

Torrance, California
September 4, 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., Tuesday, September 4, 1956, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Philip Lisman led the salute to our Flag.

The meeting was opened with an invocation by Reverend Milton Sippel.

Councilman Jahn said he had some changes to make in the Minutes of the Council Meeting of August 28, 1956, but was not quite prepared, so he request that this be held over for a week.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen ordered the Minutes held over for one week.

Councilman Blount joined the meeting at 5:32 P. M.

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for opening bids for auditing service for the year 1956-57.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger then opened and read in full the three bids summarized here:

FULD, DORSEY & CO.,
232 West Seventh St.,
San Pedro, California.

General Government	\$1,500.00	
Bus Department	250.00	
Water Department	1,400.00	
Airport	100.00	
Special Items - Collier-Burns Report, State Controller Report, and Audit of 1911 Act Assessment Districts	200.00	
		\$3,450.00

LISMAN, WADDELL & LITTLE
709 E. Rosecrans Avenue
Compton, California.

General Government	\$2,400.00	
Bus Department	400.00	
Water Department	1,600.00	
Airport	300.00	
Special Items - Collier-Burns Report	100.00	
State Controller's Report	100.00	
Audit of 1911 Act Assessment Districts	400.00	
		\$5,300.00

COTTON & FRANCISCO
106 Emerald Street
Redondo Beach, California.

Cotton & Francisco submitted two bids on different types of audits, both of which were outlined in their letter.

Bid No. 1 (Audit City is now receiving)

General Government	\$1,800.00	
Municipal Bus Department	350.00	
Airport	300.00	
Water Department	1,600.00	
1911 Act Assessment District	400.00	
Special Report - Collier-Burns	100.00	
State Controller	75.00	
		<u>\$4,625.00</u>

Bid No. 2

General Government	\$1,300.00	
Municipal Bus Department	350.00	
Airport	200.00	
Water Department	1,050.00	
1911 Act Assessment Districts	200.00	
Special Reports - Collier-Burns	100.00	
State Controller	75.00	
		<u>\$3,275.00</u>

Councilman Jahn moved all bids be referred to the City Manager for analysis and recommendation.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter dated August 26, 1956, from Richard B. Wilson, Realtor, of 4509 Torrance Boulevard, asking that he be allowed to operate his business at that location between now and the final re-zoning of the area.

Mayor Isen asked Planning Director Powell about this case, and Mr. Powell replied that Mr. Wilson is actually asking a variance; Mr. Powell went on to say that the second and final Hearing on the re-zoning of the Victor Precinct (where this business is) will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 1956, and the matter will then be forwarded to the Council for their consideration and the third and final hearing.

Upon being asked, City Attorney Remelmeyer said a variance is the only form of relief Mr. Wilson can get at the present time, as the office is in an R-1 zone.

The communication was ordered filed.

2. A letter dated August 20, 1956, from the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission had enclosed a print showing proposed Amendment No. 342 to the Master Plan of Highway of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning District. This amendment proposed to remove 223rd Street between Western Avenue and Plaza del Amo Avenue.

A note from City Manager Stevens was appended recommending approval of the proposed amendment.

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

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

3. A recommendation dated July 27, 1956, from License Inspector Whitacre that the City adopt metal plates instead of stickers on vehicles where required by Ordinance No. 624, and that the changes necessary in the Ordinance to implement this change be made.

A memorandum from City Manager Stevens recommended that the changes as outlined by License Inspector Whitacre be adopted was attached.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager and the License Inspector.

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

4. The following communications, having to do with the adoption of an 'official tree' by the City were next:

- (a) Beau Jardin Club, signed by Mr. A. J. Yackle, Secretary pro tem, dated August 27, 1956, recommended the Catalina Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus Floribundus* (var.) *Asplenifolius*.)
- (b) Greenthumbers Garden Club, signed by Mrs. G. R. Horton, dated August 30, 1956, also recommended the Catalina Ironwood tree.
- (c) Torrance Terrace Gardens, signed by Mrs. A. C. Turner, President, and Mrs. D. W. Quigley, Corresponding Secretary, dated August 31, 1956, recommended either the Magnolia Grandiflora or the Brazilian Pepper Tree.
- (d) North Torrance Fuchsia Society, signed by Mrs. J. R. Allison, Chairman of Committee, recommended the Magnolia Grandiflora.

Councilman Benstead said that in view of the sentiment expressed in the letter from the Beau Jardin Club, he wished to decline any further activity in this matter; he went on to say he did not feel he had done anything to deserve such comment, and that he felt the writer of the letter had made a mistaken observation.

Mayor Isen answered that he had appointed Councilman Benstead to this onerous task because he was well aware of the Councilman's intense interest in trees, but he released Councilman Benstead from any further service in this group.

Councilman Jahn asked what is actually meant by an 'official tree' as sought by the Clubs.

Mrs. Frances Young, Area Director of the California Garden Clubs, outlined the fact that the tree is simply planted with some ceremony, and recognized by the City as the official tree. She told of the trees adopted by neighboring cities and the attendant publicity they had received.

Councilman Jahn asked his question again, saying he wanted to know from a legal standpoint.

Mrs. Young replied that on Arbor Day the Clubs will plant one or more of trees, with appropriate ceremony. Mrs. Young answered a question from the Council by saying she represents the State Federation of Garden Clubs.

Mayor Isen said the inability of the Clubs to choose a tree puts a burden on the Council, and added that the North Torrance Fuchsia Society should have been consulted.

Mrs. Young said that Club is primarily concerned with fuchsias, whereas the trees were in line with the work of the other clubs.

A representative of the North Torrance Fuchsia Society was present, and reassured the Council that their group does wish to be consulted on this matter.

Mayor Isen suggested that a joint committee from all the clubs be set up to work out a unanimously approved recommendation to the Council.

Mrs. L. D. Burk of 22305 Warmside said a meeting had been held, and it was not possible to reach agreement.

Robert Payne, President of the North Torrance Fuchsia Society, said a meeting had been held two weeks ago, and agreed with Mrs. Burk that it had been impossible to reach unanimous agreement.

Mayor Isen suggested that two delegates from each club get together and work out a majority recommendation.

Councilman Drale agreed with this suggestion.

Councilman Jahn said he has looked at specimens of the different trees suggested, and likes them all, but if the Clubs cannot reach a mutually satisfactory agreement for recommendation, he is not sure he is in favor of adoption of an 'official tress'.

Mrs. Young suggested that, since all the groups were represented here tonight, they get together now and try to reach an agreement.

This suggestion met with the approval of the Council, and Mayor Isen suggested they use the Council Room next door for their meeting.

5. A request from the North Torrance Lions Club, signed by Richard Hubert, Secretary, dated August 30, 1956, and from the Torrance Lions Club, signed by Fred G. Boren, Secretary, dated August 28, 1956, asking permission to sell white canes on September 14 and 15, 1956, and set out cannisters to solicit contributions.

Councilman Drale moved the requests be granted.

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

Mayor Isen then proclaimed as follows:

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 14TH AND SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1956,
"WHITE CANE DAYS" IN TORRANCE.

Mayor Isen directed the Deputy City Clerk to forward copies of the Proclamation to the two Clubs.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. That a member of the Electrical Department be authorized to attend the International Association of Electrical Inspectors' Conference in Berkeley on September 18 and 19, with appropriate expenses paid.
2. Bruce R. Bishop and Gerald G. Snyder (Nos. 1 and 2 on Eligible List) have been appointed to serve their probationary periods as Police Officers, effective September 1, 1956, at the first salary step.
3. Vonda Counts (No. 1 on Eligible List) has been appointed to serve his probationary period as Bus Operator, effective August 29, 1956, at the first salary step.
4. Richard Garcia, Henry Specht and Edward Jones (standing Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on Eligible List) have been promoted from Truck Driver to Power Equipment Operator No. 1 in the Street Department, effective September 1, 1956, at the first salary step.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Recommendations 1-4 inclusive of the City Manager under 'Personnel'.

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services during the month of July, 1956, the sum of \$1,525.00.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with this recommendation of the City Manager under 'Appropriations'.

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

City Manager Stevens recommended that the City call for a Special Census, which will harvest considerable revenues for the City.

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

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

Parking Lot Assessment District:

Mayor Isen said the Parking Lot Assessment District should begin moving more quickly now, and reminded Chief of Police Haslam that the Mayor had asked him to contact Mr. Dorsey, a traffic expert, asking for a survey of both our major arteries and our off-street parking facilities. Mayor Isen then suggested that Assistant City Manager Mansfield and Chief Haslam work together on this and make every effort to expedite it.

Councilman Blount so moved.

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

Councilman Blount asked if anything is being done to have the lots presently used for parking zoned to preserve their use as parking lots.

Mr. George Powell, Planning Director, said the Planning Commission would work on this at their meeting to be held Wednesday, September 5, 1956.

Mayor Isen commented that the City Manager is going to a conference, and that appropriate expenses should be paid.

Mayor Isen moved that \$350.00 be appropriated for his use.

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

Reports:

1. A report dated August 31, 1956, from City Engineer Bishop, with regard to the proposed opening of Carson Street through the High School Park. City Engineer Bishop's letter reported that two designs are now available, and suggested these be presented to the Traffic Commission for study, and when one is approved that an effort be made to get the necessary street easements.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur, asking this proceed speedily.

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

2. A report from Stanley E. Remelmeyer, City Attorney, dated September 24, 1956, in response to a request from Councilman Jahn. The City Attorney gave the Council his opinion that the City Council has no authority to enact legislation limiting a borrower's rate of interest in the City.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3000

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO REVISE THE MASTER PLAN OF HIGHWAYS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

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

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

Mayor Isen moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3000.

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

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the following Resolution in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 3001

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ON ITS 175TH BIRTHDAY.

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles was founded September 4, 1781; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is now celebrating its 175th birthday; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has grown from a small Mexican pueblo to one of the greatest cities of the world; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years its residents have enjoyed efficient and noteworthy government.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Torrance congratulates the City of Los Angeles on this its 175th birthday and extends to it its best wishes for a continued growth and prosperity.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 4th day of September, 1956.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3001.

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

Mayor Isen directed Mr. Mansfield to prepare the proper letter on Wednesday to transmit a copy of Resolution No. 3001 to the City of Los Angeles.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger then read:

ORDINANCE NO. 823

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE 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. 389.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 823.

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 823 at its second and final reading.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported to the Council that he had received a check in the amount of \$6,000 from the Family Land Company, a Kauffman-

Wilson Corporation, in accordance with a preliminary agreement of a committee consisting of Councilman Benstead, City Attorney Remelmeier, and City Manager Stevens and representatives of the Kauffman-Wilson Corporation.

This check is in payment for trees removed from Sepulveda Boulevard and trees damaged on Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Benstead moved to accept the check and use the money for landscaping and planting the Civic Center site.

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

Councilman Benstead said he has noticed a 'lunch wagon' at the swimming pool, which does not add anything to the area; after the season is over, he suggested a slab should be laid and a building erected to conform with the building already there for a 'snack bar'. He went on to say he believes this can be done in a way that will keep the area clean, and added it could be built to serve the parking area at the back as well as at the pool. He added this suggestion was brought up now for consideration only.

City Manager Stevens agreed with Councilman Benstead, adding that if the Council wishes him to do so, he will investigate this further.

Councilman Benstead moved to refer this suggestion to the City Manager and the Recreation Commission for investigation and recommendation.

Councilman Blount said he had been contacted by someone today who told him they had called the City Hall to find out where to register, and had been directed to call the County for that information. He suggested this be taken up with the person giving such information.

City Manager Stevens said he will see that this condition is corrected.

Councilman Drale said some farmers are planting on the Edison easement across to Arlington, and leave debris to blow around the neighborhood, and they work very early on Sunday morning, which disturbs some of the near-by residents. The Councilman said he believes it is a good idea to have the land farmed rather than left to grow weeds, but that some control should be exercised.

Councilman Drale said more houses are being built on the Johnson ranch in Gardena, and the drainage problem will be even more acute. He suggested contacting Colonel Hedger of the Flood Control District to ask that the channel be cleaned at once through North Torrance, and asked that a legal survey be made to see if the County has the right to eliminate the natural drainage basins and dump additional water into the channel.

City Engineer Bishop said he will look into this. He said he had spent several hours with the people from the Flood Control District last year, and they had assured him they were erecting sumps to absorb drainage lost by building.

Councilman Drale said he wanted this looked into to see if we can take any legal action.

Mayor Isen suggested City Manager Stevens write a letter to the Board of Supervisors, and that Mr. Bishop give any pertinent facts to Attorney Remelmeier to put in order to see if there is room for legal action.

City Manager Stevens said the Council could write to the Board of Supervisors individually and to the Board, saying that in this way Colonel Hedger gets the letter.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn said the new job description for the Land Use Investigator had been prepared, and he moved to accept this job description, dated August 27, 1956, so the examination can be ordered and held as soon as possible.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Blount said he would like to see the motion which brought this before the Council tonight.

Councilman Jahn withdrew his motion and Mayor Isen withdrew his second to the motion.

Councilman Drale moved the job description dated August 27, 1956, be sent to the Civil Service Board for their approval.

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

Councilman Jahn moved the City Attorney draw a Resolution endorsing Proposition No. 1 on the ballot in November.

It developed that no other Councilman was familiar with this Proposition, so Councilman Jahn withdrew his motion and asked the other members of the Council to look into it.

Mayor Isen said the Council had continued for a week the land need appraisal and recommendations of the Park & Recreation Commission, but inasmuch as it is not on the Agenda, he ordered it held over for the Agenda of September 25, 1956, and invited the Park & Recreation Commission to be at the Pre-Council meeting at 7:00 P. M. that day to discuss it with the Council.

Mayor Isen said the Council had received the appraisal on the old City Hall property.

Mayor Isen then moved that the lot immediately adjoining the Probert property be divided in half, and a separate bid requested for the half of that lot which adjoins the Probert property, and that the other half of that lot and the other property behind the old City Hall be zoned for parking only, and that the property be advertised for sale, with bids being taken, and after the highest bid has been determined a public auction to be held, to secure the highest possible price for the properties, with the City reserving the right to reject all bids.

Councilman Jahn asked if it was intended to include the police station and annex in this motion, and Mayor Isen replied yes, the police station and annex, ~~the old City Hall, and the property at the rear of the old City Hall~~ were included in his motion, with the property to be offered as a unit with the exception of the one-half lot next to the Probert property, which is to be offered separately.

Mayor Isen went on to say that we can advertise for bids on this basis, which is the same as that used by Probate Courts.

Councilman Jahn seconded the motion.

Councilman Drale asked to have an opportunity to study this motion for a week.

Mayor Isen said he would like to have the Planning Commission zone the land behind the City Hall for parking as soon as possible.

Councilman Drale said he feels whoever buys the property should have some choice of the use of the land.

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

The representatives of the various Garden Clubs returned to the Council Chambers, and Mrs. Young, acting as spokesman, said they had once again failed to reach a decision.

Mayor Isen suggested that each of the Clubs plant whichever tree they wished to here in the Civic Center site, with appropriate ceremony, on Arbor Day, and added that if and when the ladies reach a unanimous decision on a tree for the 'official tree' of the City, they contact the Council.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P. M.

APPROVED: Albert Isen By I. J. HALLANGER Deputy City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Mayor of the City of Torrance