

Torrance, California
July 30, 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, July 30, 1957, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett 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, Acting Chief of Police Percy Bennett led the salute to our Flag.

Assistant City Manager Donald Mansfield opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Jahn moved to approve the Minutes of the July 23, 1957, meeting of the Council as written.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A petition from nearby residents requesting that a four-way stop sign be placed at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Sepulveda Blvd. bore the signatures of 71 residents.

The request had been forwarded to the Traffic Commission for their recommendation, according to a memo appended to the Council's copy of the petition.

There were no objections, and the matter was ordered held for that recommendation.

2. A letter dated July 19, 1957, from the Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club, signed by A. B. Dennis, Secretary, requested permission for the Sea Scouts to stencil house numbers on curbs in the Riviera at a nominal charge to residents.

The request bore the approval of Percy Bennett, Police Chief, and a note from Gale Whitacre, License Inspector, recommended approval of a free license for the project, subject to the filing of the necessary License Application.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Police Chief and License Inspector.

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

3. A letter received July 24, 1957, in the Office of the City Mgr., from the Church of God, 2230 Cabrillo Ave., signed by the Rev. Geo. Broome, Pastor, called attention to a drainage problem the Church has.

Attached to the copy of the letter was a report from City Engineer Bishop dated March 13, 1957, saying that the correction of this situation would cost about \$2,000.00, and probably more.

Councilman Drale commented this had been in the Engineering Office for some time. He felt both parties concerned there would be glad to do whatever is necessary to correct the situation, but wanted the Engineering Dept. to tell them what they should do.

Mayor Isen questioned City Engineer Bishop, who said the \$2,000 would be used to pipe the water to the alley and lower the alley so the water would drain.

The City Engineer felt his report fully stated the case in point. He said when the parking lot had been filled, it had closed the natural drainage. The water can no longer travel north to 220th Street. As to who is responsible for this, he felt that decision was not the responsibility of the Engineering Department.

Councilman Blount asked the City Engineer how many lots in our City are used as drains for streets.

City Engineer Bishop replied this was a natural drainage channel and was filled in. He stated that he would never approve a grading plan for filling in a drainage channel.

Councilman Blount said in that case, if this were true, we would be draining streets across privately owned property.

Councilman Drale said the water used to drain down an old right-of-way. If a curb were installed, the water might drain, or it could be drained to the east. If something had been built on the lot, this problem would have arisen.

Councilman Drale said he would like to leave this matter in the hands of Mr. Schlens, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Bishop, asking them to present a feasible plan for correcting this situation and their recommendation on it.

Mayor Isen pointed out the problem of who should bear the expense must also be considered.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

4. A letter dated July 23, 1957, from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 465 California St., San Francisco 4, California, signed by Carl A. Weers, Asst. Chief Engr., reporting on the progress of their report on the City of Torrance. Mr. Weers expressed the hope that the report and summary grading can be sent to us within the next few months from their New York office.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

1. Under date of July 23, 1957, the City Manager recommended that, effective July 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 established at \$8,195.71. The City Manager presented the figures upon which his recommendation was based, and reported the figures indicate that approximately 65% of the meters in the City are still paid on a basis of the price established July 1, 1951, and that the average service cost is less than 32¢ per meter, which is a very favorable cost for today.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager on this matter.

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

Councilman Benstead asked if the City Manager had taken into consideration that almost all the homes built here in the past few years have garbage disposals.

The City Manager said if this were being done again, it might be done differently, but this contract started in 1951 and is based on the meter count.

The Mayor asked if the rate might be set lower if it could be ascertained how many pick-ups are made.

The City Manager said most cities have made no such changes.

Councilman Benstead suggested this be considered the next time we write such a contract.

2. The City Manager presented to the Council a report on the costs of owning and operating motors in the Police Dept., as obtained from the City of Long Beach, and verified by the cities of Pasadena, Santa Monica and Burbank. The report from the City Manager was dated July 26, 1957.

The City Manager also presented to the Council a letter dated July 25, 1957, from Rich Budelier, Sales & Service for Harley-Davidson Motor Co., who is said to be the largest dealer in the country. Mr. Budelier's letter stated that so far as he knew, the only dealer in the State who leases motors to cities is a dealer in Santa Cruz. Mr. Budelier gave the name and address of the franchised dealer in our territory, Mr. Robert Walker, in Inglewood.

Mr. Walker had been contacted, and stated they do not, never have, and do not contemplate leasing motorcycles to cities.

The City Manager told the Council this had been gone into very thoroughly, and there had been found no source from which the City could lease these motors.

The City Manager recommended continuing our present leases with Officers Lewis, Jackson and Cook for one year, commencing July 1, 1957, and ending June 30, 1958, at a rate of \$80 per month for each motorcycle.

Councilman Benstead asked if these motors are the property of the City when they are under lease.

The City Manager said not really; we have only had 3 motorcycle riders. He felt if we bought motors, we would want to follow this same practice.

Councilman Drale said there is always the possibility that we will want to put on 2 shifts of these motors, and if we did we would get double use from them.

Councilman Blount said under those circumstances he felt we were not just leasing motors, but were getting the rider with the motor. He protested that these motors are not available to the City for 24 hour service.

Councilman Drale felt if we need more motors, and buy them, we should have them on 24-hour duty.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Manager if the contracts could not be cancelled, and the City Manager replied they can be cancelled by either party.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the City Manager's recommendation to lease these motors, but asked the City Manager to look carefully at the comments of the Council and consider them.

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

Mayor Isen told the Chief of Police he should be assured the men do not go with the motors, in the event they are needed for other work or if their work is not up to standard in any way.

The City Manager said he and the Chief of Police had discussed this and had agreed that was the case.

Councilman Blount did not feel the Chief of Police had understood this at the last meeting of the Council.

Councilman Drale felt we should be able to use the motors another 8 hours per day.

Councilman Benstead agreed, and felt another person should be able to use the motors, as they are under lease to us and are City property.

Mayor Isen pointed out that we get this rate on the leases, but might not be able to lease the motors for longer daily periods for the same price.

Councilman Drale said the price of a motor is low enough so that if we could use it for 2 shifts a day it might pay us to buy them.

Mayor Isen suggested the City Manager and Chief of Police look into this with the idea of coming up with the most practical solution for the City.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

1. A recommendation dated July 25, 1957, from G. Whitacre, License Inspector, reported receipt of a request from McLaughlin Bros., 5105 Carson St., for a paper collection license, and recommended this be granted. Mr. Whitacre reported the pro-rated fee would be \$50 for the balance of this year, and that the application had been approved by Chief Bennett.

A copy of a letter from Mr. Ralph A. McLaughlin, dated June 3, 1957, explained the operation to the Council.

A copy of the application for the license, bearing Chief Bennett's approval, was also submitted.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Mr. Whitacre's recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Drale questioned the wisdom of this, feeling it might have some effect on our rubbish collection contract.

Mayor Isen felt that if anything, this would help rather than conflict with our contract.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. A letter dated July 26, 1957, from Chief Bennett of the Torrance Police Dept., reported that the three women parking enforcement officers will begin work on or about August 1, 1957.

He requested permission to purchase two Cushman motor scooters, which are necessary for the proper enforcement of our traffic and parking ordinances. He stated these can be delivered on 2 days' notice and will cost about \$900 each.

A memorandum from the City Manager, dated July 26, 1957, recommended the purchase of the two scooters.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

1. John V. Russell, Director of Public Works, presented for full information of the Council a copy of a report dated July 23, 1957, on road deficiency of our city streets, covering the years from 1956 to and including, 1971.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

1. A letter dated July 25, 1957, from the City Attorney, referred to Councilman Drale's request for information about annexation of the ocean three miles offshore. The City Attorney had been directed at that time, May 28, 1957, by the Mayor to get the details on this for the Council.

The City Attorney concluded that the City may institute proceedings to annex the ocean three miles offshore as requested by Councilman Drale; however, it is doubtful that such annexation will enable the City to prevent oil drilling in said area.

Councilman Drale said he had talked to the City Manager about this, and the City Manager had said he would find out the details of the action taken by the City of Santa Barbara in a similar situation. He asked this be filed until such time as the City Manager has that information.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

2. Under date of July 25, 1957, the City Attorney submitted a regular 30-day ordinance relating to collection and disposal of rubbish and garbage and establishing fees therefor. This is identical to Ordinance No. 888 except that it is a regular 30-day ordinance, which he believed should be adopted.

City Clerk Bartlett read the title:

ORDINANCE NO. 891

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 888 AND ADDING ARTICLE IV TO CHAPTER 13 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" RELATING TO THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH AND GARBAGE AND ESTABLISHING FEES THEREFOR.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 891 at its first reading.

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

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING MATTERS:

1. A letter dated July 25, 1957, from John R. Patrick, Asst. to City Engr., submitted a sketch showing the proposed vacationing of a portion of Casimir Avenue, and a Resolution of Intention to Vacate.

Councilman Jahn asked the details of this matter.

City Engineer Bishop said when the tract where this land is being vacationed was put in, the tract across the street had not gone in, and in order to assure full width of the street, the City had asked for and received an extra 10' for the street. The tract across the street had been put in and had granted the necessary street easements, therefore when the curbs, gutters and sidewalks had been put in after lining up the street, the City had 10' more than needed.

In reply to a question, the City Engineer said the land would go to the adjoining property owners.

The City Attorney said the land goes to the owner of record.

In order to be sure it goes to the owner of the adjoining property, we must be sure that person gets title to the property.

Councilman Drale wanted to be sure about who would get this land.

Mayor Isen suggested that before passing this Resolution, the subdivider be asked to waive any interests in the 10' strip.

Councilman Drale agreed with the Mayor, as did Councilman Blount.

There were no objections, and this was ordered held over until

City Engineer Bishop has full information on who will get this land. If necessary, he is to get the subdivider to quit claim to the owners of the adjoining land.

2. CASE NO. 426 - CHANGE OF ZONE: (Resubmitted) Transmittal from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone in Case No. 426, on lots in Tract 3458, lying between Madrona and Hawthorne and between Torrance Blvd. and Del Amo Blvd.

Mayor Isen asked Planning Director Powell if the questions here had been settled.

Planning Director Powell believed the solution presented would eliminate any questions, although he said the Commission had not been able to satisfy the poultry ranchers in the area. He believed the zoning would prove to be satisfactory otherwise.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen set the date for the Third and Final Hearing on Case No. 426 as August 27, 1957, at 8:00 P. M. in the Council Chamber.

3. CASE NO. 453 - CHANGE OF ZONE: Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Howard Bros., Inc., for a Change of Zone from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to C-3 (Solely Commercial) for commercial operations, such as small retail stores, in the El Nido District, between 186th St. and 190th St., on the west side of Hawthorne Boulevard, 18701 Hawthorne.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen set the date for the Third and Final Hearing on Case No. 453 as August 27, 1957, at 8:00 P. M. in the Council Chambers.

4. CASE NO. 450 - VARIANCE: Letter from G. C. Powell, Planning Director, submitting Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Miguel and Clara Yniquez for a Variance to permit a retail store for package of off-sale liquor, beer, wine, groceries, delicatessen, drug store accessories, on property located at 18107 Crenshaw Blvd., Zone A-1.

Mayor Isen asked Planning Director Powell if this matter was in order now, and the Planning Director said it was.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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

The Resolution accepting an Easement Deed from Miguel and Clara Yniquez, No. 3247, had been passed on July 16, 1957, and this matter was before the Council tonight to certify that the easement had been received by the City.

5. CASE NO. 451 - VARIANCE: Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Max E. and Frances Webber for Variance on property situated at 4060 West 226th St. for the purpose of constructing a Medical Clinic Bldg. in Land Use Zone A-1. Attached to the form were a location sketch, and an excerpt from the July 24, 1957, Planning Commission Minutes.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and all special conditions.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Mayor Isen commented this would be near the Riviera Hospital, and said the Council felt that hospital has been a wonderful addition to our City.

The City Attorney asked if the property for street widening is to be required now.

Planning Director Powell had the easement, which he gave to the City Attorney.

Councilman Drale asked if the Webbers will comply with our grading ordinance, and Mr. Powell said they would.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. WAIVERS: A letter from Geo. C. Powell, member of the Waiver Board, dated July 25, 1957, submitted requests for Waivers which that Board had approved, from the following:

W-159 - John Long, 17209 Casimir - Request for Waiver of the maximum rear yard occupancy allowed in order to build an addition to the existing detached garage, to consist of a laundry, utility, workshop room. The Waiver Board approved the request with the condition that the addition have the same setback from the alley as the existing garage.

W-160 - Matt Adamson, 3030 W.180th Pl., request for Waiver of the maximum rear yard occupancy. The Board approved the request with the condition that the Building Plans be marked (STORAGE ONLY, GROUP J).

W-164 - Joseph Silvester, 26111 Delos Dr., request for waiver of the required 20' rear yard to 13'9" at addition to rear of building. The Board approved this request as per application.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of the Waiver Board on these waivers.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

REPORT:

The Office of the City Clerk reported they had received a complaint and summons from Charles A. Prince and Robert Maslow, Attorneys for Bernadine H. Michael and Richard D. Hinton, Plaintiffs, in accident involving a Municipal Bus on or about March 22, 1957. The Council denied this claim on May 21, 1957. The complaint and summons was received by the Clerk on July 24, 1957.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens recommended placing protective asphaltic curbs and parking meters in the center of Cabrillo Avenue where center parking is allowed.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager.

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

City Attorney Remelmeyer recommended the City retain Mr. Boris Woolley to act in our interests in the Foley matter, on a reasonable fee basis.

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

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

Planning Director Powell reported that he had been on vacation, and asked if the Council had approved the Yniguez case.

Mayor Isen said they had.

Mr. Lee Schlens, Bldg. Supt., said he had been asked to bring a matter here from the Waiver Board, as the applicant is in a hurry for his answer. The applicant wishes to build an apartment house at the corner of Sartori and Portola, on property zoned R-3. He wishes to have a 10' setback in front of this building, and a 5' setback at the side.

Councilman Benstead asked how this lines up with the rest of the area.

Mr. Schlens said it would not line up with the adjoining buildings.

Councilman Drale felt this should go to the Planning Commission, as did Councilmen Benstead and Blount.

Mr. Gaston York, owner of the property, gave his address as 537 Via del Mar, and said the setbacks he has asked for conform to those of the apartment houses in the next block, and gave his reasons for bringing this directly to the Council.

Upon being asked, the City Attorney reported the Council had no jurisdiction in this matter at this time.

Councilman Drale moved this matter be sent through the regular channels.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Mr. Levitt, one of the holders of the Airport Triangle Lease bought from Store Properties, spoke to the Council. He said one of his lessees is a major grocery store, and they have asked that a sign be erected announcing that such a store is to be erected there very soon. He said they have a request through the Melvin Guenser Sign Co. to put up a sign about 10' x 30', and said the sign would carry a general listing of the stores to be erected on the property.

Councilman Jahn asked if smaller, individual signs might not be better.

Mr. Levitt said the sign will comprise a central listing, and will be put about 40' back from Pacific Coast Highway and about the same distance from Crenshaw so it will not pose a traffic hazard.

Mayor Isen moved these people be permitted to erect a temporary sign 10' x 30', the location to be approved by the Chief of Police.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Jahn asked to have the motion specify the length of time the sign can stand.

Mayor Isen agreed, and amended his motion to limit the sign to a 6-month permit, and limited its purpose to advertising the center to be built there.

Councilman Drale accepted the amendments to the motion in his second.

Bldg. Supt. Schlens told the Council that under our Ordinance, a bond must be posted.

Mr. Levitt said they will comply with all governing Ordinances. There were no objections to the motion, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Blount said anyone who writes a letter to any City Department should have a reply, stating it had been reported that a letter sent to the City Engineer's office had gone unanswered for a long period of time. He thought the City Engineer should answer the letter, and so moved.

Councilman Benstead did not think that letter posed an engineering problem.

Councilman Blount said then the letter should have been turned over to the proper Department or an answer should have been sent to let the writer know where the query should have gone. He said the letter he spoke of was dated June 23, 1957.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone has replied to this letter, but no one had.

Councilman Benstead said he had talked to both City Engineer Bishop and Public Works Director Russell; the letter does not raise an engineering problem, and the matter has been taken care of.

Councilman Drale seconded Councilman Blount's motion.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Drale asked if the City Manager had contacted the Pacific Electric about widening Dominguez St., and the problem at Torrance Blvd. and Sartori.

The City Manager said their engineers are studying the maps and possibly within a matter of weeks will meet with the City's representatives for a conference on the matter. He assured Councilman Drale he would follow through on this.

Councilman Jahn asked if a letter the Councilmen had received from the League of California Cities meant the end of the matter so far as eliminating gas tax paid by cities is concerned, expressing some disappointment if this were so.

Mayor Isen said a letter has gone to them asking this matter be put on the Agenda of the September meeting of the League in San Francisco.

Mayor Isen referred to the recent vote in favor of lighting assessment districts; he thought the City Attorney should prepare the proper ordinances to ensure that the proper standards will be placed in all new subdivisions, and so moved.

Councilman Jahn seconded the motion, and asked if specifications for the standards will be set, when the Ordinance is written.

He was told they would be.

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

Mr. R. L. Marks, 233 Via Anita, asked the reason the Council had not approved his lease at the last meeting. He stated he had furnished the proper insurance.

The City Attorney said a letter had been received yesterday saying

Mayor Isen told Mr. Marks he should contact the City Attorney and get the whole matter cleared up.

Mr. Marks said he would be glad to do so.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P. M



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

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance