking this quitclaim action was attached, being dated June 14, 1956.

This request and recommendation were referred to City Manager Stevens and the City Attorney for study and recommendation.

Councilman Benstead asked to be informed who now owns the land where we are requested to take this action.

12. A request dated July 1, 1956, from the Crossing Guards of the City of Torrance, signed by Ruth Ballard, President, for uniforms, shoulder patches, and 7 paid holidays a year if these holidays fall within the regular school week.

There were no objections, and this was referred to the City Manager for study and recommendation.

13. A recommendation from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, under date of July 5, 1956, that the City establish a new classification of "Sanitation Foreman" in accordance with job description submitted, and authorize an examination to be ordered on an open and interdepartmental basis.

Councilman Drale asked if "or equivalent" could not be inserted after "Graduation from High School".

Councilman Benstead agreed, saying that in his opinion anyone who could pass the examination has the equivalent of a high school education.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation as written with the phrase "or equivalent" being inserted after "Graduation from High School".

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

14. Recommendation dated June 20, 1956, from Fire Chief Benner that the City direct a letter to the Board of Fire Underwriters requesting a survey of the City to establish an up-to-date rating.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with this recommendation.

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

Councilman Jahn referred back to Item 8, from Crouse-Hinds, asking if this estimate included all the work necessary.

City Manager Stevens replied that it does not, and amplified this by saying he has asked the Edison Company to give him an estimate of the cost of bringing the power to the system, etc., and they are working on this now.

Communications from the City Manager:

The following recommendations submitted for Council consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

1. That three weeks vacation with pay be granted to City employees after ten years service, effective July 1, 1956. The employee must have ten years service at the time of taking vacation in order to qualify for the three-week period. Employees reaching their ten-year period of service after the current vacation

period will be entitled to three weeks at the time of taking his next regular vacation.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with this recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

2. Roy E. Heissner has been employed in a temporary capacity as Right-of-Way Agent in the Engineering Department, effective June 19, 1956, at a salary of \$411.00 per month.
3. Raymond H. Reese has been employed as Park Maintenance Man, commencing June 27, 1956, at the first salary step. He is No. 1 on the Eligible List.
4. William O. Winther was reinstated as Police Officer, effective July 9, 1956, at the third salary step. Approved by the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Benstead asked how long this man had been off the Force, and Assistant Police Chief Percy Bennett replied he had been away since about April of this year.

5. Jimmy Woodson Doyle has been employed as Police Officer, effective July 15, 1956, at the first salary step. He is No. 1 on the Eligible List.
6. Augustine M. Rivera has been employed as Lubrication and Tire Man in the City Garage, effective July 7, 1956, at the first salary step. He is No. 1 on the Eligible List.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Items 2 through 6 inclusive under Personnel as recommended by the City Manager.

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

A letter dated July 6, 1956, from City Manager George W. Stevens requested that he be authorized to attend the International City Managers' Conference September 16-19, 1956, with appropriate expenses paid. This conference is to be held in Banff, Canada.

The letter from the City Manager said if the permission is granted for him to attend this Conference, he will arrange his vacation period to tie in with the Conference time.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the City Manager's request.

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. July 5, 1956, letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommending release of Subdivision Improvement Bond on Tract No. 19810. Attached were (a) letter from C. W. Clemmer, Park Foreman; (b) location sketch.

Councilman Drale moved to release the Subdivision Improvement Bond on Tract No. 19810, as recommended by the City Engineer.

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

2. Letter dated July 6, 1956, from Geo. C. Powell, Planning Director, transmitting the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the alley in the rear of the Felker property be vacated and the land given to the abutting property owner. Mr. Powell's letter stated the Staff had also considered this recommendation, and they had approved it. Chief Benner has stated the Fire Department does not object to this vacationing.

Mr. Powell replied to a question by saying the abutting property owner is the Felker Manufacturing Co.

Councilman Dralc moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and that the necessary legal steps be taken to accomplish this vacation.

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

REPORTS:

An oral report by Acting City Attorney Remelmeyer with reference to the matter of payment by Kauffman-Wilson for the removal of trees along Torrance Boulevard was postponed at the request of Acting City Attorney Remelmeyer.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2962

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CIRCULATE A PETITION SEEKING THE ANNEXATION OF AN AREA, AS DESCRIBED IN SAID NOTICE, TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND APPROVING THE CIRCULATION OF THE PETITION.

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

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

Councilman Jahn asked which territory this embraces, and Acting City Attorney Remelmeyer said the area is known as "El Nido".

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2962.

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

City Clerk Bartlett presented his "Certificate re Check of Petition for Vehicle Parking District."

This Certificate was received and ordered filed.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 2963

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ORDERING A REPORT UNDER THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT INVESTIGATION, LIMITATION AND MAJORITY PROTEST ACT OF 1931. (VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT NO. 1).

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

Motion, seconded by Councilman Dralc, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2963.

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

Mayor Isen pointed out that this Resolution signalled the end of two years of hard work to get this under way.

ORDINANCE NO. 814

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING "APPENDIX I OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW C-3 (SOLELY COMMERCIAL) ZONE.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 814 at its second and final reading.

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

Acting City Attorney Remelmeier said the next three ordinances on the Agenda were prepared and presented at the request of the Engineering Department, and that City Engineer Bishop had helped him in the preparation of the Ordinances.

Two of these Ordinances, titles of which are given below, were referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" PROVIDING A LIMITATION ON THE WIDTH OF DRIVEWAYS USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" LIMITING THE CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAYS ON THROUGH LOTS FROM MAJOR AND SECONDARY STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.

The next ordinance, title given below, was held over for a week in order that the City Engineer might be present to explain to the Council Section 25.8, "EXCEPTIONS" .

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SUB-SECTION (f), SECTION 25.8, OF CHAPTER 25 (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 802) OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" RELATING TO EXCAVATIONS, FILLING AND OTHER GRADING OF REAL PROPERTY.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Benstead moved that a line be placed down the center of Paseo de la Playa in Hollywood Riviera, and that the speed limit be posted. He said this would help stop the street being used for a "drag strip" as it is now.

Motion seconded by Councilman Dale, who suggested this be referred to the Traffic Committee.

Councilman Benstead said he would be glad to have it referred to them if the action could be taken very promptly.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn said some trees were being taken down near Newton and Pacific Coast Highway, and if these are on City property, he would like to see them left standing.

City Manager Stevens said they are on privately owned property.

Councilman Jahn asked City Manager Stevens to write to Quinton Engineers to ask them to expedite the preparation of the master Plan for the Torrance Airport.

The City Manager said he would do so.

Councilman Benstead said a similar letter should go to the contractor on the new swimming pool.

City Manager Stevens said he is now preparing such a letter, and that he has been spending time often to try to hurry the completion of this project. He promised to get the letter out the first thing in the morning on Wednesday.

Councilman Jahn asked about a letter regarding utility rates which was on the Agenda for information only sometime recently.

City Manager Stevens replied that it was from a firm called "Commercial Service Company", who study rates and attempt to get them lowered when this need is indicated. The City Manager read their statement regarding a retainer.

Mayor Isen asked to have this letter on the Agenda next week for consideration by the Council.

Acting City Attorney Remelmeier said the Council should formulate a policy about areas annexing to the City and the City's bonded indebtedness. He explained that the residents of such an area will have to vote on this as well as annexation at the time the elections are held to determine whether or not such residents wish to have their homes annexed to the City.

Councilman Jahn moved it become the policy of this City Council that when any area comes into the City by annexation it must assume its share of the bonded indebtedness of the City.

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

City Manager Stevens recommended that the bid of the Consolidated Carpet Company of Long Beach for furnishing carpets at the new City Hall, in the amount of \$2733.49, be accepted as the lowest responsible bid and all other bids be rejected.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with this recommendation of the City Manager.

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

City Manager Stevens then reported that the Zandt Carpet Company of Hollywood seems to be the lowest bidder on the draperies, at a price of \$3300.88, and Van's Mattress and Upholstery Company of Torrance the next lowest bidder at \$3578.60.

Don Mansfield, Administrative Assistant, told the Council that some of the bidders had left some rooms out of their bids. He also reported that there was a difference of about \$500.00 between the lowest and next lowest bidder, due to Van's having left one room out of their bid.

Councilman Jahn moved the bid be awarded to Zandt Carpet Company as the lowest bidder, with the proviso that it be awarded to them only upon receipt of a letter from them certifying that they will meet the specifications in every way at their bid of \$3300.88, and if they do not fully qualify, the bid be given to the next lowest bidder, Van's Mattress and Upholstery Company of Torrance.

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

Mr. Walter Whitman of 1225 Crenshaw Boulevard, protested the sales and use tax of the City and the efforts of the Building Department to enforce the law. He went on to say that a good deal of his building materials he had not bought, but had brought in from jobs where he had ordered too much material, and so he had not felt he should have to pay tax on it here. He said the Building Department has told him they cannot make final inspection until the tax is paid.

Mayor Isen told Mr. Whitman that Acting City Attorney Remelmeier would furnish him with the information on this tax at his convenience, and that Mr. Whitman would be welcome to come back to the Council if he wished to do so.

Mr. Milton Hunter, President of the North Torrance Lions Club, was present with a delegation from the Club, and thanked the Council for their recognition of this new organization.

Councilman Benstead moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Jahn, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P. M.

APPROVED:



City Clerk of the City of Torrance



Mayor of the City of Torrance