

Torrance, California  
August 13, 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, August 13, 1957, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Whitacre 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, former Councilman Ed Karlow led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Blount opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Jahn moved the Minutes of the August 6, 1957, be approved as written.

Councilman Blount requested that action on the Minutes of the August 6, 1957, and August 13, 1957, meetings be delayed as he was not present at either of those meetings and has not had an opportunity to read the Minutes.

Councilman Jahn withdrew his motion.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen ordered action on the Minutes withheld until the next meeting of the Council.

APPOINTMENT:

Messrs. Boris Woolley and Bob Pannell were scheduled to appear before the City Council re "City vs. Foley, et al."

Mayor Isen announced these gentlemen had appeared here at the Pre-Council meeting and reported they had entered into negotiations with the attorneys representing Mr. Foley. Mr. Pannell has filed an injunction in the Superior Court. A stipulation was entered into between Mr. Pannell, representing the City, and the attorney for the defendants whereby the Foley interests have until November 6, 1957, to cease collecting and disposing of garbage on the property known as the Foley Ranch. Providing they have made a bona fide effort to find another location without success by that time, they have another 30 days. The stipulation was signed by attorneys for both sides, subject to Council approval. If not approved, this will be heard on September 4, 1957.

Criminal actions have also been filed by Mr. Woolley. As a result of the various actions, the defendant agreed to find another location by November 6, and will take down the fences and sheds on the Foley Ranch property and plow the land under and level it except where the house and garage are.

Mayor Isen said the Council would like to have the stipulations in the Superior Court action made a matter of record in the Criminal actions.

City Attorney Remelmeyer recommended the stipulations as reported be accepted, saying he thought it would take at least that long to get the garbage transfer business off the property even in case the City takes this to court and wins the case.

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

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Drale asked if the City can insert into the action the stipulation that no type of collection or disposal can be carried on at that location, mentioning specifically paper and rag collections.

The City Attorney said he could attempt to do this.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. An August 6, 1957, letter from the State of California Dept. of Public Works, Division of Highways, District VII, concerned a letter to them from the City Engineer under date of July 10, 1957. The letter from the State was signed by A. L. Himelhoch, Asst. District Engineer, for G. Langsner, District Engineer.

They reported our plan for remodeling the intersection of Newton St. and Pacific Coast Highway was basically acceptable with some minor revision which they indicated on the study furnished to them by the City.

Councilman Blount asked if we had entered into any agreement with the owners of the restaurant at that corner on which land they will vacate for this and which land we will vacate for the remodeling of the intersection.

Mayor Isen said the approval of the State was necessary before a firm agreement could be reached.

City Engineer Bishop said the State made some minor revisions on our plan, and we are now proceeding with the drawings.

Director of Public Works John V. Russell said there is some question about drainage of a low spot there which is being worked out.

Councilman Blount referred to the last paragraph of the letter from the State, saying he did not understand their statement that they would schedule an investigation as to whether signals there are warranted after the improvements are completed and the restaurant opened.

Mr. Russell said we will have to work with the State on this.

Councilman Blount asked how the City's engineers have arrived at a conclusion as to which land will be vacated, without Council action.

Councilman Jahn recalled the Council had met with the owners of the restaurant and a tentative agreement had been reached subject to State approval, and he asked if this was being used as a basis for the subject drawings.

City Engineer Bishop said it was.

Councilman Jahn said if the plan was basically acceptable to the State, he would suggest a meeting be arranged with the owner of the restaurant and agreement reached on the plan as modified by the State, so this can go ahead, and he so moved.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Mayor Isen suggested the appointment be made during the Pre-Council meeting of August 20.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

City Manager Stevens reported that the Binder proposal was to be considered at that time, and the City Attorney said the matter of the Spitzel property would be discussed.

2. The First Lutheran Church at Carson and Flower Sts. in Torrance, under date of August 3, 1957, requested the following improvements at their street intersection:

1. That adequate crosswalk markings be painted at the intersection of Carson and Flower Streets.
2. That the north side of Carson St. between Maple and Flower Streets be paved.

A note from the City Manager, dated August 9, 1957, reported that Item 1 has been referred to the Traffic Commission, and Item 2 has been referred to the Department of Public works to determine the priority and cost of the work requested.

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

3. A letter dated August 2, 1957, from the Torrance Unified School District, signed by J. H. Hull, Secretary to the Board of Education, requested that if the City annex off-shore assets, the Resolution include the phrase 'for school purposes', so the children in the school district will benefit from this tax source if it develops.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if this could be done, and Mr. Remelmeyer replied that it could.

There were no objections, and the City Attorney was instructed to do this if and when the Resolution was prepared, and to reply to the letter from Mr. Hull.

4. A reply to a query from City Manager Stevens to the City of Santa Barbara concerning the annexation by that city of the tidelands immediately seaward of their corporate limits was dated August 2, 1957, and signed by Perry Scott, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Santa Barbara.

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

5. An offer from Sam Levy, 1309-15 Sartori Avenue, dated August 8, 1957, in the amount of \$60,000 for the City Yard property at Western and Torrance Boulevards was accompanied by a check for \$6,000 as evidence of good faith.

Mayor Isen asked if the property had been appraised.

The City Manager said it had been appraised about two years ago, and the appraisal had suggested a sale price somewhere in the area of \$150,000.00. He emphasized that he did not recall exactly what the figure had been.

Councilman Jahn moved the offer be rejected, and an appropriate letter be sent to Mr. Levy.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered. Mayor Isen requested the City Manager to write the letter.

6. A letter dated August 8, 1957, from C. M. Crawford, Manager of the Dominguez Estate Company, informed the Council that the Board of Directors of that Company had authorized him to inform them a transfer will be approved of the 27-acre sump area in the center of Tract 21725. They will transfer this to the City with the conditions that the property will be used only for a sump for drainage water and/or for park and/or recreation area purposes.

Councilman Benstead moved the offer be accepted.

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

Councilman Drale moved the necessary Ordinances and Resolutions be drawn so as not to retard this transfer.

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

7. A letter dated August 9, 1957, from George Binder, 404 No. Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, made a suggestion concerning the Church Property at the corner of El Prado and Cabrillo Streets in relation to the Off-Street Parking District.

There were no objections, and this was ordered removed from the Agenda for discussion at a later date.

8. A letter dated August 8, 1957, from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, Inc., was signed by John K. Kesson, President, and had been received in the office of the City Manager on August 12, 1957. This letter informed the Council the Association requested an amendment to the City Charter be placed on the ballot in the coming special election to provide for an increase in the number of Councilmen and the Mayor to be elected by the voters at large.

Councilman Jahn pointed out this had been received too late for the regular Agenda, and that a policy had been adopted under which matters received under those circumstances would be held over for the next meeting of the Council and placed on the regular agenda of that meeting. He protested against this being here. If this matter was to be left on the Agenda, he asked that the policy be voted on once more.

There were no objections, and the matter was ordered removed from the Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

A memorandum from the City Manager, dated August 9, 1957, submitted the following recommendations for Council consideration and approval:

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Barclay Surveying Co., Inc., for Topo Survey on Airport Drainage Project, the sum of \$693.00.
2. To Arrow Engineering Co. for engineering services during the month of July, 1957, the sum of \$986.00.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager under Appropriations, Items 1 and 2.

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

The City Manager recommended that the City Council approve the policy established by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District. A copy of the letter from the District dated August 9, 1957, was enclosed, and outlined the policy. The City Manager reported that the Superintendent of the Water Department concurred in this recommendation and would explain the problems involved if desired.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the policy of the Metropolitan Water District as outlined in their letter of August 9, 1957, as recommended by the City Manager.

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

The City Manager was asked to follow through on this with the proper notification.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

1. A memorandum from License Inspector Whitacre informed the Council we had a request from The Volunteers of America, 1185 E. 15th St., Long Beach, for a free license to conduct a "Thrift Shop" at 1875 W. Carson St., Torrance. Mr. Whitacre reported this organization is recommended by the Dept. of Social Service, Room 1302, City Hall, Los Angeles, and the Long Beach Community Welfare Council. Mr. Whitacre recommended the free license be granted.

Mayor Isen asked how long the period would be which would be covered by such a license, and Mr. Whitacre reported it would be for the rest of this year.

Mayor Isen asked if a similar license is granted to the Salvation Army for their store in Torrance, and License Inspector Whitacre said it is.

Mayor Isen moved this free license be granted.

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

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING MATTERS:

1. A letter dated August 8, 1957, from City Engineer Bishop, submitted an easement from A. D. Gianni for a 10' street widening along the easterly side of Arlington Avenue and the northerly side of 182nd St. in accordance with the County Master Plan of Highways. The location sketch and necessary resolution were attached to the City Engineer's letter.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3259

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT  
DEED FROM ALBERT D. GIANNI.

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. 3259.

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

2. A letter dated August 8, 1957, from City Engineer Bishop, submitted to the Council a Grant of Easement for the Wilson-Kauffman sump adjoining Tract No. 20473, southerly of Torrance Blvd. and westerly of Palos Verdes Blvd. He reported all the necessary work in connection with the sump had been completed in compliance with the requirements of the Engineering Department. A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the sump was attached to the City Engineer's letter.

Councilman Jahn asked if this easement was for the sump for drainage purposes, and the City Attorney replied that it was.

The City Manager replied to a question by saying we could try to get the easement for park and recreation purposes.

There being no objections, this was ordered held over, to be back on the Agenda when the City Manager has a report to make on his effort to secure this easement for park and recreation purposes as well as drainage.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM PLANNING DIRECTOR:

1. A letter from George C. Powell, Planning Director and Member of the Waiver Board, submitted the following requests for waivers and the respective recommendations of the Waiver Board:

W-158: Glen Grimsley, 458 Calle de Aragon - request for Waiver of the required 20' rear yard to 10'6" at proposed 841.5 sq. ft. addition. The Board approved the request since there will be plenty of open yard space left after construction.

W-168: Hudson Hill, 1221 Portola, request for Waiver of the required 6' between existing garage and new dwelling to 4'7". The Waiver Board recommends this request for approval as this is definitely a hardship case. This case comes within the requirements of the Uniform Building Code.

Councilman Drale moved both Waivers be granted in concurrence with the recommendations of the Waiver Board.

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

2. A letter from George C. Powell, Planning Director, dated August 8, 1957, reported corrections noted of violations at the Longren plant during an inspection made on August 8 by Mr. Powell and Mr. McMahan.

Councilman Benstead asked Mr. Wentworth of Longren, who was present, about all the cars parked in the street by his plant this afternoon.

Mr. Wentworth replied their employees have always parked on Elm Street, using only one side of the street.

Councilman Jahn moved the letter be accepted and filed, commenting that the corrections listed sounded adequate to him.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale.

Councilman Benstead asked Mr. Wentworth for more information on the question he had asked, and Mr. Wentworth replied he could not answer the question more fully because he was not fully aware of the circumstances.

In reply to another question from Councilman Benstead, Mr. Wentworth said the employees there were not asked to park in the parking lot at Carson and Crenshaw if there is parking space by the plant.

Motion to file and accept carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Jahn. NCES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

3. Planning Director Powell, in a letter dated August 1, 1957, and re-submitted to the Council, submitted a Trailer Coach Ordinance prohibiting parking trailer coaches within front or side yard setbacks for a period in excess of 48 hours for its first reading. Attached to Mr. Powell's letter was a sketch showing the areas where no trailers could be parked for longer periods under this Ordinance, and a copy of a letter to the Planning Commission dated July 12, 1957, from the City Attorney.

Councilman Jahn asked why this was here, saying there was no recommendation on it.

The City Attorney said the Council could take action on this if they wished.

Bldg. Supt. Schlens told the Council the front and sideyard setbacks are governed by the Land Use Ordinance. This ordinance has aroused some questions in his mind, and he thought some of the items in it should not have been included.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen referred this to Mr. Schlens for study and recommendation.

It was requested that the Ordinance cover planes which might be parked in this way as well as trailers.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

1. A letter dated August 9, 1957, from City Attorney Remelmeyer, submitted a copy of Consent to Easement from the General Telephone Co. to permit construction of sewers in certain lots in Tracts 10300 and 10302. Mr. Remelmeyer reported the Engineering Department has checked this against plans for the sewer district and approved the consent to easement. Four location sketches were submitted with the letter.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 3260

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN CONSENT  
TO EASEMENT FROM GENERAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA.

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. 3260.

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

#### ORDINANCES:

1. A cover letter from City Clerk Bartlett submitted Ordinance No. 892 for its second reading, and reported the Ordinance had been adopted unanimously at its first reading on August 6, 1957, by those Councilmen present, with Councilman Blount absent.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 892

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE,  
1954" (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT  
CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE  
NO. 445.

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

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 892 at its second and final reading.

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

2. A cover letter from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, dated August 8, 1957, submitted for its second reading Ordinance No. 893. The letter reported the Ordinance was adopted at its first reading on August 6, 1957, unanimously by those Councilmen present, with Councilman Blount being absent.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 893

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING APPENDIX I OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE 1954" (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 791), RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 447.

Councilman Jahn moved to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 893.

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 893 at its second and final reading.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3261

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JEROME I. SCHARFMAN AS DEPUTY CITY TREASURER.

Councilman Jahn moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 3261.

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3261.

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

Mayor Isen said that under the heading of "Information Only" the Council had received a copy of a Resolution adopted by the City of Redondo Beach condemning all types of gambling in the City of Redondo Beach. He asked if the Council felt our City should adopt such a Resolution.

As our Charter prohibits gambling in the City of Torrance, the Councilmen did not think this would be necessary.

Mayor Isen said during the Special Meeting of the Council held on Monday morning, August 12, 1957, the Council had discussed the Airport Improvement Bonds and the Parks & Recreation Bonds. As there had been a meeting of the minds on these bonds, the City Attorney had been asked to prepare the proper motions on them so the Council could consider having these voted on at the Special Election to be held on or about October 29, 1957. This has been done, and the Attorney has given the

Council his recommendation on these motions.

Councilman Jahn moved that the City Attorney be authorized and directed to draft a proposition to be submitted to the electors of the City at a special election to be held on or about October 29, 1957, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring land for a clear approach zone to the west and north of the Torrance Municipal Airport; and that the City Attorney also be authorized and directed to draft a proposition to be submitted to the electors, in conjunction with said bond issue, amending the City Charter to provide that the revenues derived by the City from the Torrance Municipal Airport be used, insofar as the same are available and necessary, to pay the interest on and to retire the said bond issue; and that the City Attorney and City Clerk take all steps necessary to have said propositions submitted at said election.

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

Councilman Benstead moved that the City Attorney be authorized and directed to draft a proposition to be submitted to the electors of the City at a special election to be held on or about October 29, 1957, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring land for park and recreation purposes and to make improvements thereon and on existing parks and recreation facilities, and that the City Attorney and City Clerk take all steps necessary to have said proposition submitted at said election.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Blount recalled it had been the intention of the Council to state clearly on the ballot the amount of this money to be used for the acquisition of land and the amount to be used for the improvement of existing parks and facilities, and protested this was not spelled out in the motion.

He had not been able to attend the Special Meeting on Monday morning, Councilman Blount said, so he was in favor of having the motion make this specification to which he referred.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Manager if he could hazard an estimate as to how much of this money would be necessary for land acquisition.

The City Manager believed it would be about two million dollars, saying he based this cost on an estimate of the price of the land per acre.

Councilman Jahn asked if this would bind us so we could not get the land if the acre price estimate was not high enough, but the City Manager thought this would be ample.

Councilman Blount said if the motion were amended to read "approximately \$2,000,000 for land acquisition and approximately \$1,000,000 for improvement of existing parks and recreation facilities", he would like it better.

Mayor Isen suggested it might be well to add that the \$1,000,000 to be spent first for improvements to existing parks.

The City Attorney said he felt this should be checked with O'Melveny and Myers, wondering if the word 'approximately' might not be too vague.

Mayor Isen asked if we could pass this now and correct it next week if necessary, and the City Attorney thought that would serve.

Councilman Benstead accepted the two amendments to his motion, and Councilman Jahn accepted them in his second to the motion.

Councilman Drale questioned the location of one of the proposed parks, saying he thought it too close to the boundary of the City.

The City Manager said the park sites would be finalized before the election, but had not been as yet.

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked that the communication from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association be brought up at this time, as there were a number of people in the audience who were here regarding it.

Councilman Jahn removed his objection to the communication, saying he had wished to protect the principle involved.

Mayor Isen opened the floor to oral communications concerning the proposal.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Isen said the communication in question had proposed a 7-man Council including the Mayor, who was to be elected at large, and had asked that this proposition be on the ballot at the October 29, 1957, special election.

Mr. Jay Beasley, 24240 Ocean, spoke in favor of the suggestion, saying this had been proposed before and had been favorably regarded by the citizens of Torrance for a number of years.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney whether or not such a Charter Amendment, if passed at the Special Election in October, would be approved in time to elect the Councilmen at the general election next April.

The City Attorney said the Amendment could be; he said there is a Budget Session of the Legislature in January, and as such a measure would not be controversial it would probably be approved by the Legislature at that time. He said this point had been carefully checked.

Councilman Jahn said he would like to see the proposed Amendment to the Charter and study it carefully before voting on it.

Mayor Isen said the City Attorney would write the Amendment if he were directed to do so, and would word it according to the instructions of the Council.

Mr. John Barton, 3326 Primway, spoke to the Council in favor of this proposition.

Mr. John Mulvihill, 3765 W. 171st St., asked that the letter from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association be read in full.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre read the letter in full.

Councilman Benstead moved the letter be filed as a matter of record.

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

Councilman Drale said he had advocated the election of the Mayor for some time, and knew that the people of the City more or less adhere to the natural divisions to consider our City government as almost a ward system. He did not favor having an even number of voting Councilmen, pointing out that the County uses 5 Supervisors, and the City of Los Angeles uses 15 Councilmen. He felt an even number of Councilmen might result in a frequent tie vote, and he said there should be an uneven number of voting Councilmen in his opinion.

Councilman Drale moved that the proposition be placed on the ballot of the Special Election to be held in October, with the specification that this Charter Amendment be ratified by the Legislature before the extra Councilmen are elected, saying if it was not ratified in time for the General Election in April it should be stated that Councilmen could not be appointed to act for the City. If this is not ratified by the Legislature in time for the General Election next April, he would ask it be specified that the Councilmen should be elected and not appointed.

Mr. Beasley said a 7-man Council would ease the work load a lot.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Jahn said he had asked the question he did because he thought an item of this importance and magnitude might better be on the ballot of a General Election than at a Special Election.

Councilman Drale said he would like to know the feelings of the other Council members on this, before a vote is taken. He said he would approve this, but he thinks there should be an uneven number of voting Councilmen.

Mayor Isen explained that until the Legislature has approved this Charter Amendment, if the voters pass it, the additional Councilmen could not be elected or appointed.

Councilman Drale said there have been instances of men sitting in public office until the Fall, when matters of this nature have come before the legislature.

The City Attorney said he had not investigated this point, but he assumed the Mayor was correct.

Councilman Blount said if this Charter Amendment were passed in the Special Election held in October and the Legislature, sitting in extraordinary session in January should ratify it, the measure would become law in time for the April, 1958, election. The measure will not become law until it is ratified.

Councilman Blount requested the City Attorney to ask for a ruling on this from the Attorney General so there would be no question.

Mrs. Herma Tillim, 16914 Osage, thought this measure would call out a greater number of voters to the Special Election in October than would otherwise go to the polls.

Thirvin Fleetwood, 3637 W. 182nd St., agreed with Mrs. Tillim that this would create more interest in the election.

Councilman Blount went on record as wanting an uneven number of Councilmen. He believed the Mayor of the City should be elected at large. He did feel there were points both for and against increasing the number of Councilmen, and he personally felt the Mayor should be elected at large and the Council remain a 5-man Council. It was his own opinion only, he said, but he thought it time to have some changes.

Councilman Benstead felt the Mayor should be elected at large, and he felt the Council could use one more man, or perhaps even two more. He also felt the Council should be composed of an uneven number of men.

Councilman Jahn said the only question seemed to be whether the Council consists of an odd or even number of members. He had understood the Mayor would have a vote in case of a tie if it is decided to have a 6-man Council. He thought the Mayor should preside at all Council meetings and vote in case of a tie. He would consider voting for such a measure, but would want to read the measure first.

Councilman Benstead asked the City Attorney how long it would take for him to draw this up as outlined by Councilman Jahn, asking if it could be done in time for the Special Election.

The City Attorney said he thought it could if he knew the wishes of the Council.

Mayor Isen said he had been in favor of this from the very beginning. He felt the people have a right to have a Mayor directly responsible to them. He believed this would be a progressive step. He felt the Mayor should vote in case of a tie, saying if he did not vote, there might just as well not be a Mayor. He felt a 6-man Council with a voting Mayor would solve this question.

Mayor Isen pointed out an article in the July issue of Western City concerning a \$70,000,000 bond issue Phoenix has passed, and which showed a picture of their 7-man Council; in the Fortnight magazine there was an article concerning the progress made by the City of San Diego, as well.

Mayor Isen felt a 6-man Council with a voting Mayor to be elected at large would be a progressive step for Torrance.

He suggested the City Attorney bring something within a very short time to meet with the approval of the Council to be placed on the ballot.

Councilman Drale said he was ready to make a motion on this, but did not know how many Councilmen to specify.

Councilman Jahn asked the Mayor how many Councilmen he would recommend be elected, including the voting Mayor.

Mayor Isen said if the Mayor was to vote, he felt the Council, including the Mayor, should be an uneven number, either 5, 7, 9, or whatever seemed indicated.

Mr. John Barton spoke again, saying the Southwest Coordinating Council had held a study group on this, and they recommended a 7-man Council including the Mayor. He said the group who made the study had been composed of himself, Mr. Mayer, and Mr. Schoonover. They favor a voting Mayor for the City.

Mr. Beasley thought this measure would get more consideration on the ballot at a Special Election than at a General Election, where he felt it might become confused with personalities and become a political issue.

Councilman Blount felt everyone here was in agreement. He referred to the letter from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, Inc., and said he interpreted this to mean they recommended a 7-man Council including the Mayor. He agreed the Mayor should vote on issues before the Council.

Councilman Blount asked if Councilman Drale would accept an amendment to the effect 'that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up such Ordinances and Resolutions as may be required to change Article 6, Section 1 of the Charter of the City to read that the elective officers of the City shall be 6 members of the City Council and the office of Mayor, which office shall have all the powers of a Councilman', etc., with such other sections of the Charter as may pertain to this to be changed subject to the opinion of the Attorney General, to be placed on the ballot of the Special Election to be held on or about October 29, 1957.

Councilman Drale so moved.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Jahn asked if the City Attorney would also ask the Attorney General if this passes in October and is ratified in January by the Legislature if the candidates for these offices could be elected in April of next year.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

##### General

Councilman Blount asked that the Council concur with him in requesting information as to the present status of a golf course in the Seaside area, whether it is in use or not, whether it can be used as a playground or not, etc. He said he would like full information on it, giving the cost to the City of this course to date.

Mayor Isen asked that Recreation Director Van Bellehem give the Council a report on this.

Councilman Drale said he would like to have an attendance report on the course to date.

Mayor Isen requested Mr. Van Bellehem's report as soon as possible covering this information.

Councilman Jahn requested that the proper party, probably the City Attorney, draw up an Ordinance prohibiting west-bound plane traffic from the Airport from making a left-hand turn until they reach the ocean or have attained 1500' of altitude.

Councilman Blount agreed this was needed, and said he would second a motion on it.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Councilman Drale asked if anything is being done about the conditions at 182nd St. between Yukon and Ermanita.

Councilman Blount said that is on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Traffic Commission.

Mayor Isen asked that each Councilman submit a list of at least 15 names for a Committee to put the bond issues over. He also asked for volunteers from the citizens of the City to work on this.

Councilman Drale moved all bills properly audited be paid.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P. M.

APPROVED:

Albert Isen  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City  
of Torrance, California  
By Gale Whitacre  
Deputy City Clerk