

Torrance, California
June 4, 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 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, June 4, 1957, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Richard Miller led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Little of the Church of the Nazarene opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 1957, meeting of the Council as written.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter written May 20, 1957, by Robert B. Ryan, 5025 Lillian Street, contained questions and complaints about City policy and actions in school, park, and playground matters.

Attached to Mr. Ryan's letter was a memorandum dated May 24, 1957, from Don Mansfield, Assistant City Manager, explaining various misunderstandings which Mr. Ryan entertained.

Councilman Jahn moved that an answer be sent to Mr. Ryan containing the information in Mr. Mansfield's letter.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen ordered Mr. Mansfield to write the letter, and to tell Mr. Ryan that accurate information on any of the points he raised is readily available.

2. A letter from Mrs. Helen K. Chill, 3731 W. 176th St., dated May 24, 1957, requested that the City Council join with other communities in protesting the state highway going through North Torrance as now planned.

Councilman Drale volunteered to contact Mrs. Chill and discuss this at her convenience, explaining to her the attitude of the City in this matter.

3. A letter dated May 17, 1957, from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc., 1283 Fourth Ave., Los Angeles 19, California, requested permission for them to present an exhibit of antique and modern firearms and war equipment in our City some time this year. The letter told the Council the money raised by the exhibit will be used for general welfare and hospital work among combat wounded veterans and their families.

Mayor Isen asked Acting Chief of Police Percy Bennett if the police had any objections to this, and Chief Bennett said they had not yet made an investigation of the request.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the request subject to approval of the Police Department.

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

Mayor Isen instructed Chief Bennett to write to the organization and inform them of the action taken, and the result of his investigation.

4. A letter dated May 29, 1957, from Vickers, Inc., requested permission to erect a tent on their premises during their Open House on June 15, 1957, from 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

A memo dated May 31, 1957, from Lee Schlens, Supt. of the Bldg. Dept., was attached, and reported his department would have no objection to this temporary use, since they have indicated compliance with the Fire Prevention Code. Mr. Schlens recommended, however, that Vickers obtain an electrical permit and inspection for any electrical installations.

A memorandum from J. J. Benner, Chief Engineer, Torrance Fire Dept., dated June 3, 1957, reported the Fire Department would have no objections to this temporary use and an inspection will be made by them.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE BOARD:

1. A memorandum dated May 28, 1957, from the Torrance Civil Service Board, signed by W. C. Bradford, Secretary, informed the Council they had approved a request from William Faren, Bus Operator, for two weeks leave of absence without pay, from June 28, 1957, to July 8, 1957, due to illness in his family.

The request made by Mr. Faren had been recommended for approval by M. A. Chamberlain, Bus Supt., and required ratification by the Council.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the request.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AIRPORT COMMISSION:

1. A letter dated May 28, 1957, from the Airport Commission, signed by Jack E. White, President, transmitted to the Council that Commission's recommendation that the roadway between the Eagle Aviation office building and Vegas Airways' lease at the Airport be closed, even if the City must bear the expense of the closing.

Councilman Jahn commented this had been here before, and had been delayed because there was some doubt as to how this was to be closed.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this to the Engineering Department for their recommendation.

Motion died for lack of a second.

The City Manager reported he had made an investigation, and believed this would best be closed by a permanent type of installation, as the roadway opens off Highway 101; he mentioned a suggestion that this be closed with pipe and concrete.

Councilman Jahn moved that the City Manager proceed with this matter and to concur with his recommendation in it.

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

1. A letter dated May 29, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Asst. to City Engr., concerned the bids for installation of an Automatic Lawn-Sprinkler System in the swimming pool area at the Civic Center, and recommended the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Western Sprinkler Corp., who had bid \$5,244.00.

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

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

Deputy City Clerk Powell presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 3216

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND WESTERN SPRINKLER CORPORATION.

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. 3216.

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

2. A letter from John R. Patrick, Asst. to City Engineer, dated May 29, 1957, submitted a Consent to Easement from the Southern California Edison Co., in the Hollywood Riviera Sewer District No. 2.

Deputy City Clerk Powell presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 3217

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN CONSENT
TO GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.

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. 3217.

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

3. A letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, dated May 29, 1957, recommended the release of Bond No. 521182 LA in the amount of \$28,554.97 on Tract No. 22762 to the Kalsel Development Homes.

A letter dated April 30, 1957, from C. W. Clemmer, Asst. Park Supt., advised that an inspection of the trees in the parkways of that tract, which was made April 3, 1957, disclosed that they complied with a portion of the City's Tree Ordinance, No. 767.

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

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, who asked the City Engineer if the houses were finished.

The City Engineer said the last house in the tract was being cleaned about a week ago, and he stated the grading was substantially done and everything there is in order.

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

A report on the Prairie Avenue Improvement District was ordered held over for later in the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

1. A letter dated May 29, 1957, from the City Attorney, submitted to the Council for study a proposed Ordinance governing the regulation of sound amplifiers.

Councilman Blount recalled that he had requested this Ordinance, but felt it cast too much detail on the Council; he suggested this be held over for a week and he be allowed to discuss it with the City Attorney.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Deputy City Clerk Powell presented:

ORDINANCE NO. 876

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING TO CHAPTER 13 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" ARTICLE III RELATING TO THE INSTALLATION OF GARBAGE GRINDERS.

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

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 876 at its second and final reading.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Benstead asked if any provisions had been made for such installations where cesspools are used.

The City Attorney said he had not made allowances for such installations, having made only an exception where the City Engineer did not deem the sewer lines serving such installations to be inadequate.

Mayor Isen ordered this Ordinance held for one week for an amendment covering such installations with cesspools.

Building Superintendent Schlens reported that cesspools are not permitted by the Code unless sewers will be available within a year, and for such a length of time there should be no trouble.

Councilman Benstead said instances of remodelling in older houses which still use cesspools should be considered.

Councilman Jahn said he had used that combination in his home for quite a long period of time without problems, and that septic tanks are required where there are cesspools.

Councilman Jahn called for the question.

Mayor Isen moved to table the motion for one week, pending the amendment previously ordered.

Motion to table seconded by Councilman Benstead, and failed to carry by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale and Jahn. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Blount. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Motion for adoption of Ordinance No. 876 failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Jahn. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen said he had voted no because there was no exception in the case of cesspools.

The City Attorney reported to the Council the Ordinance could be amended simply by changing line three of Section 13.55, reading 'the sewer lines servicing such', etc., to read: 'the sewer lines or cesspools servicing such'.

Mayor Isen moved to rescind the previous action taken on this by the Council.

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 876 at its second and final reading with the following correction in Line 3, Section 13.55, now reading 'the sewer lines servicing' to read: 'the sewer lines or cesspools'.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 878

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING TO THE NATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY, A PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A PIPELINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Jahn moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 878.

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

Councilman Drale moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 878 at its first reading.

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

A letter dated June 3, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Asst. to City Engineer, submitted the Second Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement for expenditure of State Gas Tax Funds for the fiscal year 1957-58, in the amount of \$401,164.01. Attached was a letter from the California State Division of Highways dated May 28, 1957, approving plans for Project 55, Torrance Blvd. from Madrona to the City Limits, an intra-division memo from the Division of Highways concerning the approval of those plans, and a letter from J. R. Patrick, Asst. to City Engr., dated May 20, 1957, to M. L. Bauders, Dist. Projects Engr., submitting the plans to the State. Deputy City Clerk Powell presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 3218

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING SECOND
SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR
EXPENDITURE OF GAS TAX ALLOCATION FOR MAJOR
CITY STREETS.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3218.

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

The City Manager reported that, regarding the request made at the last Council meeting that he investigate and report on the difference between the lights bid on for the Airport runways and flush lighting, he had inquired and found from both the engineer and contractor that this would probably cost about \$2200 more than bid, with a top of \$2500 more. He said he felt that in the long run, the flush lighting would prove to be more economical and a better installation, and he recommended it.

Councilman Drale asked if this would require a new call for bids.

The City Attorney said it would not, but would only require modification of the contract.

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

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

ORAL REPORT - PRAIRIE AVENUE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:

City Engineer Bishop was prepared to make the oral report requested on the Prairie Avenue Improvement District. He presented to the Council copies of sketches showing the district, and marked to show which parcels will be affected, which easements have been granted, which have not, etc. He was prepared to give the Council a parcel-by-parcel run-down on which easements have not been granted, why, etc.

Councilman Blount asked what would be gained by this.

Mayor Isen agreed with Councilman Blount that this would not help, and said the Council just wants to know how many property owners have granted the easements.

City Engineer Bishop reported that Mr. Kesson of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association had been helping with this, and just today had secured from the owner of several of these parcels an agreement to give the necessary easements. Mr. Bishop reported we have 7 easements now, being parcels 3, 4, 7, 8, 16, 22 and 24. He said this is only about 20-22% of the total we need. He reported there are three churches involved, one of which had signed the easement, but after learning there would be an assessment, had taken the agreement to their Board of Directors and had not returned it.

Mayor Isen asked if the City could condemn if these easements are not granted.

City Engineer Bishop said we could, but it would cost from \$10,000 to \$15,000, which would not be chargeable to the District, under the circumstances.

Mr. Dick Miller, who has acted for the City in attempting to secure the easements in the Prairie Avenue Improvement District, pointed out that in some cases the curbs would come within 1' of buildings. In one case, the islands at a service station would jut out into the sidewalk. In the case of the gentleman who had orally agreed today to sign for this Improvement District, Mr. Miller said he thought the delay had been caused by a misunderstanding.

Councilman Drale expressed confidence that the Southern California Edison Company would give the easements needed.

City Engineer Bishop said efforts have been made to contact them, but a decision cannot be obtained.

Councilman Drale suggested that Mr. Blanchard of the Redondo Beach office be contacted about this and asked for help.

Councilman Benstead believed the City Manager could help on this.

Councilman Blount agreed.

Councilman Jahn asked how many in the District have definitely said 'no' to this.

Mr. Miller replied the owners of 2 and 26 have said no, and eleven property owners have said they would fight this. He reported he had called at some of these places as many as 12 times without finding anyone at home, and gets no replies to his letters.

Councilman Drale said everyone has agreed they need the curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, but they do not want to give the easements for the widening of Prairie. He asked if the City did not need only 51% of the property represented on the petition, and if they did not have that.

The City Engineer reported we need 51% of the signatures for the District, but no construction can be done until we have the easements. We have only about 22% of them.

Councilman Jahn understood the City Engineer to mean that if we condemn land for these improvements, such costs would have to be paid by the City as whole, so far as the land is concerned.

The City Engineer said it could probably be paid from the Gas Tax funds.

Councilman Blount asked if 10 more property owners agreed, if that would make any difference.

Upon being told it would, Councilman Blount volunteered to go out and report back next week on that many more.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, a resident of the District, asked if the 7 easements we have include the Edison Co. and the school.

The City Engineer replied it does include the school easements, but not the Edison Company's easements, which have not been given yet.

Mayor Isen ordered this back on the Agenda for next week's meeting.

Councilman Benstead asked if we could avoid having the improvements within a foot of some of the buildings in the District, which, it had been pointed out, would happen under present plans.

City Engineer Bishop replied we should have the 100' right of way, but the sidewalks could be engineered to avoid the buildings.

Mrs. I. R. Jackson, a resident of the district, pointed out that the hundreds of children in the area need the sidewalks, and this will have to be faced sometime.

Mayor Isen once more ordered this held for a week to see if the rest of the easements necessary could be secured.

Mr. Miller said only 51% of the people had signed the petitions; not necessarily 51% of the lineal footage is represented. He did not think we have 51% of the land represented.

The City Engineer reported that only 51% of the property owners had signed the petition, not 60% as is the case usually.

Mayor Isen instructed the City Attorney to work with the City Engineer on this during the next week, and if there is a bad situation here to attempt to straighten it out. He ordered this back on the Agenda for next week, with Councilman Blount and Planning Director Powell to attempt to get the easements necessary for this.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The City Manager reported that the man who passed the examination for Finance Officer with the highest grade, becoming No. 1 on the list, would report for duty on August 1. He was the only entrant who had municipal experience. He is presently committed, but will be ready to come to our City on August 1.

Acting Police Chief Bennett said Mr. Schreiber of the Bowl-O-Drome had asked the Council to lower the age limit from 21 to 18 as required to play pool. The present age limit is working a hardship on him.

Acting Police Chief Bennett said the County Ordinance requires only an age of 18 to play pool, and he could see no harm in this.

Mayor Isen agreed, saying the pool room in the Bowl-O-Drome could not be construed as an old-fashioned 'pool-hall'.

Councilman Benstead pointed out that he, personally, objected to the fact Mr. Schreiber had not put in curbs, gutters, and sidewalks there.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager to call Mr. Schreiber and ask the status of these improvements, and to tell him the Council would like for him to come in and report to them.

Councilman Benstead said he just wanted to know when the sidewalks would be put in.

Councilman Blount said the sidewalks are not in near the store buildings for sale on Crenshaw, north of Lomita Blvd., near 237th St. He said the builder has put parking stalls right out to the curb, and asked why those sidewalks had not been put in. He asked if the City Attorney could recall any reason.

Attorney Remelmeyer could not.

The City Manager recalled that the plan had been approved by the Council, and it might be that checking the Case would provide an answer.

Councilman Drale cited the fact that a building is going in on Carson across from National Supply Co., where they are putting in curbs but no sidewalks.

Mayor Isen said such things should not occur, and that we should be consistent.

Councilman Jahn asked which Department such things would be under, and the City Manager said Engineering.

Councilman Jahn asked if they will give final inspection without all improvements.

Mr. Schlens, Building Supt., said his Department makes Final Inspections under the City ordinances, and abides by them, but they have no jurisdiction over the public way.

City Engineer Bishop reported that in the instance cited on Crenshaw, north of Lomita Blvd., the Council had granted them permission to go in without curbs or gutters or sidewalks if they posted a bond, which they have done. The sidewalks are not in, but the curbs and gutters are. The bond is posted to guarantee they will put in the sidewalks when they are requested to do so.

Mayor Isen asked the City Engineer to give the Council a report on the Case at their next meeting.

Councilman Blount asked the City Attorney if the City would be liable for injuries suffered by a person who, being forced from the sidewalk easement by automobiles parked there, was walking in the street and hit by a car.

The City Attorney said the City might if they required this to be done as it is.

Councilman Blount asked if the City might be considered negligent for not requiring the sidewalks.

Councilman Jahn pointed out there are not sidewalks in the neighboring area, either.

The City Attorney did not believe the City would be liable, but could not say they would not be named as defendants in such a hypothetical case.

Mayor Isen suggested the whole matter should be reviewed.

Councilman Blount asked for consistency in such matters.

Mayor Isen requested that the City Engineer tender to the Council a written report on these cases.

Councilman Drale asked about what could be done regarding the building going in on Carson across from National Supply Co.

City Engineer Bishop said his department would check this.

Councilman Jahn recalled that when there are not sidewalks in an area, the Council has made exceptions to these requirements, but not since the Ordinance was passed requiring them.

The City Attorney said we have had that Ordinance for over a year, but only recently passed the amendment permitting a bond to be posted to guarantee construction of these improvements.

Councilman Jahn wanted the record to show that the policy of the Council was different when the case on Crenshaw was passed than it is now. The policy has changed.

Councilman Blount recalled that at one time, there had been an issue raised regarding Councilmen voting when they had an interest in the matter before the Council. He asked why the Mayor has not been voting on matters concerning Longren Aircraft, but has been abstaining.

Mayor Isen explained that a member of his family is interested in the stock market, and, with money from funds in which he has absolutely no interest, has bought Longren stock. For that reason, he has abstained from voting on matters concerning Longren.

Councilman Drale asked if Mr. Findley had written a letter about the park through which the Council would like to take Carson street in front of the High School, straightening Carson and re-arranging the park. He understood this was so, and requested that Mr. Bishop show copies of such letters to the Council. Councilman Drale understood that Mr. Findley had decided to withhold his signature in this matter.

City Engineer Bishop said that was right, Mr. Findley said until Carson is developed as a State Highway, he could not see his way clear to give this permission. He added this has been referred to the Traffic Commission, which is still working on the Case.

Councilman Jahn recalled that during the informal Budget Hearing, he had asked City Manager Stevens to prepare a written report on setting up Street Lighting Districts. He had a report from the City Attorney, saying such Districts would not constitute a hidden tax. Many new street lights will have to be installed because of the safety factor. In such cases, they will add to the City's present burden. The letter from the City Attorney had explained how Street Lighting Districts could be set up by the Council to pay for the maintenance and electricity for existing lights.

Councilman Jahn moved that the City Attorney take the proper steps and procedures to set up Lighting Assessment Districts under the appropriate act.

Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, failed by the following roll call

vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Benstead said he would have to consider such districts would constitute 'hidden taxes'.

Councilman Jahn disagreed, saying he considered what we have now to be a 'hidden tax'.

Councilman Jahn asked what has been done in the study of integration of the Police and Fire Departments.

The City Manager reported that there should be a preliminary report on this next week.

Mayor Isen recalled the Council's request that the Attorney prepare Resolutions to be sent to the School District and the County Board of Supervisors urging them not to raise taxes, and that at the same time, Councilman Jahn had asked for a Resolution urging the banning of 'Lakewood' type of services, to be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Perhaps that latter was harsh, the Mayor suggested, and asked Councilman Jahn what he thought.

Councilman Jahn said he wants the Resolution. He pointed out the fact the City of Rolling Hills is going to ask for the same services in all likelihood. He could not feel when other County residents have to pay for those services which such cities receive free, there is anything fair about it.

The City Attorney said he would prepare the Resolution.

Mayor Isen had with him two clippings, which he handed to the City Manager. One of these carried information about the tax rates in Culver City, a city of only about 33,000, where they are to have an increase of almost \$800,000, and a tax rate of \$1.75.

The other article was cut from this afternoon's 'Daily Breeze', and contained an article about the court house going in next to our City Hall and containing complimentary remarks about our City from Supervisor Jahn Anson Ford.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett

City Clerk of the City of Torrance,
California

APPROVED:

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance