

Torrance, California
January 22, 1957

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, January 22, 1957, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Hallanger were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Jahn, and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

At this time, Mayor Isen commented that there were present this evening three groups of students, among whom were many new citizens and students studying to become citizens. He asked that the instructors of these groups rise, which they did. Mayor Isen introduced them as Mrs. Ashley from Gardena and Messrs. Marasglan and Crowley from Torrance High School.

At the request of the Mayor, one of the students from Torrance High School led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Blount opened the meeting with an invocation.

At this time, the Council returned to the discussion they had been having with Mr. Bjorklund of El Rancho Rolling Hills Corp'n. Mr. Bjorklund presented to the Council the plans he has for development of land leased by his Corporation at the Torrance Airport.

In response to questions, Mr. Bjorklund told the Council the Airport Commission had approved his plans in full except for a cocktail lounge, which he said he is not asking for at this time. He said the swimming pool would be built when his Corporation is ready to develop the other property west of the piece they propose to develop now, but said it would not be economically feasible to put it in now. He said they hope to develop all the land as a coordinated unit.

Mayor Isen directed that a copy of Mr. Bjorklund's Master Plan for development of the area should become a part of the record, as well as the plans presented here tonight for development of part of the land.

Mr. Schnabel, attorney for Mr. Bjorklund, addressed the Council briefly. He pointed out that El Rancho Rolling Hills Corporation is a Corporation created especially for taking over the lease at the Airport which was held by El Rancho Palos Verdes, Inc.

Councilman Benstead asked what the name of the motel they propose to build will be, saying he did not care for the name they had been using in connection with a Torrance motel.

Mr. Schnabel said they would choose a name which would not displease the Council.

Councilman Benstead asked that the statement just made by Mr. Schnabel show in the Minutes.

Councilman Blount said if a City name was to be used in the name of this motel, it should be Torrance.

Mayor Isen asked if any member of the Council had any objection to the assignment plan or the extension of time being asked for.

Councilman Benstead moved they be advised that at all times this motel is to be conducted and advertised under a name approved by this City Council.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, who said he would not disapprove a name that was not synonymous with that of any town or City.

There were no objections and it was so ordered, with Mayor Isen then telling Mr. Bjorklund and his attorney that the Council would have this back on the Agenda next week at the regular meeting, and they hope to

and hope to dispose of it at that time.

Councilman Benstead said the plans for a swimming pool there should not be overlooked.

Mayor Isen directed the City Attorney to have the lease specify that in the event they exercise their option on the land to the west of their present lease, they must build the swimming pool.

City Attorney Remelmeyer called the attention of those present to the fact that the final date for exercise of this option is September 30, 1957. Attorney Schnabel asked if that date could be extended.

Councilman Drale said he would be against this, as the City has been more than fair and generous with them now, and he felt there should be no extension.

Attorney Schnabel said they are willing to accept this date, but asked if the sublease to Mr. Zimmering was approved, and the new construction dates.

Mayor Isen said the Council had approved those requests.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 1957, meeting of the Council as written.

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

Mayor Isen asked if a representative of the '12-Step House' was present.

No one responded, but Deputy City Clerk Hallanger said a letter had been brought in this evening from them.

Mayor Isen directed the letter to be placed on the Agenda of the next regular meeting of the Council.

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced this was the time and place for opening of Bids for leasing of motor vehicles for the Police Department.

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

City Manager Stevens opened, and Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read, bids from the following:

Paul's Chevrolet, Inc.,
1640 Cabrillo Ave.,
Torrance, California.

Oscar Maples, Inc.,
1420 Cabrillo Ave.,
Torrance, California.

Councilman Jahn moved these bids be referred to the City Manager and City Attorney for study and recommendation.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen announced this was the time and place for opening of Bids for furnishing motor vehicles.

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

City Manager Stevens opened, and Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read, bids from the following:

Paul's Chevrolet, Inc.,
1640 Cabrillo Ave.,
Torrance, Calif.

Bacons' Sales Co.,
1200 Pacific Coast Highway
Hermosa Beach, Calif.

Oscar Maples, Inc.
1420 Cabrillo Ave.,
Torrance, Calif.

General Truck Sales
2699 Atlantic Ave.,
Long Beach, Calif.

Cecil L. Thomas & Sons
339 S. Pacific Ave.,
San Pedro, Calif.

Gar Wood Industries, Inc.
4515 S. Soto St.,
Los Angeles 58, Calif.

Downtown Ford Sales
640 So. Wall St.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Frank Taylor Ford, Inc.,
122 E. Washington Blvd.,
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Councilman Blount moved these bids be referred to the City Manager for his study and recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Mayor Isen suggested the motion be amended to make particular reference to all portions of the bids where alternates are offered.

Councilman Blount accepted the amendment to his motion, and Councilman Jahn accepted the amendment in his second to the motion.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen announced this was the time and place for opening of bids for insurance for the City, comprehensive general liability and property damage, including automobiles.

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

City Manager Stevens opened and read the total bids from the following:

Torrance General Insurance Co.,
1407 Marcelina Ave.,
Torrance, Calif.

Total bid: \$40,166.25

Lund Co.,
2367 Torrance Blvd.,
Torrance, California.

Total bid: \$33,280.24

James Post Co.,
1405 Sartori Ave.,
Torrance, Calif.

Total bid: \$41,755.00

Councilman Drale moved the insurance bid of the Lund Co. be accepted.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens if he would recommend this, and the City Manager said he would.

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

(NOTE: A SUMMARY OF THE BIDS ON AUTOMOBILES IS INCORPORATED INTO THESE MINUTES.)

At this time, Mayor Isen said before we go any further, he would like to welcome, for the Council the new citizens and those studying to be citizens who are in the audience, saying it is not often the Council has such an audience. He called their attention to the placque bearing a Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors concerning our City's receiving the All America City award, and invited them to inspect it during the recesses of this meeting.

Mayor Isen then invited the instructors to stand.

Mrs. Ashley of Gardena said some of her students are not yet citizen but are studying City government now because it is so close to them. She added that they study all levels of government. She then introduced her class.

Mr. Marasglan of Torrance then introduced his group of students, saying it is composed of high school students and citizenship students. They also study government at all levels.

Mr. Crowley of the Torrance schools introduced his students, who are studying all levels of government, and said this meeting was being most instructive and helpful.

Mayor Isen told Mr. Crowley and the other guests that by calling for bids on the City's insurance, and taking the bids opened here tonight, a saving of about \$3,000 had been effected for the City.

City Manager Stevens said the bid Mr. Lund made was predicted upon the City's institution of a Safety program, which the City would have done for anyone.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Manager whether the bids had been called for in the higher brackets or limitations.

City Manager Stevens said the bid had called for the maximum and everything is covered.

Mayor Isen invited the students to come to Council meetings at any time, assuring them they would be welcome.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilman Jahn asked that a report marked "For Information Only" from Planning Director George Powell, dated January 18, 1957, regarding the performance of J. A. Beasley, and listing Mr. Beasley's duties during his period of employment with the City, be read in full, and made an item of the Minutes of this meeting under "Communications". He pointed out this report was made at the request of this Council.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens who marked items 'For Information Only', saying this particular item is one of common interest.

City Manager Stevens said that in this item, he did not know; he sometimes orders items from his own office marked for information, when he feels that the Council should be made aware of data or information which does not require action.

Mayor Isen spoke to Deputy City Clerk Hallanger, and asked him who, under the Charter, prepares the Agenda.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger said the City Clerk should; he pointed out that two "Information" items were marked so in his own writing, one a report from the Public Works Committee and the other a report from the Metropolitan Water District.

Councilman Jahn repeated that he wanted Mr. Powell's report on Mr. Beasley made a 'Communication' and a part of this record, and so moved.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, and so ordered.

Mayor Isen said that from now on, the initials of the person marking an item "For Information Only" should be shown on the item, and so moved.

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

Councilman Jahn asked again that Mr. Powell's report on "Performance of J. A. Beasley", dated January 18, 1957, be read in full.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read the report in full.

Councilman Jahn said he would like to make a few remarks concerning that communication, but asked that the resignation of the person who has just completed that work be read.

Mayor Isen requested Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to read Mr. Beasley's resignation from the service of the City, which was done.

Mr. Beasley's resignation was dated January 22, 1957, and he gave as his reasons for resignation two things, namely, his former position is open to him at a higher scale than his present salary, and that he believed the Council should immediately establish a job classification based upon the needs of the department involved, and hire from an eligible list. Mr. Beasley's resignation was made to be effective as of January 25, 1957.

Councilman Jahn said "since the inception of this job, and the appointment in a temporary capacity of Mr. Beasley to fill that job, there has been a great deal of controversy concerning both the job and the individual, that was placed on the job. I think that the report we have just heard vindicates the work that the man has done; I think it also vindicates the stand that I took concerning the several sets of specifications that were written and sent here, and were rejected and sent back to the Civil Service Commission. It has always been my belief through this entire period of

approximately 5 months, that Mr. Beasley stood ready to take the examination once it was offered, and I in my own mind know that he'd have passed same because of the schooling that he has taken, and the work that he has performed on the job. Now the only reason that I making these remarks is not anything to do with what I just said, but I would like to point out to the members of this Council, members of the Press, and those who are here listening, that apparently it is the aim of all people, that when they run for a public office, they make themselves liable and subject themselves to any kind of - oh - misuse, or abuse, or anything of that nature, and so when they accept that duty of public office, they are quite well prepared to accept it. But in this particular case, and I'm talking very sincerely, it is my feeling that not only have the people in public office that were - let's say it was intimated that they might have been instrumental in making this appointment - been subjected to that, but I say they were probably prepared and used to it. But I feel that an innocent party, Mr. Beasley, was made a part of that, and subjected to some abuse that probably an employee doing an excellent job should not have been. And I only point that out because if at any time in the future it happens, I wish that only the public officials would have to take the abuse, and not the innocent party involved."

Councilman Benstead asked Planning Director Powell if Mr. Beasley had done a good job.

Planning Director Powell said he has had no occasion to find fault with Mr. Beasley. All that he has done has been on written instructions, and he answered his instructions as listed here. Planning Director Powell said he has no complaint.

Councilman Benstead said there have been accusations made that this job was hand-tailored to pay a political debt, which was not true. The City Council felt he was a man qualified for the job which needed to be done. He feels it is a shame the man has to be so treated. Councilman Benstead said he believes Mr. Powell should have something to say about the job description on this job, which he evidently did not have. It was evident to him, Councilman Benstead said, that there was interference from somewhere else, but he was not prepared to say where.

Mayor Isen understood, and deferred to City Attorney Remelmeyer for correction if he was wrong, that this whole thing has come up because of the way the rules of the Civil Service Board now read. They provide that a temporary appointment cannot last more than six months, and after that an appointee is not eligible for further temporary employment during the same fiscal year.

Attorney Remelmeyer said this was correct.

Mayor Isen went on to say that Mr. Beasley has spent five months here as a temporary appointee, and there is no examination scheduled and he has not had an opportunity to take an examination. Under the circumstances, he must either take it or go back to his employment in private industry, so he had no alternative but to go back to his previous position.

Mayor Isen said the log showing what Mr. Beasley has done is all-important, and he hopes all employees equal this amount of work. To have this here, in black and white, is something which has never been done before. Before Mr. Beasley's appointment, Mr. Powell was a one-man department, without enough help to enforce the laws of the City. He is again, now, and Mr. Powell needs help. Mr. Beasley had stepped in to give us enforcement. Mr. Powell's department cannot again be a one-man department, said Mayor Isen.

During the past five months, Mayor Isen said, there was never an acceptable set of specifications prepared. By no stretch of imagination, he went on, should such various duties as listed here come in the work of a building inspector or engineer, but everything submitted was pointed that way. The Mayor said he felt that was due to lack of cooperation to run out Mr. Beasley's time so he could not take the test for this job.

Mayor Isen gave his personal commendation to Mr. Beasley for the job he has done. The resignation submitted would have to be accepted, the Mayor went on, but when there is a proper classification for the job, Mr. Beasley will be eligible to take the test. With the background

Mr. Beasley has, and the training, he should do well in it.

It has been said here that an injustice was done to Mr. Beasley, and in this, Mayor Isen went on, he concurred, and regretfully. The Mayor recognized that Mr. Beasley has done his best.

Mayor Isen said he had realized this and had done his very best to change this and get the specifications so the examination could be given to see whether Mr. Beasley would qualify for the position, in the emergency which the Council all feel exists. We need the work done, he said, and have no one to do it. How compliance will be brought about in the future is something the Council cannot say, and the City will be back where it was five months ago. We will leave it here, he said, and let the citizens of Torrance decide who is really the loser in this.

Mr. Beasley spoke to the Council. He said Mr. Powell had done a wonderful job of transcribing that list from some work notes given to him. He said he had served the City for three years on the Planning Commission previous to accepting this appointment, and during the period of the City's unprecedented growth. During that time, he had learned the need of some kind of enforcement of planning and zoning laws to maintain Torrance as a City in which to live and work. He was able to do as much on the job as he had done because (1) he had experience on the Planning Commission; (2) he loves Torrance and liked the work; (3) he received wonderful cooperation from George Powell and every Department Head and employee in the City, all of whom worked any time it was needed. He finished by saying he has enjoyed the five months he has been in the employ of the City.

Councilman Jahn moved Mr. Beasley's letter of resignation be accepted with regret, and the usual letter be written to him.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, so ordered.

Mayor Isen asked Planning Director Powell if he could carry on with all this work.

Planning Director Powell said he could not carry the load of the whole Department, and he is going to ask the job be re-filled. He said he would ask for a Planning Technician. He will, he said, carry on and do all he can.

Mayor Isen said it is known one man cannot do all that work, and asked Mr. Powell what he would do.

Mr. Powell said he was asking for help, and knowing the job of the Council is to make policy, asked if they would give it to him.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Powell if Mr. Beasley's log would be a specimen of the duties required on the job.

Planning Director Powell replied that if specifications are set up for a Planning Technician, he will be willing to write a letter helping with that. He said such a letter would include these duties, but said Mr. Beasley wasn't asked to do a lot of things which such a set of specifications would include.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney if it is usual practice for a job description to originate with the head of the department in which there is an opening, or whether it originates with the Civil Service Board.

Attorney Remelmeyer deferred to City Manager Stevens on this question.

City Manager Stevens said sometimes it is originated by the head of a department, and always the knowledge and experience that person has is used.

Councilman Jahn asked the best way to get the specifications needed to the Civil Service Board and back here without too much lost time.

City Manager Stevens said a job description, or job specifications, should be prepared by comparing with the normal duties of such a job, including some of the other things, and the job is fully considered.

Councilman Drale said we had employed Kroeger & Associates to serve us with examinations, and asked if they could not prepare a job description. He suggested the Council go on record as asking the Civil Service Board to call for an examination for Planning Technician, and confer with Messrs. Stevens and Powell in setting up the job description.

City Manager Stevens said the qualifications must be set first.

He said Kroeger & Associates would help us but they do not prepare job descriptions.

Councilman Benstead asked who had done this for the City in the past, and the City Manager said at one time the State had prepared some job descriptions for us.

Mayor Isen moved the City Manager, as the Personnel Director for the City, go to work immediately through the proper legal channels and, in conference with the head of the Planning Department, prepare and submit specifications for the classification of Planning Technician, and that a Civil Service examination therefor be held at the earliest possible date thereafter.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager if his motion was clear enough.

City Manager Stevens replied that it was.

Mayor Isen said this should go through tonight if possible.

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

Councilman Blount explained that he abstained because he did not understand.

Councilman Blount asked if Item G-8 on the Agenda could be read now.

Deputy City Clerk read the letter in full. This was a request from Michael M. McMahon, Building Inspector, dated January 16, 1957, for a transfer to the job of Land Use Investigator. Mr. McMahon explained his Department is laying off people, and as he is a Civil Service Employee and the Land Use Investigator job is filled by a temporary appointee, and he considers the jobs similar, therefore he requested the Council to approve his transfer.

Councilman Jahn said the matter is such that he does not actually know whether what Mr. McMahon says is true or not. He does not know if the Civil Service rules allowed transfer from one job to another. He said he could not know whether there is a similarity between the jobs or not.

Councilman Jahn moved this letter be referred to the City Attorney to give a complete clarification of the rules and the man's rights, so a pattern will not be set here which will be wrong in the future.

Councilman Benstead said the City Attorney did not know what the job should be, and asked why Councilman Jahn referred this to him.

Councilman Jahn said his motion was to refer this to the Attorney to get a clarification of the Civil Service rules on transfer from one job to another, and whether an employee had that right. And if so, where does that right start and stop?

Mayor Isen agreed that the clarification was needed.

City Manager Stevens explained that the problem here is that the man will be laid off unless another job is found for him. While he does not think the jobs are exactly alike, it would be a way to keep the job filled until the examination is held.

Councilman Jahn asked what job the man would have then. He asked if the Council's allowing this transfer would give him the position, or if the man would have to take the examination to keep the job, as anyone else would.

Councilman Drale answered this by saying he would have to pass the examination or be laid off.

Mayor Isen reminded the Council that they do not make appointments; this is a responsibility of the City Manager to the Council. He thought the letter should be referred to the City Manager and the City Attorney.

Councilman Drale said three men are being laid off in the Building Inspection Department, and if one of them should fill the job temporarily, it should be the one with the most seniority.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said there is a question as to who should appoint employees other than Department Heads, and the Ordinance has been interpreted to mean the City Manager appoints Department Heads and other employees with Council approval. The Ordinance says the Department Heads appoint the people in their Departments, he added.

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

Before voting, Councilman Drale asked if the motion called for a recommendation.

At 9:25 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, and the Council reconvened at 9:35 P. M.

1. A deposit receipt for \$1,000 deposit on a purchase price of \$75,000 for the old City Hall at 1511 Cravens Ave., Torrance, plus Lot X and the East 20' of Lot Y.

Councilman Drale moved the offer be tabled.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead,

Mayor Isen suggested the offer be refused.

Councilman Drale said we had 30 days in which to deny the offer.

Councilman Drale withdrew his motion to table the offer, and Councilman Benstead withdrew his second to the motion,

Councilman Drale moved the request be rejected.

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

Councilman Drale moved the City Manager be authorized to reply to the bidder and inform them of the Council's action.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection so ordered.

Mayor Isen suggested the City Manager tell the bidder this is being rejected because the Council feels the offer is inadequate.

Councilman Blount agreed, saying the Council has an appraisal of over a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars on that property, and suggested this be pointed out to the principal through his agent.

Mayor Isen agreed, and told City Manager Stevens to include that information in the letter.

2. A letter dated January 15, 1957, from Donald R. Wilson of the Torrance Press, regarding paid publicity in the annual 'Progress Edition' of that newspaper.

Councilman Drale said the Chamber of Commerce is the City's agent for advertising, and suggested this be forwarded to them for their recommendation, and so moved.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

City Manager Stevens asked if it was their intent that, if the Chamber approves this, the City should do it.

Mayor Isen said the problem is, who is going to pay for this.

Councilman Drale said this is advertising the City. He said we give the Chamber sums of money for advertising the City, and if they accept this solicitation, he feels they should pay for it.

Mayor Isen asked if he would include that in the motion.

Councilman Drale said no, he did not want to make any definite recommendation.

Councilman Benstead thought this would be a Chamber of Commerce function. If they see fit to accept it, he said, they should pay for it.

Mr. Wilson, who was present, explained that this would also include publicity coverage, stories, etc., about the City. He said it should be considered entirely separate from the Chamber of Commerce, who have also been approached on this matter. He described the edition being prepared, which he said is an annual edition.

City Manager Stevens said this is a policy matter. The Chamber of Commerce is our advertising agent, and we do pay them quite a sum of money for doing our advertising.

Mr. Wilson said the edition is due on April 12, and they are now making reservations of preferred space. He repeated that this is not just advertising as such, but that anyone represented will be given full coverage.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Councilman Blount asked to have this letter, a report of Traffic Expert R. T. Dorsey on Torrance Boulevard between Normandie Ave. and the city limits of Redondo Beach, dated January 14, 1957, read in full.

Mayor Isen directed Deputy City Clerk Hallanger to read this item by item, saying they needed separate consideration.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

"That portion of Torrance Blvd. in the City of Los Angeles between Normandie and Western Ave. should be improved as originally planned by said city. This matter, through your office, has been discussed with the City Engineer of Los Angeles and it appears that the City of Los Angeles is giving serious consideration to the early completion of this project. Every continuing effort would be given to this project."

Councilman Drale moved a proper letter be sent to the Honorable John Gibson, Councilman, about the importance of this job, and that the City Manager be authorized to write that letter.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen, who said he had discussed this about a week ago with Mr. Gibson, who had asked that our Engineering Department send him copies of our plans for the re-design of Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Drale said the section under discussion is not within our jurisdiction, but whatever plans we have for that portion within our jurisdiction should be sent with the letter.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

"The redesign of the complex intersection of Torrance Blvd., Border, and Cabrillo, through your engineering office has advanced to a point where this project can start at an early date. With the completion of the opening of Arlington Ave. from 190th St. southerly to Del Amo, the intersection of Torrance Blvd., Border Ave., and Cabrillo Ave. will justify regulation and therefore traffic signals should be installed at this intersection at the time the redesign is undertaken"

Councilman Blount asked the City Engineer where we stand in regard to completion of engineering plans on this. He asked if we are far enough along to coincide this recommendation of Mr. Dorsey's as recommended, at the same time.

City Engineer Bishop said we have only drawings for study at the present time. He explained that we do not have complete surveys of this, but only studies from existing maps for planning purposes. He had thought Mr. Dorsey understood this.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager if we have the money to put through that project.

City Manager Stevens said the County Funds we will receive this year have been committed and are mostly spent. Such redesign would have to come out of City funds. A signal could be installed out of State funds.

Councilman Jahn asked why this job could not be given priority.

Mayor Isen agreed that this should be done.

Councilman Jahn asked why it could not come here for approval in sketch form.

Councilman Drale agreed with this request.

Councilman Jahn moved the map be put on the Agenda of the next regular meeting of the Council so they can study it and make a decision.

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

Councilman Drale asked if the Council could also have a rough estimate of the cost, and so moved.

Councilman Jahn seconded the motion, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen pointed out that this item should be on next week's Agenda with all the information requested so this can be hurried along.

"A modernized system of Traffic signals should be installed on Torrance Blvd. between the Redondo Beach City Limits and Western Ave. This should be budgeted so that progressively a system of signals timed at approximately 30 miles per hour will control this boulevard."

Councilman Drale said the Council has made a recommendation on the intersection of Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds., and could ask for a report on the intersection of Torrance Blvd. and Border.

Councilman Jahn said the Council has also called for a complete study of the traffic and signal situations.

Mayor Isen moved to approve this recommendation as a matter of policy.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Blount asked if the Council could designate our Traffic and Police Departments to recommend to this Body where the necessary signals should be placed.

Councilman Jahn agreed this should be done.

Councilman Drale so moved.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

"The angle parking now existing on Torrance Blvd. between Cota and Sartori creates hazards and decreases the efficiency of said boulevard and, therefore, should be eliminated. A study of the curb use within this area does not justify the retention of said angle parking. It is, therefore, recommended that the angle parking now existing on Torrance Blvd. between Cota and Sartori be abandoned."

Councilman Blount moved to concur with that recommendation, and that the Traffic Department take immediate steps to implement this change.

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

"It is also recommended that meters be installed on Torrance Blvd. as follows: on north side of Torrance Blvd. between Cota and Portola, 10 meters, on north side of Torrance Blvd. between Portola and Arlington 12 meters, on north side of Torrance Blvd. between Arlington and Cravens 12 meters, on north side of Torrance Blvd. between Cravens and Engracia 18 meters, or a total of 52 meters on Torrance Blvd.

"Additional meters should be installed within the business district as follows: On Post Ave. between Cravens and first alley install angle parking and 15 meters. On Cravens Ave. between Post and Engracia 20 meters. On El Prado on both sides of both roadways install meters from Cravens Ave. the distance in a westerly direction to approximately six car spaces - 24 meters needed. Carson Ave. north side between Cabrillo Ave. and Gramercy Ave., 29 meters needed.

"The total number of meters needed to complete the above recommendation is 140 meters and 7 spare meters for maintenance and repair."

Mayor Isen said he thinks a few spots have been missed, saying there are at least two in front of the California Bank which do not have meters. He asked if it would not be advisable to order about 160 meters, so there will be some extras for such places as he has mentioned.

Councilman Drale reported there is a meter out of order in front of Caprino's restaurant.

Councilman Jahn moved these recommendations be approved as a matter of policy and about 160 meters be ordered.

City Manager Stevens said he would recommend they be the same kind of meters the City is now using. He said these could be bought in such a way that they pay for themselves.

Councilman Drale seconded the motion.

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

4. A December 18, 1956, recommendation from the Markel Service, signed by G. A. Schuberg of the Underwriting Dept., to City Manager Stevens, that the City's bus drivers have periodic physical examinations.

A recommendation from Bus Supt. Chamberlain concurred with this recommendation, as did the recommendation from the City Manager, both of which were appended.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Benstead protested, saying he did not think this should be required, saying they took an examination when they took the job.

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

Councilman Blount said he thought the people who ride our buses should be protected.

Mayor Isen said he voted as he did on this because the Bus Supt. and City Manager recommend it, and in the interests of the City. He said if a man was driving a bus and had a heart attack, for instance, it would be most serious.

5. A request from W. M. Killingsworth, 555 E. Willow St., Long Beach, dated January 12, 1957, for the release of an oil well Bond, Mitchell #1, on Lots #1 and 2, Tract #530, City of Torrance Well - Mitchell #1.

A recommendation from License Inspector Whitacre that the release be made was attached, dated January 17, 1957.

A recommendation from Geo. C. Powell, dated January 18, 1957, also was that the release be made by the Council.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the License Inspector and Mr. Powell.

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

6. A report requested from A. E. McVicar was made by him under date of January 17, 1957, with reference to the appraisal of the Moneta Water Co. holdings.

Mr. McVicar recommended that they be given the necessary authority to expend the funds and negotiate this appraisal with Moneta's representatives, referring to the survey by Stone & Webster. He said our share of the cost should not be over \$5,000.00. According to Mr. McVicar's letter, the City Attorney had a plan of action which he would explain to the Council and with which Mr. McVicar concurred.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said he has studied the proposed contract with Stone & Webster, and finds that the City will be liable, under it, to pay them the entire amount of the appraisal and would have to recover from Moneta.

Mayor Isen suggested this be held for clarification.

City Attorney Remelmeyer suggested the Mayor be authorized to sign the contract upon receipt of the statement.

Councilman Blount said he doesn't like the way the contract is written. He said if Moneta has agreed to pay half of this, the contract should show that.

Mayor Isen moved to table the contract until the statement is received.

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

Mayor Isen asked if, in the meantime, approval of the Council would be given to a joint contract between Stone & Webster and the City of Torrance and Moneta, each defining what they are going to pay, be executed and then come back for approval and a Resolution.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

Attorney Remelmeyer asked the Council if they want the certain liability of each to show, and was told that the Council does want that.

7. October 23, 1956, request from Tryatt Investment Co., 9231 Olympic Blvd., Beverly Hills, for waiver of requirement for construction of curbs, gutters and sidewalks at Post Office Annex.

Attached was a copy of October 17, 1956, letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, advising Tryatt Investment of the City's requirement, with a copy to the general contractor, Earl R. Torre, 1250 So. Figueroa St.

Interoffice communications between the City Manager's office and the office of the City Engineer regarding this application, dated Jan. 16, 1957 and Jan. 17, 1957.

Mayor Isen questioned this statement.

At 10:20 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council reconvening at 10:25 P. M.

Councilman Drale read the paragraph from the Ordinance governing the Civil Service Board which governs the method of appointment of the members of that Board.

In reply to a question, City Attorney Remelmeyer said he would interpret this to mean appointment by the Council as a body.

Councilman Drale moved Mr. Wright be reappointed to his position on the Civil Service Board.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Jahn said this sounded quite similar to the Ordinance which governs the Airport Commission.

Mayor Isen asked whether this does not specify 'by the Mayor with the consent of the Council' as other Ordinances do, and said this simply points out the necessity of having a clarified Civil Service Ordinance. He pointed out that the paragraph read by Councilman Drale was qualified by another paragraph of the Ordinance, and commented that it is noteworthy to call attention to the fact that the terms of the members of that Board under that Ordinance are 6-year terms, two years over the term of any other Commissioner of the City and two years longer than the terms of Councilman n. He thought the only vacancy on that Board which has come about during his own term of office on the Council was during the time when Councilman Drale was the Mayor, when Councilman Drale appointed Mr. Ross Sciarrotta to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Drale recalled that Mayor Isen had appointed Mr. Schmidt to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Drale said the Civil Service Ordinance had been voted on by the people and he did not consider it the prerogative of this Council to change it.

Councilman Benstead said the Ordinance was not voted on by the public.

Mayor Isen said he did not know how long Mr. Wright has served, but that he considers six years long enough, and it is now time for new blood on the Civil Service Board, especially in view of all the complications.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney if it is provided that a person whose term is already expired, as Mr. Wright's is, will serve until his replacement has been appointed.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said it is.

Councilman Blount said the Civil Service Board is an instrument of the people, and advised everyone to be very careful with the handling of the Civil Service system.

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

Mayor Isen said that Mr. Wright would continue to serve under the Ordinance until his successor is appointed.

2. A transmittal of working conditions for Recreation Department employees, together with a recommendation for approval from the City Manager, the latter being dated January 18, 1957.

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

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Benstead asked if the Civil Service employees are taken into consideration under this schedule.

Mr. H. B. Van Bellehem, Recreation Director, said this would be worked out very carefully with the help of the City Attorney where needed. Mr. Van Bellehem said, in reply to a question from Councilman Benstead, he knew the Civil Service Ordinance says the employees under that system should be paid in money, at the rate of time-and-a-half. He explained this would cover only the employees in the recreation series, not clerks, typists, etc.

Councilman Benstead says he has no objections to this schedule as prepared and recommended, but it should conform to the Ordinance. He asked the City Attorney if they can do this legally.

Mr. Remelmeyer said he would have to devote some time to studying it in relation to the Ordinance.

Councilman Jahn, with the permission of his second, withdrew his motion, and changed it as follows: To move this be referred to the City Attorney, and if he finds this in order, that the proper amendments be drawn and come back before this Body."

Councilman Drale, who had seconded Councilman Jahn's original motion, accepted the change of the motion.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Communications from the City Manager:

1. Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read in full a letter from the City Manager dated January 18, 1957, referring to a request from J. S. Belond, President of the Belond Mfg. Corp., for a statement of intent from the City in regard to land he owns. The land Mr. Belond referred to is a 10-acre plot adjacent to the City's swimming pool at Torrance Boulevard and Madrona on the Civic Center site. Mr. Belond had told the City Manager that because of the City's tie-up of his property, he has been put to considerable expense and is unable to proceed with his business affairs as he had planned.

Mayor Isen said this is a serious matter. He explained that the land in question is a part of the land desired for the Civic Center Park, and that it is immediately adjacent to our new swimming pool. If Mr. Belond develops the land as he planned at the time he bought it, he would erect a muffler factory using 200-ton presses there. This would not make a desirable neighbor for the swimming pool and our Civic Center in the estimation of many residents of Torrance, nor would such a factory be a desirable neighbor in a residential area such as exists around our Civic Center. The City Attorney, as instructed, has filed a condemnation action against 50+ acres adjoining the Civic Center for the purpose of a park and other public uses. Mr. Belond recognizes the many disadvantages his factory would pose to the plans of his neighbors, and yet he has made an investment. Many of the people of our City want the Civic Center Park, and Mayor Isen said in order to get an expression of public opinion in this matter, he set a public hearing at the first regular 8:00 meeting of the Council in February, 1957, and ordered that notice be given of that hearing, particularly to such bodies as the Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, School Board, P. T. A. organizations, service clubs in the City, organized home owners' groups, etc., so that they may come to the Hearing and express their desires in the matter. This will serve to give the Council an expression of the wishes of the people. The Mayor said that he is in favor of such a park, but would like to hear from the leaders of the community on their feelings, too.

Councilman Benstead asked Planning Director Powell the zoning of the property.

Mr. Powell said it is M-2 zone, for heavy manufacturing.

Councilman Drale said this should be treated as any legal zone in the City of Torrance.

Mayor Isen said he wants to know whether the people of Torrance want to be heard on this.

Mayor Isen said if the people of Torrance are not too interested in the Park, he may go along with this.

Mayor Isen said a meeting had been held with Mr. Belond and his attorney, the City Attorney, the City Manager, himself, and Councilman Jahn, and they felt that Mr. Belond was sincere in his wish to be cooperative with the City, but that Mr. Belond felt he had been damaged by the action of the City.

Councilman Drale asked who had written this letter, and the City Manager said he had written it after Mr. Belond called at his office. Mr. Belond had asked the Council give him an expression of opinion.

Councilman Blount asked the City Engineer how far the boundary of our land is from the boundary of the pool, in the direction of this plant property.

City Engineer Bishop said our land was bounded on the north by Maricopa St., which he would guess to be between 200 and 300 feet away from the edge of the pool.

Mayor Isen said the noise of those large presses would be a detriment to the people in the pool and the residents of the area in his opinion, altho he added that he did not know exactly how noisy such presses would be.

Councilman Blount asked when the meeting was held which the Mayor referred to, and was told it was a couple of months ago.

Mayor Isen explained that the City has ordered a survey by professional park analysts, and that is very important, to know what kind of parks and how many the City will need.

Councilman Blount asked if the Mayor did not think it would be well to wait for the analysts' report before having the hearing.

Mayor Isen said not now.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager when Mr. Belond wants his answer.

City Manager Stevens said he had merely indicated that time is dragging on. He said he told Mr. Belond about the survey being made, and added that it might be a month before that survey is ready.

Mayor Isen moved for a public hearing.

Councilman Blount asked the City Attorney if the Council is putting the City in a bad position as regards Mr. Belond and his property.

The City Attorney said there is such a possibility. It is possible that if we continue the condemnation proceedings until within 30 days of the trial date and then abandon them, we will be liable to costs. The question is, he said, whether the City would be liable for damages, and that has not been answered by the courts. He has made an investigation and has been unable to find a satisfactory answer.

Councilman Jahn asked if there is any way the date of the trial can be forecast.

The Attorney said it might be set as soon as four months after a request is made, because that kind of case has priority. Everything has been done except setting the case for trial. He said he would suggest a decision be made within the next month or so.

Mayor Isen declared his motion for a public hearing dead for lack of a second.

The Mayor invited all interested groups in the City, as he named them earlier, to a public hearing at the first regular 8:00 meeting of the Council in February. He pointed out that February 12, the regular meeting date, is a political code holiday, and so it might be required that this meeting be held on the 13th. He asked the City Attorney to check into this and advise the Council. Mayor Isen directed that Mr. Belond be advised of this meeting and invited to attend, with his attorney. He said he knew of no other method of getting an expression of public opinion.

Councilman Drale said he is not opposed to a public hearing, but believed the proper procedure should be to ask Mr. Belond to submit his plans and then notify the people and have the public hearing.

Mayor Isen said the hearing set here is only to discuss the problem.

Councilman Drale said no one could tell what the factory would be without plans.

Councilman Jahn said he felt it would be entirely correct to get an expression of public sentiment, but that he does not favor a public hearing either.

Councilman Drale said he did not favor holding the Hearing unless we had the necessary money.

Mayor Isen said that is the only way we can find out public opinion. He feels that full cooperation is most important, and so must have the opinion of everyone before going ahead.

Councilman Drale said he is not for or against this hearing, but feels that Mr. Belond would be within his rights to go ahead with his plans.

Councilman Benstead seconded Mayor Isen's motion.

Mayor Isen said he felt Mr. Belond would be here to discuss this with the people, because he had said if it was going to be a nuisance to the neighbors, he did not want to proceed.

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

Mayor Isen re-made his motion, with the date of February 13 to be set for that Hearing.

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

2. Under date of January 18, 1957, the City Manager recommended that, effective January 1, 1957, the monthly fee payable to Mr. Green for the collection of garbage and non-combustible rubbish, under the terms of his contract, be set at \$7,465.31. The City Manager gave figures to support his recommendation, and showing that the average service cost for this service would be less than 31¢ per meter.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the City Manager's recommendation.

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

PERSONNEL:

Robert L. Kibbey has been promoted from Senior Engineering Aide to Civil Engineering Assistant, effective January 1, 1957, in the first salary step. Mr. Kibbey passed a promotional examination for Civil Engineering Assistant and is No. 1 on the Eligible List.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with this recommendation.
Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen commented that he did not think it was necessary to have such appointments come here, and asked the City Manager if he was right in this belief.

City Manager Stevens said it actually is not, but the recommendations are sent here for information.

Mayor Isen suggested such advice be sent here from now on for information only, and if the Council should wish to do so in any instance, they could then discuss it with the City Manager.

APPROPRIATIONS:

To League of California Cities of Annual Service Charge for the calendar year 1957, the sum of \$1,600.00

Councilman Jahn moved to approve the recommendation of the City Manager under 'Appropriations'.

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

Councilman Jahn moved the City Manager be authorized to attend the All America City award dinner in Oakland on Thursday, January 24, 1957, with appropriate air travel expenses paid.

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

Mayor Isen said the City of Oakland had invited both the City Manager and himself to their celebration, and he and the City Manager will fly there and be back in time for the flag presentation to the schools on Friday, January 25, 1957.

4. A January 18, 1957 letter from the City Manager explaining the problems of verbatim transcripts of Council and Commission Minutes and the expense of saving tape recordings. The letter said it had been suggested that the authority to order transcription of minutes verbatim and the holding of tape recordings beyond the normal period be confined to the Council as a whole or Commissions as a whole, and asked for an expression of policy. The letter gave the City Attorney's opinion that the recordings and shorthand notes are not public records that have to be kept, therefore, they may be destroyed. There is no law requiring them to be kept after the minutes are transcribed and officially approved.

Councilman Jahn said he thinks anyone should have the right to have any portion of the minutes pertaining to him verbatim. He thinks it would be all right for the Council to have the entire thing verbatim if that is their wish. He said it might be well to keep the records for 30 days.

Mayor Isen said he would like to study this, and ordered this held for a week.

Engineering & Planning Commission Matters:

1. A letter dated January 18, 1957, from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommended that between Hawthorne Ave. and the westerly boundary of the City, Del Amo Blvd. be reduced to 80 feet. He gave his reasons for this recommendation, and asked for Council approval.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the City Engineer's recommendation, saying existing Del Amo is only 70' wide, and the increase to 80' would give us four traffic lanes and two parking lanes.

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

2. A letter dated January 18, 1957, from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, discussed curbs and gutters, under Ordinance No. 756. The City Engineer suggested the Ordinance be amended that wherever the City does not have an established grade and it is not possible to establish a grade in a reasonable time, the owner may be permitted to build the improvements if he posts a bond that all curbs, gutters, etc., will be installed whenever the necessary grades are established.

City Engineer Bishop, who was present, explained that he meant by 'bond' a 'surety bond'.

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

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

3. A letter dated January 18, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Assist. to the City Engineer, submitted a Resolution asking the Board of Supervisors for the \$60,000 that was allotted under Appropriation No. 5930 for use on Arlington Avenue southerly of 190th Street.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3089

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO MAKE ALLOCATION OF MONIES FROM "HIGHWAYS THROUGH CITIES SPECIAL PROJECTS" FUND FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

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

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3089.

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

4. A memorandum from John R. Patrick, Assistant to the City Engr., dated January 22, 1957, submitted a Resolution on Major City Streets. The memorandum explained that certain revisions had been found necessary after the original resolution was sent to the Councilmen with their Agenda, and asked that this revised Resolution be used.

Mayor Isen so ordered, with the fact that the revised Resolution was acted on to be made a part of the record.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3090

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DESIGNATING CERTAIN STREETS AS "MAJOR CITY STREETS", AND REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS, APPROVE AS "MAJOR CITY STREETS", WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3090.

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

5. A letter dated January 18, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Assist. to the City Engineer, reported a request by the owner of land adjacent to the intersection of 166th St. and Crenshaw had asked that a strip of land the City holds by deed from the Pacific Electric Railway Company. The letter explained the circumstances which prompted the request.

Councilman Drale said he thought the City should receive some compensation for the land.

City Engineer Bishop said the information was sent here just to get the Council's reaction to the request.

Councilman Drale's remark, Mayor Isen said, expressed the feeling of the Council.

Councilman Drale moved the City Manager be authorized to negotiate with the people in question for the amount of money to quit claim the property.

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

6. A letter dated January 18, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Assist. to the City Engineer, submitted the necessary resolution of intention to vacate a walkway in Block C of Tract 10306 pursuant to the request of James D. Archer, et al, as approved by the Council on December 4, 1956.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

RESOLUTION NO. 3091

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN WALKWAY IN TRACT 10306, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A HEARING THEREON AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3091.

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

REPORTS:

1. Mayor Isen read the advice from the City Clerk that there is now on file in the City Clerk's office the certificate of approval of the Charter Amendments voted at the April 10, 1956 election, effective January 10, 1957.

2. The office of the City Clerk advised that there is now on file in that office additional report for the month of December for the Metropolitan Water District.

A Resolution directing publication of Notice of Sale of Franchise to construct, operate and maintain a pipeline for the transportation of hydrocarbon substances was presented, and Mayor Isen asked what this was for, saying the Council would like to have more detail.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said his office has been working on this for some time; it is for the transportation of oil, near Madison and Sepulveda.

Mayor Isen asked the City Engineer to submit a written report to the City Council explaining this Resolution, on the Agenda of the next Meeting of the Council.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 855

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY
IN TRACT 2381 AND 2807, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

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

Councilman Blount said he would like to have more information on this before voting for adoption.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 855 at its second and final reading.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Blount repeated his request for more information.

Mayor Isen moved to table this motion until next week, so that more information could be given to the Council on the whereabouts of this alley, reason for vacation, etc.

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

A letter dated January 18, 1957, from City Attorney Remelmeyer, submitted an Ordinance vacating a portion of Palos Verdes Boulevard, per instruction of the Council on January 8, 1957. The letter reported that the Planning Commission, at their meeting of July 6, 1955, recommended that the gas line there be relocated at no expense to the City, in answer to a request from the Southern California Gas Co. made on November 4, 1954. The City Attorney reported that no arrangements have been made to January 16, 1957, as to who would pay for the cost of removal of the gas line, according to information given him by Mr. Saulter of the Southern California Gas Company Right-of-Way Department.

Councilman Blount said the gas company should be as anxious as the City to have this line relocated.

Mayor Isen said this was referred to the Planning Commission for determination of who should pay the cost of removing that gas line.

The City Attorney reported the issue had never been determined.

Councilman Blount asked how much money is being discussed here, and the City Attorney replied that he did not know. Mr. Remelmeyer said the City would not be liable in any case.

Councilman Jahn asked if they will retain the easement if the City does vacate this street.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said he could not give an answer on that question, but he thinks not.

Councilman Jahn said he would like to have the Ordinance read for its first reading. It would give the land-owners the ground, and then if they could reach an agreement with the gas company the problem would be solved.

Mr. Bob Burn of 240 Via la Circula spoke to the Council. Among other things, he reported to the Council that yesterday (Monday, January 21, 1957), Mr. Saulter of the gas company had called him and asked him what had transpired. He had given Mr. Saulter this history of the case. Mr. Saulter had told him they do not want to withdraw their decision in this case, but they do not want to hold up the vacation of Palos Verdes Blvd. and they will deal with the people after the boulevard is vacated. If this is held up, they will have to go back again and do all the work over. After they begin giving gas service from the line, they can absorb the cost. Mr. Burn recommended that the Ordinance be passed.

In reply to a question, Attorney Remelmeyer said he did not see how the City can suffer from this.

City Engineer Bishop said if we vacate that street, they will have nothing, nor will the telephone company. He said he does not recommend that we reserve anything for them because this land lies within the building sites; he repeated that he did not feel a reservation should be made.

Mayor Isen asked if that meant they would have to remove it from the property, and the City Engineer said they will have to move to the street.

Mayor Isen asked if they are obligated to serve gas to these people, and Mr. Bishop said he thought they are.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger read:

ORDINANCE NO. 856

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF CERTAIN PORTIONS
OF PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD IN TRACT NO. 10300, IN
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 856 at its first reading.

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

Mayor Isen proclaimed Saturday, January 26, 1957, as "ALL AMERICA CITY DAY" in Torrance, and asked for concurrence of the Council.

The Council, upon being polled, concurred with the Proclamation and it was so ordered.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Drale said he felt that Mayor Isen should reply to Mayor Roessler's letter, and Councilman Blount agreed.

City Manager Stevens reported to the Council that the plan for the sprinkler system for the City Hall and Police Station areas have been received, but not the one for the swimming pool. He said he thought this should go to bid anyway. He showed the Council the plans. The delay is in engineering.

City Manager Stevens said he had run into the same delay on the lighting system at the Airport. Our own Engineering Department is so swamped they cannot handle this now, and Quinton Engineers will not be able to handle this for about 3 or 4 weeks. He recommended that we wait out the weeks until Quinton can handle this.

City Manager Stevens said this engineering job on the sprinkler system had been done gratis, and would have cost us about \$1500.00.

Councilman Jahn thought it might have been better to pay the \$1500 for engineering.

City Manager Stevens explained that all the company sells which made these plans up was the sprinklers, and when we go to bid, we can specify 'or equal'.

Councilman Benstead addressed City Manager Stevens and asked whether an election has ever been held to determine whether City employees want Social Security coverage too.

City Manager Stevens said such an election can be set up. He pointed out that policemen and firemen would not be eligible to vote on this. He said the other employees could, however. He said there are two ways this can be done, one of which is supplementation, meaning in addition to the present system. He said some of the employees might not want this extra expense.

Councilman Benstead said he thinks the employees would want it. He said this could be voted on both ways, and he asked for a report on it in the very near future.

Councilman Benstead said Via el Toro, off Paseo de la Playa, is a dead-end street but is not posted.

Councilman Blount moved the street be posted.

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

Councilman Benstead said in front of 1007 Cota, there is a low spot in the street which holds water. He moved this be cared for at once.

Mayor Isen said it should be referred to the Street Department for immediate action.

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

Councilman Benstead reported that since the street work was done at Sartori and Arlington, the water does not drain off. He moved this be referred to the Street Dept. for immediate correction.

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

Councilman Benstead said there is a strong indication that a lot of people in Redondo Beach would like to annex to the City of Torrance. If it is possible, he would like to have the Planning Commission and Planning Director Powell look into this and give the Council a recommendation. We have a lot to offer them, he said, and they can contribute to us.

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

Councilman Blount said on Page 2 of the Minutes of the January 15 meeting of this Council, a hearing was continued to February 12, 1957.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney for an opinion as to whether Hearings on that date would be legal.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said he would have the opinion at the next meeting of the Council.

Mayor Isen told the City Attorney that he should let the Council know tomorrow so this can be set straight, as well as the other hearing set for that night.

Councilman Drale said he had attended a meeting today of the Board of Supervisors, where the Mayor had received the award exhibited here. They had announced that Supervisor Chase had taken out of order a proposition concerning our Court, and the original budget of \$183,750.00; they had added \$91,108.00 to that, so we are going to get a Courthouse finally, and a large Court. They are also providing quarters for the Sheriff's

Department. He said he thought they would break ground within the next three or four months.

Mayor Isen reported that Supervisor Ford had voted against this.

Councilman Benstead said Redondo Beach is moving toward having a Superior Court; he moved we should renew our own efforts in that direction.

Mayor Isen said he thinks it is a rule that we would not qualify unless we were over 8 miles from the nearest such Court.

Councilman Blount suggested that a letter be written to Assemblyman Vince Thomas to see if he could help us.

Councilman Benstead said letters should be written to the Supervisors, too.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Attorney and City Manager to write the letters and follow through on this.

Councilman Benstead included that as an amendment to his motion. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Engineer the status of Hollywood Riviera Sewer District No. 2, saying his cess pool had bubbled again.

City Engineer Bishop said he hoped to have the work done on this by late in February of this year.

Councilman Jahn said there is need of street repair in front of 1591 Via las Miradores.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this to the Street Department for repair.

Mayor Isen seconded the motion, no objections, so ordered.

Councilman Jahn said after studying the last of the annexation procedures, he had come out with the idea the only thing holding this up with Rolling Hills Square is that our boundary overlaps the Rolling Hills boundary.

Secretary Powell reported a petition is now being circulated in that area.

Councilman Jahn said he believed the letter from the County Boundary Commission said we could not proceed because it overlaps the Rolling Hills Boundary.

Councilman Jahn moved that information be referred to the City Attorney to see if we can amend our boundaries so they do not overlap and continue annexing that portion between Crenshaw Boulevard and the west boundary of the City of Torrance and Palos Verdes Drive North and the south boundary of the City of Torrance.

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

Mayor Isen said regarding Parks & Recreation, he had talked to Supervisor Hahn about the \$100,000 the County gave the City of Hawthorne for their swimming pool. He had asked the Supervisor why they did not make the improvements in the El Nido Park for Torrance, because it would be used by County residents as much as by Torrance residents. He said he had suggested to Supervisor Hahn that this could be handled much as is the Torrance Beach. Supervisor Hahn thought that a very good idea, and that perhaps it could be done. With that in mind, he suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission and Mr. Van Bellehem pursue this with the City Attorney to find a legal basis for such action. He said this would only be bookkeeping. He reported that he thought this would get favorable consideration.

Councilman Jahn said that Supervisor Hahn had said the County gave the money to Hawthorne because that is still an unincorporated area.

Mr. Van Bellehem said this has not been done before, except in newly incorporated areas.

Mayor Isen said a joint use agreement might be entered into, or that perhaps we could refuse to accept it from the County, because either way

it is there for the use of the residents of that area.

Mayor Isen moved the Parks & Recreation Commission explore the possibilities of this.

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

Mrs. Herma Tillim, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman, was present, and spoke to the Council, saying a muffler factory right next to our new courthouse would not be desirable.

Councilman Jahn moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 A. M.

A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk

By Irvin J. Hallanger
Deputy City Clerk of the City of
Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance