

Torrance, California
December 18, 1956

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance met in a regular session at 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, December 18, 1956, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

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

The Reverend Taylor opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Isen said the Council would like to continue the discussion they had been having with Mr. Russell Lund, representative of the Pacific Indemnity Co., who have been the City's insurance carriers for several years.

In response to a question, City Manager Stevens said the present premium will expire December 31, 1956.

Councilman Benstead asked why bids were not called for on this.

City Manager Stevens said bids can be called for.

Mr. Lund explained that about 5 years ago, for the benefit of the City, he had a special insertion made in their policy which makes it possible for the City to cancel at any time on 30 days' notice, and be billed on a pro-rata basis. He said this meant they can call for bids on the City's insurance at any time, and can cancel with no penalty.

Mayor Isen said the Council should decide tonight whether or not they want to increase the amount of the City's liability insurance.

Councilmen Drale, Blount, and Benstead said they were in favor of it, as did Mayor Isen.

Mayor Isen suggested this be referred to the City Manager for a recommendation at the next meeting of the Council, unless the Council wanted to call for bids.

Councilman Benstead said he thought it should go to bid.

City Manager Stevens said the last time it went to bid, the only bidder was the Pacific Indemnity Co.

Mr. Lund told the Council that when it was put out to bid, it had cost the City \$2,000 to do so. He said he has a good price for the policy tonight, but a law suit could change the loss ratio with any insurance carrier. He gave his considered opinion that the Council would do well to consider the offer he made tonight.

Mayor Isen asked how long it would take to get bids on the insurance.

City Manager Stevens said at least a month.

Councilman Jahn asked if the Council accepted this tonight, and let it out to bid, will they have to pay more.

Mr. Lund said this policy will be billed at \$35,000, and if the City cancels in 30 days, it will be billed at the pro-rata figure.

Councilman Drale said he feels Mr. Lund has done very well for the City, but he would like to see bids on this. He recommended that the City Manager go ahead with this policy with the increases, and call for bids.

Mr. Lund told the Council the City's policy does not expire until December 31, 1959.

Councilman Drale moved the liability coverage of the City be increased according to the discussion held today.

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

Councilman Benstead asked if it would be possible to have this

insurance until the matter goes to bid.

Mr. Lund said it would.

Councilman Drale asked if City Manager Stevens thinks February 1, 1957, would be time enough to get bids.

City Manager Stevens said he believed so.

Councilman Benstead moved to authorize City Manager Stevens to proceed diligently with getting bids for insurance for the City of Torrance.

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

Councilman Jahn said he would like to point out that the "Sheriff's Arrow Squadron", as it was called in the Minutes of the December 11, 1956, meeting of the Council, should have been "Sheriff's Aero Squadron".

Mayor Isen said on Page 10 of the Minutes of the December 11, 1956, meeting of the Council, where he had said, "very, very disappointed and unhappy with the whole Airport Commission", he had meant to say, "very, very disappointed and unhappy with the whole Airport situation", and so amended that portion of the Minutes.

Councilman Jahn moved to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 1956, meeting of the Council as corrected.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen said if any one or more members of the Airport Commission felt hurt by his remark, or feel an apology is due, he can give that apology most graciously. He continued by saying he was ill that night, and he feels it is more than clear that he meant something different, pointing out that in his very next sentence he had commended the Airport Commission.

Mayor Isen added that the rest of his remarks at that meeting had expressed his true sentiments.

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced this was the time and place for opening Bids on the old City Hall Building at 1511 Cravens Avenue.

City Manager Stevens asked Mayor Isen to clarify the procedure for taking oral bids on that property.

Mayor Isen said the first oral bid must be 10% higher than the highest bid opened, but after that first bid, there would be no bid limit. He explained this is patterned after the Probate Court method of selling property, and that the City Council reserved the right to reject any and all bids.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the affidavit of publication.

There being no objections, it was accepted and ordered filed.

City Clerk Bartlett opened and read the bids summarized herewith, and the City Attorney checked the bids and the deposits which accompanied them.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>DEPOSIT</u>	<u>AMT. BID</u>
Plywood Mfg. of Calif., Inc. 2201 Dominguez Street Torrance, Calif.	\$5,000 certified check	\$ 36,000 for "Item 2"
Torrance B.P.O.E. #1948 1951 W. Carson Street Torrance, Calif.	\$5,000 certified check	\$ 50,000 for "Item 1"
George L. Probert	\$350 cashiers' check	\$ 3500 for "Item 4"

Mayor Isen called for oral bids.

There were none.

Councilman Jahn, on the basis of the bids opened here, moved that all bids for Items 1, 2, and 3 be rejected.

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

Councilman Jahn moved the bid on Item 4, in the amount of \$3,500 be accepted, as made by George L. Probert.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

Mayor Isen said it seemed to him that when this was brought up, it was the thought of the Council that the remainder of Lot "Y" and all of Lot "X" were to be rezoned for commercial usage, and therefore he asked that the motion be amended to be "subject to the balance of Lot "Y" and all of Lot "X" being zoned for commercial use."

Mayor Isen moved that amendment to the motion.

Motion for amendment died for lack of a second.

Councilman Jahn said when the Council let this to bid, they felt this opportunity should be given to protect the homes there, and it was agreed the lot split should be made so some sort of planting or provision for protection of the R-1 property next door could be made. Under the circumstances, he felt the amendment was superfluous.

Mr. Probert, who was present, said he bid with the thought of taking care of what he has there, and said he planned to fix that portion of Lot "Y" so that no matter what the rest of the property is used for, it will not bother him.

Councilman Drale asked the City Attorney if the sale of the property would not require a public hearing.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said he believed the action taking place here would fulfill all requirements.

Councilman Drale said he is in accord with the motion, but would like to have an opinion from the City Attorney, in writing, as to whether a Public Hearing should be held.

Mayor Isen pointed out that no oral bids had been called for on this piece of property.

Councilman Jahn withdrew his motion.

Councilman Blount withdrew his second to the motion.

Mayor Isen called for oral bids on the southerly 30' of Lot "Y".

Mr. George Binder came forward. He said the Council has rejected all bids, and asked why, saying he was prepared to bid if necessary.

He was told the bids were rejected because they were too low.

Mr. Binder said he might want some of that land if he did buy the property, and why the Council did not dispose of the rest of the property first.

Mayor Isen said it was the feeling of the Council that Mr. Probert should have a 'buffer strip' there.

Mr. Binder protested, saying the City could stipulate that a certain amount of the property be a planting strip.

Councilman Blount said the Council intends to protect the R-1 property there.

Mr. Binder said he is interested in the property, and would want it all if he gets it.

Councilman Jahn explained that no matter what the old City Hall is used for, the 30' called here 'southerly part of Lot Y' is to be used for a buffer zone, and if Mr. Probert wished to buy the land with that understanding, it was to the advantage of the City.

Councilman Jahn renewed the motion he had withdrawn.

Councilman Blount renewed his second to the motion.

Councilman Drale said he would vote yes on the motion, subject to a written opinion from the City Attorney as requested earlier, as to whether a Public Hearing should be held.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Boris Woolley, representing the Torrance B.P.O.E., asked when the deposits would be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.

Councilman Blount moved they be returned forthwith.

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

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Mr. Binder returned to the floor, and said Mr. Dorsey had recommended the old City Hall be razed and the property used for a parking lot.

Councilman Benstead said the City had done enough to help with parking lots now.

Mr. Binder said he would buy the old City Hall if he thought the City would not use it for a parking lot.

Mayor Isen suggested that Mr. Binder make an oral bid, saying the property could be re-advertised.

Mr. Binder asked that the Council state whether or not they intend to tear the building down and put a parking lot there.

Councilman Jahn said the Council doesn't see how they can consider making such a statement; he said they would prefer to sell the property.

unless a reasonable sum could be obtained from it. Dec 14/56
Mr. Binder said under the circumstances he felt it would be silly for him to make an offer for the building.

Councilman Blount called for the next order of business.

Mayor Isen ordered the checks mailed back to the unsuccessful bidders, and asked the City Manager if he thought a profitable rental for the building might be arranged.

City Manager Stevens said one party had expressed interest in renting the building, but had not come back to discuss the offer.

CANVASS OF RETURNS - SPECIAL ELECTION HELD DECEMBER 11, 1956 -
Proposed Annexation of "El Nido" Territory.

Mayor Isen announced that the Council would now canvass the Returns of the Special Election held December 11, 1956, on the proposed annexation of "El Nido" territory.

Mayor Isen announced that the entire City Council would sit as an Election Board to canvass the ballots.

The City Clerk stated that no Absent Voter Ballots were requested or used.

The City Clerk then placed the unused absent voter ballots in Envelope No. 1 (but without sealing it), and handed envelopes 1 and 2 to Councilman Blount.

Councilman Blount then examined the envelopes and the absent voter ballots to ascertain that none were issued, and handed both envelopes and the contents to Councilman Jahn, who also examined them and handed them on to Mayor Isen for examination. Mayor Isen then handed them to Councilman Benstead for his examination; after this, they were handed to Councilman Drale, who, after examining them, sealed both envelopes and gave them to the City Clerk.

The City Clerk then handed the tally lists and challenge list to Councilman Blount, who filled out the ballot statement on the inside of the blue front cover, and signed the certificate on the first white page, and the certificate on the inside of the blue back cover and signed the back cover of the Challenge List.

Councilman Blount handed the two tally lists and challenge list to Councilman Jahn, who signed the certificates on the first white page, the certificate on the inside of the blue back cover, and the back cover of the challenge list.

Mayor Isen, Councilman Benstead, and Councilman Drale then signed these after seeing them, as Councilman Jahn had done.

The City Clerk then handed the envelopes 3 and 4 to Councilman Drale, who put one tally list in each of the envelopes, and a challenge list in envelope No. 4, sealed the envelopes and returned them to the City Clerk.

The City Clerk then handed to Councilman Blount the blank white and the blank blue sheets entitled 'Results of the Votes Cast'.

Councilman Blount filled in the sheets, and signed them, passing them on to Councilman Jahn for signature; Councilman Jahn then passed them on for inspection and signature in turn by Mayor Isen, Councilman Benstead, and Councilman Drale.

The City Clerk then gave Councilman Drale envelope No. 5. Councilman Drale put the white sheet with the signatures of the Mayor and Councilmen in that envelope, sealed it and handed it to the Clerk along with the other two sheets.

Mayor Isen stated that:

"The City Council herewith declares and finds:

- (1) That a special election was held in the area known as "El Nido" on Tuesday, December 11, 1956, in certain unincorporated territory in the County of Los Angeles proposed to be annexed to the City of Torrance and designated as "El Nido" pursuant to Resolution No. 3042 of the City Council of the City of Torrance.
- (2) That the following proposition was submitted to the voters at said election:

SHALL THE TERRITORY DESIGNATED "EL NIDO" BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE PROPERTY IN SAID TERRITORY SUBJECTED TO TAXATION AFTER ANNEXATION, EQUALLY WITH THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, TO PAY THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OUTSTANDING AT THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF ELECTION?
- (3) That this City Council has this date canvassed the returns of said election.
- (4) That the total number of votes cast (no absent ballots issued) in said election was 116.
- (5) That the number of votes cast for annexation was 74.
- (6) That the number of votes cast against annexation was 42."

City Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 848

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE OF THAT CERTAIN TERRITORY IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DESIGNATED AS "EL NIDO".

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

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 848 at its first reading.

Councilman Benstead seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A claim for damages, filed by Raymond D. Fletcher for Farrell Fletcher, a minor, which was received in the Office of the City Clerk at 11:30 A. M. December 13, 1956.

By roll call vote, the Council unanimously voted to deny this Claim.

2. An application from K. D. Figgins for a license to operate a used car business at 2007 Carson Street, Torrance, bore the approval of the Police Department.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Police Department.

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

3. An application from the South Bay Adjusting Company, 844 Avenue A, Redondo Beach, to conduct a business of repossessions, adjusting, and investigations in the City of Torrance, signed by Clifford L. Lemon.

This bore the approval of the Chief of Police, with the following qualification: "subject to conforming with all state laws."

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

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

4. Under date of December 10, 1956, M. E. Salsbury, Sr. Asst. Chief Engr. of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, for H. E. Hedger, Chief Engineer, told the Council that the Cabrillo Avenue Storm Drain, Project No. 241, is scheduled to be completed by December 21, 1956. The letter gave the reasons for the delays in completion of this project, and was written in response to a certified copy of Resolution No. 3046 from this Council to Supervisor Chace.

Councilman Blount asked that the City Manager prepare a letter for Councilman Blount's signature, asking when the 43 days of abnormal weather referred to in the letter were experienced, and asked that the Council concur with him in the request.

Councilman Benstead said he would like to know whether the Flood Control District does not intend to put screening on the drains, saying he felt some of the openings were large enough for little children to crawl into.

Councilman Blount agreed that this should be done, saying he has seen such openings with bars across them in Los Angeles City and County. City Manager Stevens said screens are not usually used because they would allow the openings to become clogged, but that bars are often used.

Councilman Blount suggested the City Manager incorporate such a suggestion in the letter he has asked for.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Manager to write the letter by authority of the City Council, saying the felt the entire Council would probably want to sign the letter.

5. At the request of Mayor Isen, City Clerk Bartlett read in full telegrams disclaiming any knowledge of secession plans in North Torrance, and expressing a complete lack of sympathy with such plans, from the following:

- a. Earl L. & Thelma Chambers, 16703 Falda Ave., dated December 14, 1956, at 11:34 A. M.
- b. Bonnie & Edward Nobbe, 4143 W. 175th Place, dated December 17, 1956, at 8:05 A. M.
- c. Barbara Nesbitt, no address given, dated December 17, 1956, at 4:18 P. M.

There were no objections, and these were ordered filed.

6. A letter dated October 8, 1956, from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District enclosed a permit granting Los Angeles County Flood Control District permission to drill an exploration well in connection with their West Coast Basin Barrier Project; approval of the permit, and that it be executed by the City of Torrance was asked.

Two communications from the City Engineer to the City Manager on the subject of the well were attached. City Engineer Bishop said his original recommendation was that this well be drilled in front of the de Gracia sump, in the parkway. He explained the City would be furnished a copy of the well log, and outlined his findings on the proposed operation. In view of the residences near the de Gracia Sump, he said the El Retir Park area, just west of the tennis courts, might be a good place for the well, and suggested this be used if the de Gracia location is not satisfactory.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager for his opinion on the proposed well.

City Manager Stevens said the well was for the purpose of testing the effectiveness of the fresh water barrier being used to prevent the encroachment of salt water. He added that the El Retiro park location would not be too bad if there was any place to pump the water.

Councilman Drale asked if the Superintendent of the Water Department might be able to suggest a location which could be used later as a well.

City Manager Stevens said the well would pump salt water, and it would be many years before it would pump fresh water.

Councilman Blount asked if all the drilling would be done during the daylight hours.

City Manager Stevens said he was not sure, but assumed so.

Councilman Blount asked how long the experiments will continue.

The City Manager said he believed it would be for a number of years. He said they would bring in a portable pump and pump once a week.

Mayor Isen suggested the request be referred to the City Manager and the Superintendent of the Water Department for their study and recommendation when they are ready to make it. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

At 6:40 P. M., the Council recessed, re-convening at 6:45 P. M.

7. A letter dated December 3, 1956, from Heatronics, Inc., 810 N. Alameda Ave., Azusa, California, submitted a service contract on the heating and ventilating equipment in several City Buildings.

At the request of the City Manager, this was withdrawn from the Agenda so that bids can be called for on this work.

8. A request of November 20, 1956, from Local Union No. 1478 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, 1620 Pier Ave., Redondo Beach, asked that competitive bids be called for on City construction or remodeling.

This was ordered filed, and the City Manager was instructed by Mayor Isen to reply to the letter.

9. A protest against traffic signals in the City from Thos. R. and Hester L. Dale of 2049 W. 182nd St., dated December 5, 1956.

There being no objections, this was ordered referred to the Traffic Commission.

10. A letter dated November 30, 1956, from Collins-Dietrich Air Services, Inc., acknowledged a check from the City in the amount of \$9,450.30, but said such acceptance is made with the understanding that there is no waiver by the Corporation of rents from various leases at the Airport.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Attorney be instructed to reply to the letter, telling Collins-Dietrich that the Council is on record as not being in concurrence with that statement, and that the payment of the \$9,450.30 is not to be construed in any way as being against the interests of the City.

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

11. Two memoranda from Park Superintendent Clemmer, one dated November 2, 1956, and one dated December 14, 1956, regarding the trees on Camino del Campo, were here for information. Mr. Clemmer outlined the great and expensive efforts his Department has made to save the Monterey Pines on Camino del Camp, and recommended that they be removed and replaced with the "Pinus pinea", saying the residents of the area have expressed their willingness to pay for the replacements.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the change, subject to the property owners paying for the new trees.

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

Councilman Blount told Councilman Benstead that City crews had removed a eucalyptus tree at the corner of Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Benstead asked to have a report on this.

12. A letter dated December 14, 1956, from W. H. Haslam, contained the Traffic Commission's recommendations made at their meeting of December 13, 1956, as follows:

"1. Re Traffic Island at intersection of Paseo de Gracia and Pacific Coast Highway; that traffic island at this intersection be left open, and left turns be prohibited from Paseo de Gracia onto Pacific Coast Highway and that signals be installed at intersection of Vista del Parque and Pacific Coast Highway, with present left turn island being retained.

2. That consideration be given to the opening of a street from the present intersection of Montana St. and Newton St. to Pacific Coast Highway, and that there be like restrictions on left turns at the entry to Pacific Coast Highway from this continuation. It is further recommended that Newton Street and 242nd Street be improved from the intersection of Montana Street and Newton Street to Hawthorne Boulevard, such improvement being necessary to care for additional traffic flowing from new tract at Hollywood Riviera Heights. Also, that Stop Sign at Ocean Avenue on 242nd Street be removed upon passing of required ordinance.

3. Subject of installation of four-way traffic signals discussed and decision made for the Traffic Commission to await the decision of the City Council on same.

4. No recommendation made as to exit and entry ramps at intersection of Arlington Avenue and proposed San Diego Freeway, but it was the opinion of those present that such were not of great importance to the traffic to and from this City."

Councilman Jahn commented that the recommendation that the traffic island at the intersection of Paseo de Gracia and Pacific Coast Highway be left open and left turns be prohibited from Paseo de Gracia onto the highway would make many residents of the area unhappy.

Councilman Blount said the Traffic Commission made the recommendation because they felt it would remove the danger of people being killed there.

Councilman Blount said that Item 2 of the recommendations was brought up by the City Attorney.

Councilman Jahn asked where this is.

The City Attorney said Montana Street is the access road to the Kissel Tract.

Councilman Blount said Item 3 was here because he and other Councilmen had felt that the City Engineer's letter to this Council last week said the State had earmarked a certain sum for traffic signals, so this was brought here for clarification.

Councilman Jahn said he had not had that understanding from the letter, and had understood that there was a surplus in one fund. He had expressed the wish to the Council to use it to install certain traffic signals.

Councilman Blount said that he and at least one other member of the Council had not had that understanding, so when this communication came to the Traffic Commission, after some discussion, he suggested it come back to the Council so they might have all the information before they made their recommendations.

Councilman Jahn said as he understood it, the communication had been to the effect that there was a surplus over and above the money needed for the street improvements described; he asked the City Engineer if this was not correct.

City Engineer Bishop said it was right, and that his office had simply suggested that if the Council wished they could use the money for signals.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Engineer to re-write the letter to the Council, with the discussion here in mind. He said the City Engineer might give the Council alternate suggestions for the use of the surplus.

There were no objections, and the Mayor ordered Item 3 held over for City Engineer Bishop's letter.

Councilman Drale said as he remembered it, the recommendation to the Traffic Commission was very clear.

City Engineer Bishop, in answer to a question from the Mayor, agreed that it would not hurt anything to wait a week on this.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Clerk to take the vote of concurrence with the recommendations of the Traffic Commission, exclusive of Item 3, which was held over.

Item 1: Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission.

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

Item 2: Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission.

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

Item 4: Councilman Blount said an answer has been received from the State Division of Highways. He asked if it would slow the work on the San Diego Freeway if this Council did not concur now with this.

City Manager Stevens said he did not think so; he said the Council may be able to convince the State that the ramps are needed.

It was agreed to postpone a decision on this Item.

Recommendations of the City Manager:

Mayor Isen commented that the City Manager's recommendations under "Personnel" are here as a courtesy, and said they need not be read aloud.

PERSONNEL:

1. Albert A. Knappenberger has been employed as a Fireman, effective December 13, 1956, at the first salary step. (No. 1 on Eligible List.)
2. Victor Ordaz and Carroll R. Thornton, Laborers in the Water Department, were promoted to Water Serviceman, effective December 16, 1956, at the first salary step.
3. June L. Bailey has been employed as Typist Clerk, in a temporary capacity during the rush period in the License Department, commencing December 17, 1956, at the first salary step. (She is No. 4 on the Eligible List, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were not interested in temporary work.)

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager under Personnel, Nos. 1 - 3 inclusive.

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

REPLACEMENT OF WALL AT 1303 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD:

"The Council asked me to investigate the conditions and circumstances concerning the removal of a wall in front of the property of Mrs. Wagner at 1303 Crenshaw Boulevard. The Engineering Department reports that the wall in question was on City property and that during the widening and improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard it was necessary to remove it from City property. They recommend that, in view of the fact that the wall was constructed on City property and allowed to remain there for a period of time, the City participate in the cost of building a new wall on Mrs. Wagner's property. The cost to be approximately \$200 to \$250 and to be borne equally by the City and the property owner."

Councilman Jahn asked if this was a 50' lot.

The City Manager said he thought so but was not sure. He said the recommendation was made by the Engineering Department.

The City Manager pointed out this recommendation involved a matter of policy and must be decided by the City Council.

In response to a question, Mr. Mansfield told the Council that the wall was not built by the present owner of the property, but by a former owner.

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

Mayor Isen asked the Attorney if he felt the City had a legal responsibility.

The City Attorney replied that he did not feel the property owner had a claim.

Councilman Drale said if the wall was there before the street was widened, he felt it should be replaced, and so moved.

Motion died for lack of a second.

There was no further objection, and no action was taken on the recommendation at this time.

A recommendation to the effect that a refund of Park & Sign fees paid for Tract No. 20944 be made in accordance with the facts presented to him by the City Engineer was made by the City Manager.

A copy of the City Engineer's letter to City Manager Stevens with the facts was appended, and explained that the Torrance Unified School District had filed condemnation proceedings on Tract No. 20944. The City Engineer listed the fees which he recommended be refunded, in the amount of \$934.00, and attached copies of letters from Mr. Parravano, the developer, further explaining the request.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur that fees in the amount of \$934.00, as listed by the City Engineer, be refunded to the developer of Tract 20944.

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

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MATTERS:

1. Letter dated December 14, 1956, from City Engineer Bishop, submitted the Third Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement from the State of California Division of Highways for expenditures of Gas Tax Funds. City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3080

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL MEMO-
RANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURE OF GAS TAX ALLOCA-
TION FOR MAJOR CITY STREETS.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3080.

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

2. Letter dated December 14, 1956, from John R. Patrick, Ass't. to the City Engineer, submitted an easement for storm drain in Tract 21131. A Resolution and sketch were attached.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3081

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT
DEED FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CORPORATION.

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. 3081.

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

REPORTS:

The office of the City Clerk reported that there is on file in that
office the Reports of the General Manager and Chief Engineer and of the
Controller of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for
the month of November, 1956.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 849

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ADDING A SECTION TO CHAPTER 18 OF "THE
CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954", RELATING TO
THE SECURING OF GATES ON ENCLOSURES AROUND
EXCAVATIONS AND SUMPS.

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

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 849 at its
second and final reading.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Blount called to the attention of the City Manager and
the City Attorney a letter from the State Highways Division. He said he
does not want to hold up the construction of the San Diego Freeway, but
assumed the Council could, if necessary, agree under protest to the
suggestion in that letter that ramps to and from Torrance be dispensed
with when that Freeway is built. He asked the City Manager what could be
done.

City Manager Stevens said he thought action is needed if the City
is to have ingress and egress ramps on the Freeway.

Mayor Isen suggested this be referred to the City Manager and City
Attorney for study and recommendation, to be back on the Agenda of the
meeting on December 26, with the City Manager's recommendation.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

City Manager Stevens said sometime ago he was authorized to call for
bids on improvements at McMaster Park, including a fence on 174th St.
He said plans were worked up for the entire project, which would bring the
sidewalk up to the fence all along the front of the park, and asked for
authorization to call for bids on it.

Councilman Drale so moved.

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

Councilman Drale said he would like to suggest that the City Attorney and the Traffic Commission study an ordinance providing for truck routes in the City. He gave the City Attorney a copy of such an ordinance from an adjoining City, saying he is simply asking that this be considered because he thinks the City is big enough now.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney if the Civil Service Board was not acting out of its jurisdiction in the Land Use Investigator matter. He said the job description rejected by this Council was being used to call for an examination on the job. He asked if they have the right to do this.

The City Attorney said they do not. He said the City Manager should work up the job description which is brought to the Council for approval, before examinations are called for the job in question. He said the rules of the Civil Service Board which govern them state that the job descriptions are subject to approval by the Council.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney to order the Civil Service Board to cease and desist, and moved the Civil Service Board pull the bulletin and not hold the examination as listed.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Drale said the Council has never, as long as he has been a member, requested the Civil Service Board to do such a thing. He suggested the Council let them go ahead and give the examination, saying if they were not satisfied with the results, that would be the time to make a decision. He said the Council has never set job classifications in the past, and should not begin.

Councilman Benstead said the Council had turned down the job description and then the Civil Service Board has posted it.

Councilman Drale repeated that if the Council did not approve of the results of the examination, they could vote against any appointment.

Councilman Jahn said it seemed to him it is bigger than the job or the bulletin or the description. As he remembered it, the job description was sent here for Council concurrence. The Council had sent it back with their instruction that they did not consider it proper. The Civil Service Board was asked to change it to fit the job. It was sent back for that purpose. Without further ado, Councilman Jahn went on, they bulletined the job under the classification the Council turned down. He said he thought the Civil Service Board has turned down the Council, and that the Council is having no voice in the matter. He pointed out that if the City Attorney's ruling is correct, he thought it time the Council set out a policy.

Councilman Drale said it is not a question of who is right or wrong. He felt it was the duty of the Board to do that, and when you point out one job, a precedent is set.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney if all new job descriptions do not come before the Council.

The City Attorney said they do.

Mayor Isen said it was this job, Land Use Investigator, with certain classifications, which the Council sent back, and since the job was temporarily filled, there was to be a daily log or diary kept to set the specifications to the work which needed to be done. He recalled that the specifications were to be written with that in mind. This instruction, Mayor Isen said, was ignored completely. The requirements the Council rejected were posted, with the last date for filing for the examination set in January, 1957.

Councilman Blount asked for the record to show it is his personal opinion that this job classification was hand-tailored by the majority of the Council in payment of a political debt. He said he had so stated previously, and he would repeat it. He said he is very proud of five citizens who are trying to do a job on the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Benstead said he thought the job description in question should never have been brought up. He said he considered the man in question was an assistant to the Planning Secretary and nothing else.

Councilman Blount asked if the man was afraid to face competition, or if they just want the City to keep on paying him.

Councilman Benstead said he did not feel anyone in this City Hall could pass the test as bulletined, not anyone.

Councilman Blount did not agree.

Councilman Jahn said the Council did not know what the examination would be. The requirements, however, have been set up in the bulletin. If he remembered correctly, he said, he pointed out when the description was before this Body, a man would have to be a structural engineer, a draftsman, a building designer, and several other things, and if that has anything to do with a Land Use Investigator, you can name it whatever you want, a political job, hand-tailored, or anything else; but, he went on, he knows there are some engineers that could not fit all of the classifications as outlined in those requirements.

Councilman Blount suggested the examination be given to see how many people pass it.

Councilman Jahn said that might be a good idea, but if we do, he said, it is his feeling that in being fair, the job salary should be commensurate with the requirements. This job, he pointed out, does not even pay as much as a building inspector's salary, and more is asked in the requirements. It looked to him as though something is fishy, Councilman Jahn added, and he did not believe it is on our side in this particular question.

Mayor Isen said it is very easy to label things political when one wishes, but said Mr. Powell, the Planning Director, had needed an assistant. Mr. Powell was completely overworked, and the City was not getting enforcement on some things, such as sumps, oil fields, etc. The record will show, Mayor Isen stated, and the log that is kept of it, since this man took the temporary appointment he is doing a terrific job of enforcement.

Councilman Blount said he would like to have the copy of that log which was to be given to him.

Mayor Isen said it would be forthcoming.

Mayor Isen believed a man who would fulfill the qualifications of the job as outlined in the bulletin, would be wasted in the job for which the man now doing the job is being used. Actually, Mayor Isen went on, as he gets it, this man is acting as an assistant to the Planning Director.

Councilman Drale asked to go on record as not saying the job is unnecessary or that it is not required; however, he does say the Civil Service Board is supposed to be a non-political body, and the Council in the past has not given any instructions on classifications. The Civil Service Board, he added, should not be pressured by anybody.

Councilman Drale added when one case is singled out, it cannot be in the true spirit of the Civil Service ordinance. He repeated that the Council has the right to vote for or against the appointment when it is made.

Councilman Drale ended his remarks by saying the Council has never set job specifications.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said he understands the City Manager has been doing that.

Councilman Blount said it seems funny to him that this is the first one the City Council has taken apart bit by bit. He asked to renew his charge that the Council is hand-tailoring this job for a political debt.

Councilman Jahn said this is the first job description coming before the Council since he has been a member, and that all of them will be very carefully checked from now on.

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

Attorney Remelmeyer asked Councilman Jahn if he still wanted a letter to go to the Civil Service Board from the Attorney's office.

Councilman Jahn said that had been a request from him personally, but the Mayor had said a motion was needed, so he had made his motion.

Mayor Isen moved that the examination for Land Use Investigator

3 54 dated for January 12 1957, be cancelled.

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

Councilman Jahn asked City Manager Stevens to see if it would be possible to have the white lines in the streets renewed where it is necessary, saying some of them were very bad during the recent fogs.

Councilman Jahn reported that the "No Parking" signs on one side of the street in Hollywood Riviera are not successful. He asked that the situation be surveyed with some sort of change in mind, suggesting that some other sign would be better, such as "No Parking This Side at Any Time".

Councilman Jahn reported some bad chuck holes at the corner of Paseo de Gracia at del Campo.

Councilman Jahn said he felt it is about time the Engineering Department checked around the City and put up street name signs and stencilled the street names on curbs. He said the situation is extremely bad, and the Engineering Department has the money for this and should use it.

Councilman Jahn asked if the property presently the subject of litigation between the City and a land-owner who proposes to mine the property might be rezoned R-1 to prevent the mining of it. He asked the City Attorney if this would be feasible.

Attorney Remelmeyer said it would not be. He added that the Court will determine whether or not the property can be mined.

Mayor Isen spoke to Mr. J. A. Beasley, asking that the detail or log on the job of Land Use Investigator, to which Mr. Beasley has been temporarily appointed, be prepared for the Council and presented to them.

Councilman Blount said he did not want this from Mr. Beasley, and would prefer to have it from Planning Director Powell.

Mayor Isen instructed Mr. Powell to present copies to the members of the Council and the City Manager.

Mayor Isen moved the job Mr. Beasley is occupying temporarily be changed to "Assistant to the Planning Director", and any further specifications and requirements when written refer to that employment.

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

Mayor Isen said he had talked to Supervisor Hahn last Friday. He said the Board of Supervisors has let the contract for the improvements at the El Nido Park, and will turn over all plans for the further improvements to the City, so they can now develop it.

Mayor Isen moved a letter be written to Supervisor Hahn thanking him for the attention he has given to El Nido and telling him the City of Torrance will appreciate having the plans.

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

Mayor Isen said the subject of fluoridation of water is going to come up, and the Council would like to have a report from the Superintendent of the Water Department on the expense involved.

Councilman Blount said all the drinking water in the City was mentioned in connection with this, and asked what could be done in connection with other water companies furnishing water to Torrance.

Attorney Remelmeyer said he has written to the Public Utilities Commission to find out, and they will let him know.

There being no objections, Mayor Isen ordered that the report be requested from Mr. McVicar.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if the Department of Highways can close a street in Torrance without the consent of Council, as was discussed here last week.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said it appears, without very extensive investigation, that it cannot. He said one reason for not having this street open was the danger of a left turn.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager what can be done about the delinquent payments for rubbish collections, saying this money should be collected. He suggested that when a payment becomes delinquent, the service be stopped.

Councilman Drale suggested the City Attorney draw up the necessary Resolution, and the City notify the people who become delinquent in the payment of these charges, and after a payment is 30 days late, the service be stopped.

Councilman Benstead said the City's tax collector could collect the money.

City Manager Stevens said it is a matter of policy, and when a policy has been established, it will be enforced.

Councilman Drale moved after such payments become 30 days in arrears, the service be stopped through the City Attorney's office.

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

Mayor Isen said on October 26, there was a very nice letter here from the Crossing Guards of the City. He asked whether Chief Haslam had acknowledged the letter. As no one knew, this was referred to the City Manager for study and a reply. The Mayor asked Mr. Stevens to assure the Crossing Guards that it was not through negligence on Mayor Isen's part that this was not answered sooner.

Mayor Isen said there has been a great deal of publicity on some remarks emanating from the part of our City known as "North Torrance", or at least from a resident of that area. For a number of years, Mayor Isen said, this has been a very important and active part of our City, and we have tried to get away from sectionalism. The City Manager's Office was asked to prepare a report to determine what has been done in North Torrance and the Mayor had the report with him. This report showed, the Mayor said, that North Torrance has received recognition and fair treatment, as most of the residents there know.

The Mayor gave copies of the report to the City Clerk and the Press, and commented that, although the Civil Service Board was left off the report, the northern section of Torrance is represented on that Board.

Mayor Isen read excerpts from the report, and ordered that copies be sent to the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, a copy to the President of that group, to the North Torrance Lions Club, and released to those requesting copies.

Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

Councilman Blount moved to adjourn to December 26, 1956, at 8:00 P. M. Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, no objections, so ordered.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P. M.

APPROVED:

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance

A. H. Bartlett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance