

Torrance, California
February 18, 1958

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, February 18, 1958, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Scharfman, Finance Officer
for the City, led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Father Joseph McArdle, of the Nativity Catholic
Church, opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Jahn moved to approve the Minutes of the February 11,
1958, meeting of the Council as written.

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

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for the
opening of Bids on National Cash Register Bookkeeping and Accounting
Machine.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Affidavit of Publication of
Notice to Bidders.

Councilman Benstead moved this be received and filed.

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

City Manager Stevens opened, and City Clerk Bartlett read,
bids on this machine as follows:

National Cash Register Co., 940 Pine Avenue Long Beach, Calif.	Item #1 Sales Tax	\$ 7,130.00 285.20 \$ 7,415.20
Burroughs Corp., 1649 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles 17, Calif.	Item #1 Price Sales Tax	11 TOTAL 19 Total F 1303 F 1503 \$6,640.50 \$7,600.00 265.63 304.00 \$6,906.22 \$7,904.00

Councilman Jahn moved that these bids be referred to City Manager
Stevens and Mr. Scharfman for study and a recommendation later in
the meeting.

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

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for the
opening of Bids on Fire Hose, Expander and Hose Tester for Fire
Department.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Affidavit of Publication of
Notice to Bidders.

Councilman Benstead moved this be received and filed.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

City Manager Stevens opened, and City Clerk Bartlett read, the
bids summarized here:

<u>BIDDER:</u>	<u>ITEM NO.:</u>	<u>AMT. BID:</u>
Goodall Rubber Co., 2939 East 11th St. Los Angeles 23, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID NO BID NO BID
Halprin Supply Co., 1355 So. Flower St., Los Angeles 15, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	\$440.96 NO BID \$969.85
Gates Rubber Co., 2850 E. 46 St., Los Angeles 58, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID NO BID NO BID
John F. Wardlaw 8508 Sheridell Ave. Rivera, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID NO BID (Including tax) \$1034.80
Western Bi-Lateral Fire Hose Co. 1915 So. San Pedro St. Los Angeles, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID \$1830.40 NO BID
Quaker Pioneer Rubber Div., H. K. Porter Co., Box 791 Pittsburg, California.	#1 #2 #3	(Including tax) \$384.80 " " \$759.20 NO BID
American Rubber Mfg. Co. 2216 So. Hill St. Los Angeles 7, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	(Including tax) \$540.80 " " \$1092.00 NO BID
Eureka Fire Hose 8508 Sheridell Ave. Rivera, Calif.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID \$1404.00 NO BID
W. S. Darley & Co., 2810 Washington Blvd. Chicago 12, Illinois	#1 #2 #3	NO BID (Different specs) \$1430.00 \$814.20
Bi-Lateral Fire Hose Co. 20 N. Wacker Drive Chicago, Ill.	#1 #2 #3	NO BID NO BID (Including tax) \$1347.84

Councilman Jahn moved to refer these bids to the City Manager for analysis and recommendation.

Councilman Benstead seconded the motion.

Councilman Drale asked if the intent of the motion was to ask that the bids be referred to the City Manager and the Fire Chief.

Councilman Jahn said it was.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen announced that this was the time and place for the opening of Bids on Leasing of Motor Vehicles for Police Department.

City Clerk Bartlett presented the Affidavit of Publication of Notice to Bidders.

There were no objections, and this was ordered received and filed.

City Manager Stevens opened and City Clerk Bartlett read the bids summarized here:

<u>BIDDER:</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION:</u>	<u>PRICE PER MILE:</u>
Vel's Ford Sales Co. 1420 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance, Calif.	250 h.p. autos as described 280 h.p. autos as described	\$0.07 \$0.09½
Paul's Chevrolet, Inc. 1640 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance, Calif.	250 h.p. autos as described 280 h.p. autos as described	\$0.07 \$0.09½

Councilman Jahn moved these bids be referred to the City Manager and Police Chief for study and recommendation.
Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen stated that Mr. Mewborn of the law firm of Mewborn & Hitchcock, who had been retained by the City to act on our behalf in the matter of the Don Ja Ran dispute, was present to make a report. As Mr. Mewborn had another meeting to attend, the Council extended him the courtesy of hearing his report at this time.

Mr. Mewborn reported to the Council that the following settlement of this dispute had been offered, and read the statement to the Council, saying each of the Councilmen had been furnished a copy of this offer for study, and that he had understood from their individual reactions that they would concur with the offer:

1. Lots 149 to 168 inclusive of Tract 18379 shall be rezoned R-3, subject to the limitation that any structures erected on any of said lots shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height, said 20 feet measured from the highest point of the sidewalk opposite each lot or building site.

2. Lots 143 to 148 inclusive of Tract 18379 shall be rezoned R-4, to be used by petitioners for hotel purposes only. Petitioners shall have the further right to construct on said lots a resort-type hotel.

A resort-type hotel is defined to mean a group or series of attached or detached buildings containing living units, with or without kitchens, and with parking space for at least 1-1/4 cars per living unit, erected on said lots, all for the use of guests.

Should the petitioners construct upon said lots a resort-type hotel, as defined above, it shall contain the following minimum facilities:

- a. A restaurant, to contain seating accommodations for a minimum of thirty-five (35) customers.
- b. A swimming pool with minimum dimensions of 40 x 20 feet, and parking accommodations for at least 1-1/4 cars per living unit erected on the hotel premises.
- c. Petitioners to have the right to erect advertising signs on the premises, which will refer to all accommodations located thereon as a hotel; subject to sign ordinances of the City of Torrance.
- d. 'a' and 'b' above shall be constructed in advance of or simultaneously with any such resort-type hotel.

3. There shall be no prescribed time limit within which any construction shall be commenced by petitioners on said Lots 143 to 148 inclusive.

4. Nothing hereinbefore set forth shall constitute a limitation upon the facilities which petitioners may construct or place upon said Lots 143 to 148 inclusive. Petitioners shall have the right to place, construct or operate thereon such additional facilities as are ordinarily and customarily utilized in connection with the maintenance and operation of a resort-type hotel.

5. Any plans of petitioners relating to the construction on said Lots 143 to 148 of a resort-type hotel shall be subject to reasonable approval of the City Council, which approval shall not be arbitrarily withheld.

6. The petitioners shall have uncontrolled discretion in determining whether they will construct upon said Lots 143 to 148 inclusive, a resort-type hotel. If they conclude not to do so, they shall have the right to devote said lots for any authorized R-3 purposes in compliance with the city ordinance of Torrance relating thereto, specifically excluding a motel.

Mr. Mewborn reported the various ramifications of this Case, and that it has been set for trial on Wednesday, February 26, 1958. He said he was here to secure from the City Council a Resolution which would allow him to proceed with the defense of this case or negotiations for settlement.

Mr. Mewborn said this compromise would allow the use of the bluff lots for multiple dwellings, but that the height limit specified in this settlement would be observed. The other lots could be used either for a resort type hotel with certain minimum facilities or for any ordinary R-3 use, but not for a motel.

At 6:00 P. M., the Council recessed, reconvening at 6:10 P. M.

Mr. Mewborn discussed this settlement at length with the Council, telling them that it was his considered opinion that the judge would not permit the over-all rezoning of this property to stand if any reasonable alternative was given to him, and that it would be difficult to convince him the character of the area should have changed so from the original zone that it should be zoned R-1. While there has been a change in the zone of certain properties to the north of these lots, those particular lots bore deed restrictions which would have limited them to R-1 use, but these lots under discussion have been zoned for R-3 use. He felt this proposal from Don Ja Ran, which had been worked out carefully in many meetings, is fair; he felt it would result in an amicable settlement, whereas other action could prove long and expensive. He stated he felt the development as proposed here could be a real advantage to the City in many ways.

Councilman Jahn asked Mr. Mewborn how this had come before the Council tonight, and Mr. Mewborn said he had received a call from the Mayor to the effect that he had heard there was a certain amount of opposition to the proposed settlement of this case, and asking him to be here tonight to present this as a lawyer's recommendation to his clients.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Mewborn whether, if this case goes to trial, the property will be zoned either R-1, as the City has re-zoned it, or R-4, as it was before the re-zoning, when the case is over.

Mr. Mewborn said that was right.

Mr. Perry of 634 Camino de Encanto, spoke at some length with reference to the proposed settlement. He did not believe this would fulfill the objectives of the Council when they zoned these lots R-1.

Mr. Jack Brown, 609 Camino de Encanto, pointed out that the buildings on the bluff lots could be quite high and still observe the height limit set here, because of the slope of the lots. He said they are interested in whether such a hotel as mentioned here would be served by an entrance on Camino de Encanto, or whether there would be an opening on Palos Verdes Boulevard.

Mr. Mewborn replied that no details had been worked out. He emphasized that their proposal said their development plans would be subject to reasonable approval by the City Council.

Mr. Mewborn said that he had gone to the lots with Mr. Patrick of the City Engineer's office, and that Mr. Patrick has some rather detailed drawings showing the relationship of the buildings at the height set to the existing houses, showing that the views from the existing homes will be affected little more than they would by single-family residences.

Councilman Jahn, on the basis of the informal discussion here and the information furnished by the Attorney, moved that this compromise be accepted, and the attorney be instructed to proceed with the steps necessary to effect the compromise.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Drale moved to table this for at least one week to allow the people in the area to have more opportunity to investigate this. He believed the attorneys could get a postponement from the February 26 date set for trial.

Councilman Blount seconded the motion, and asked Mr. Mewborn what position that motion, if it carried, would put the City in.

Mr. Mewborn could not guarantee a continuance; he said he would have to file a petition which would be heard on Tuesday, February 25, and if the continuance should not be granted, the trial would be on Wednesday, and we would be 'dead ducks' if we lost it. Mr. Mewborn felt there was no basis in the motion for a continuance in court, such as the unavoidable absence of an interested party because of illness or the Council being engaged in another trial at that time.

Mr. Perry said he had heard of this only by chance on Sunday.

Mayor Isen said Mr. Mann, who lives near Mr. Perry, had come to his office to ask about this matter, and had been given the information. Mayor Isen explained to the interested residents of the area who were present that the City is involved in a law suit about this matter which could prove long and costly. He understood that only a few of the residents had not wanted to accept the settlement offered by Don Ja Ran and Peerless Building Corp. at the time the group action was being taken on this, and thought that probably it should have been settled then.

Mr. Perry felt there had not been time for all the people who are interested to be notified of this proposal, and asked again if this settlement would fulfill the wishes of the Council.

Councilman Benstead replied that under this proposal there would not be a motel built there, and that was the interest of the Council.

Councilman Jahn referred to his part in this entire matter, and then referred to a recent court decision in a similar case in the City of Newport Beach, where the case had been thrown out of court because property had been rezoned because of the wishes of the people. He said he did not wish to gamble on this being rezoned R-4 by the court, and he felt that was possible if the City should lose this case.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Perry what purpose would be served by tabling this, and Mr. Perry said it would give the people a chance to consider opposition to the settlement.

Councilman Blount moved the question.

Mr. Perry asked if this was the final offer of the Don Ja Ran people.

Mayor Isen explained that our attorney had held many meetings with them and with their attorneys, and that the Council is trying to effect the best settlement for the City. This proposal represents a meeting of minds on the matter by the attorneys, and it has been given the informal approval of the Council.

Mr. Perry asked if this will prohibit the construction of a motel there.

Mayor Isen said they have agreed to build a resort-type hotel. He pointed out that there is often a great similarity between the two types of lodgings. They will want to put up something which is economically feasible, and it must be attractive to be so.

Mr. Perry asked if this constitutes rezoning of the property from R-1 to R-3.

Mr. Mewborn said both the City and Don Ja Ran would be bound by this agreement, and the City would have to take certain steps to implement the agreement, if it is accepted. If the Council wishes this to go to trial, he said he would have to proceed, but he would not recommend it because he felt it was going to be a very expensive matter and that it would be most difficult to try.

The motion to table this for a week failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Jahn, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The motion to proceed with this compromise, made by Councilman Jahn, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Drale said he had voted against this because he was the originator of the motion to change this to R-1 because the area is surrounded by R-1 zone, and the change to R-4 had been made on the basis of certain statements by the owners of the land.

Mayor Isen thought Councilman Drale had approved the settlement in person, as Mr. Mewborn had said the Councilmen did approve this.

Councilman Drale said he had not approved it, and he asked that the record show he had not, and that he did not agree with this compromise.

Mayor Isen said he had voted to accept the compromise because he felt the offer to be reasonable; he pointed out this is very expensive property, and that the property owners should not be deprived of the use of their property. He believed that the City would lose this suit if it goes to court, but that the owners of the property will work with the City and that there will not be a motel there.

Mayor Isen could not see where the development of the property as proposed here would hurt the existing property there in any way.

Mr. Fisher, an employee of the California State Agency making a Classification survey of City jobs, told the Council he would rather come back another time than continue a discussion he had begun with the Council at the pre-Council meeting. He said he would return for another meeting when there was time to discuss the work being done at length, if this met with the approval of the Council.

Councilman Jahn said he would want to be sure that Mr. Fisher did return.

Mayor Isen suggested that Mr. Fisher return at 7:00 P. M. very soon, before a Council meeting scheduled for 8:00 P. M.

There were no objections, and it was so agreed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A February 12, 1958, letter from Miss Cecilia M. Daniels, 3932 Newton St., protested against the fact that a high bank of dirt moved in behind her home is a potential danger to her property, and asked the Council for assistance in preventing damage to her home which could be caused by this dirt. Miss Daniels submitted with this letter a copy of a letter she had written to the Council about this in November of 1956.

City Engineer Bishop said the bank of dirt had been inspected and that his assistant, John Patrick, had written to Miss Daniels. Mr. Bishop said the entire weight of the dirt had been removed from Miss Daniels' retaining wall. The recent inspection had shown that some of the dirt has been spilled back on the wall, probably because of children playing on the bank. He said the dirt had been removed last year at the request of his department, and that the lot in Bluff St., where this dirt is located, now drains to Bluff Street. He stated this is safe from an engineering standpoint.

Mr. Bishop went on to say that if the wall Miss Daniels has behind her property had been enough to withhold the dirt there originally, it would be enough now, as there is no more weight there now. With respect to the planting of the hill of dirt as Miss Daniels suggested, the City Engineer said that was an old subdivision and did not come under our subdivision ordinance. He said his office had done what they could to persuade Mr. Gray to do everything possible, but the ordinance was not behind them in this case. He said that Mr. Patrick's letter to Miss Daniels had indicated that Mr. Patrick has been trying to get in touch with Mr. Gray, the owner of the land behind Miss Daniels' home, to see what he might do to clean up the lot.

Councilman Benstead referred to the second paragraph of Mr. Patrick's letter to Miss Daniels, and asked the City Engineer if there had ever been a bond on the subdivision in which the hill of dirt is located.

Mr. Bishop said we did not get a bond because there was no law requiring it on that type of development. He said there was a drainage hazard on the lot where the fill is, and on the lot next to it, and he felt that the fill removed that flood hazard from the lot. He felt that there would be nothing more to do except possibly plant the side of the dirt to make it look better.

Councilman Benstead spoke to Mr. Russell, saying Mr. Patrick had said Mr. Russell had caused the dirt to be moved back 5' a year ago.

Mr. Russell said he had been asked to go and examine the wall to see if there was any danger to it at that time, and there was. It had been his decision that the dirt should be moved back 5' and more if necessary. He had made no statement about planting. He had no such authority. Mr. Gray had moved the fill dirt back, and Mr. Russell said he had done a good job.

Councilman Jahn referred to Miss Daniels' letter, and said he had read the letter sent by Mr. Patrick. He felt the employee of the City who had stated that a bond had been released on the subdivision where this dirt is was in error, and had mislead a person. He did not feel this to be the fault of the employee, but felt it was the fault of his superior. Even if the wall of dirt were wrong, Councilman Jahn did not think an inspector should say the claim was right and that the City was wrong.

Miss Daniels was present, and said she did not want to take up too much time with her problem, but that if the City had felt the dirt should be moved back 5' from her wall, that some provision should have been made to hold it back. The dirt is not staying there. The dirt is coming down on her wall.

Mr. Bishop said a part of the dirt has grass on it, but that where children play up and down the bank nothing will grow. He said this grading job was done before we had our grading ordinance.

Mayor Isen asked how much money was being discussed in the matter of planting.

The City Engineer said it would not be much.

Miss Daniels said her lot is 75' wide, and the dirt behind it is about 15' above the 5' wall.

City Engineer Bishop thought planting this would cost not more than \$100.00.

Mayor Isen asked if Mr. Gray would not plant the bank, saying he would be doing other work in the City.

City Engineer Bishop thought he might.

Mayor Isen suggested that the Engineering Dept. talk to him and report on his reply to the Council, and asked Miss Daniels to return here next week to see what has been done.

Councilman Drale asked if the natural terrain of the land was changed, and Mr. Bishop said it was changed to a proper slope.

Councilman Drale asked how much dirt was added.

City Engineer Bishop said it was added on a proper slope.

Councilman Drale said if the contractor had changed the terrain he should do this planting.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. Dudley Gray be requested to plant the slope in question.

Councilman Blount seconded the motion, and asked the City Engineer who had told Miss Daniels about the bond and planting in the beginning.

City Engineer Bishop believed Miss Daniels had misunderstood Mr. Patrick, and referred to the Staff Minutes of the meeting when this had originally been discussed, which did not show that Mr. Patrick had discussed planting with the staff in relation to this lot.

Miss Daniels disagreed, saying she had not misunderstood Mr. Patrick.

Councilman Drale repeated that his motion had been to request Mr. Gray to plant the slope.

City Engineer Bishop said Mr. Horlander also felt that he had been misunderstood in this matter.

There were no objections to the motion, and it was so ordered, with Mayor Isen directing both Mr. Russell and Mr. Bishop to see if Mr. Gray would not plant the slope. He suggested that if they had not been able to reach Mr. Gray by the latter part of this week, they call him at his office and he would try to contact Mr. Gray.

2. A February 12, 1958, letter from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, signed by John G. L. Crain, President, urged that the Office of City Attorney be made an elective office, and requested this be placed on the April 8, 1958, ballot for consideration by the people.

Councilman Benstead moved to table this a week for study.

Mayor Isen asked if there was anyone present to discuss the communication, and Mrs. Herma Tillim reported that there had been only about 30 of the 300 members of the Association present at the meeting when the motion was made and passed which sent this recommendation here.

Councilman Jahn moved to table this recommendation indefinitely.

Councilman Drale questioned whether there is enough time to put this on the ballot in April.

Mayor Isen seconded Councilman Benstead's motion to table this for one week, and instructed the City Attorney to check the law during this meeting and report to the Council concerning the time elements involved.

Motion to table for one week carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen directed the City Clerk to reply to this letter, and tell the group that if they wish to have any proponents of this measure at that meeting, there will be a discussion of it at that time.

3. A February 14, 1958, letter from the Civil Service Board, signed by W. C. Bradford, Secretary, recommended a policy to the Council regarding re-employment of probationary workers upon their return from military service. They stated that the policy was based on the definition of "Probationary Workers" as taken from the Handbook of the "Veterans Assistance Program -- Selective Service System". They recommended adoption of this as a policy.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation of the Civil Service Board.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount.

Councilman Benstead asked the City Attorney if there is an ordinance covering this point.

The City Attorney replied that if the Council approves this and adopts it as policy, it can be handled as an amendment; he said a public hearing would have to be held on it.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. A February 10, 1958, letter from the Torrance Unified School District, signed by Robert W. Cosby, Director of Operations, asked for permission to remove the trees on Plaza Del Amo north of their Operations building, following the telephone and electrical easement. This would allow them to have more adequate space for off-street parking, as well as provide more safety for motorists who use Plaza del Amo. They will provide the labor for the removal of the trees and the existing dirt and landscaping along the existing structures.

Councilman Drale moved to grant the request.

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

5. A January 31, 1958, request from the Recreation Director for use of the Engineering Dept. offices in the old City Hall for a place to hold children's art classes, and women's art and craft classes plus a meeting room for their teenage drama group. The letter explained that when the plunge opens for the summer, the space now being used for these purposes will not be available.

In a memo dated February 12, 1958, appended to the request, the City Manager recommended this use be allowed on a temporary basis until more permanent quarters are obtained.

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

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Jahn asked if this would interfere with the use of space in the old City Hall by the City Prosecutor.

The City Manager said office space for him is being reserved.

There were no objections to the motion, and it was ordered carried.

6. In a letter dated February 3, 1958, the Recreation Director recommended perimeter planting of trees and shrubs at the Sea-Aire Golf Course, at a cost estimated to be about \$2,120.00, which he asked be allocated for the purpose. Mr. Van Bellehem explained the problem at the golf course, and the reason for his request. The price of \$2,120.00 was an estimate furnished to him by Mr. Clemmer, and based on the experience of planting the area back of Hole No. 8.

Councilman Benstead moved to grant this request.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Jahn asked why such items as this were not in the budget, and the City Manager said that in order to keep the budget down, capital improvements in some cases were left out, with the idea that as we went along and saw how we were going to come out, these could be provided for from unappropriated reserves.

Councilman Blount asked to have a listing of the total money spent on the Sea-Aire Golf Course, including all supplemental work during the past couple of years. He asked to have this at the next meeting.

Councilman Jahn said he would like to have other estimates on the cost of this planting.

Councilman Benstead asked if the City would do this planting, and the City Manager said he thought that would be the most economical.

Councilman Benstead amended his motion to specify that we ask for bids on furnishing the trees and shrubs for this planting.

Mayor Isen accepted the amendment to the motion in his second.

The motion, as amended, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. A February 7, 1958, letter from A. E. McVicar, reported four offers, or informal bids, had been received to cover the dismantling of two 100,000 gallon steel tanks. The bids were listed, and Mr. McVicar recommended that the bid of D. W. Blount Equipment Co. be accepted; Mr. Blount will do the work for the salvage material and without payment by us to him. All other bidders required some cash and the salvage material.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation made by Mr. McVicar that the bid be awarded to D. W. Blount Equipment Co., 733 E. Patterson St., Long Beach.

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

Councilman Blount said he abstained from voting because of the fact that someone might think that the successful bidder was related to him, which he said was not the case.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

1. An application from Scott Signs, Inc., requesting permission to erect signs at 18534 Hawthorne for a real estate office, was resubmitted by the Building Department, accompanied by comments from the Building Department and the Planning Department. An excerpt from the Council Minutes of February 4, 1958, was attached to this letter.

Mr. Schlens, Bldg. Supt., explained that this property is in a C-2 Controlled zone, but the Planning Commission has approved its use for a real estate office, with the suggestion that the signs be in line with the medical building nearby, north of this property. The set-back they recommended was a 7' set-back, if the Council does approve this.

Councilman Drale moved to grant this request, with the stipulation that the recommendations of the Planning Commission be observed.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Blount asked how this could be enforced if no bond is required and there is no time limit set, and Mr. Lee Schlens, Bldg. Supt., replied that a building permit is required.

There were no objections, and the motion was ordered carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

1. A request from the Los Angeles Area Council of the Camp Fire Girls, signed by Anita Korts, Executive Director, was dated February 10, and asked for a free permit to conduct their 1958 candy sale in Torrance between March 14 to April 5, 1958.

A memo from License Inspector Whitacre reported this would be a renewal, and has the approval of Assistant Chief of Police Porter. Mr. Whitacre recommended that a free license be granted for the period of time requested, and reported that all necessary forms are on file in the License Department.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation of the License Inspector.

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

In response to a question from Councilman Benstead, Mr. Whitacre reported that the Los Angeles Area Council, Inc., had made this request for the girls from Hollywood-Riviera, and that they make these requests for all groups.

2. A February 14, 1958, memo from Gale Whitacre, License Inspector, recommended refund of \$24.00 to Mr. Edward E. Sweitzer, this being an overpayment of his 1958 Business License fee. The fee was paid twice, one on January 2, 1958, receipt #10739, and again on January 27, 1958, on receipt #12310.

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

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

3. A February 10, 1958, letter from Robert C. Ordway, Finance Committeeman of Boy Scout Troop 266, 515 Via Monte D'oro, Redondo Beach, requested a free license for the troop to sell doughnuts in the City of Torrance on Saturday, March 1, 1958.

A memo from License Inspector Whitacre reported that this is a request for a renewal, and that all necessary forms are on file. He recommended approval of the request.

Councilman Benstead felt that such privileges should be reserved for the Boy Scouts in Torrance.

Councilman Blount pointed out that some areas of our City have a Redondo Beach mailing address.

Councilman Jahn moved to grant the request for a free license.

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

COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

1. A February 13, 1958, letter from J. R. Patrick, Ass't. to the City Engineer, submitted recommendations for projects to be paid for by State Gas Tax Funds during the Fiscal Year 1958-59.

Councilman Drale felt some money should be recommended for the 203rd St. or Del Amo improvement recommended by the Inter-Cities Highways Committee.

Councilman Benstead asked if anything has been done toward the extension of Del Amo westerly from Crenshaw.

City Engineer Bishop said we have no rights-of-way there, but the County has an alignment for it.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with Mr. Patrick's recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, who wanted the record to show that he would recommend that Del Amo be considered for improvement under these funds next year.

Mayor Isen agreed that it should be considered then.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. A February 13, 1958, letter from John R. Patrick, Asst. to the City Engr., submitted a letter from Barnett, Hopen and Smith giving an estimate of the charges for their work on the proposed proceedings for the Hawthorne Avenue Sewer District, and a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract between the City and Barnett, Hopen and Smith.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3413

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN
CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND
BARNETT, HOPEN AND SMITH.

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

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

Councilman Benstead asked why we did not ever call for bids in such matter as this.

The City Manager said they have done very successful work for us. He explained that he thought we would not get bids on this type of work, any more than we would get bids from architects or attorneys. He believed they would all charge the same for the work.

Councilman Jahn thought that if it were practical to do so, it might be well to divide this work among the capable and able firms, saying he would not want to be instrumental in creating a monopoly.

Councilman Benstead asked the City Manager how the qualifications of such firms as this are usually determined, and the City Manager replied that such determinations are usually made on the basis of the work done by the firm.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3413.

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

3. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 24229: NORRIS CONSTRUCTION CO.:

A letter of transmittal from the Engineering Department submitted for approval Final Tract Map No. 24229, containing 50 lots, located southerly of Spencer St. and westerly of Madrona Ave., presented by the Norris Construction Co. Attached were:

- a. A Feb. 13, 1958, letter from Planning Director Powell listing the conditions for approval of this Tract as suggested by the Planning Commission;
- b. Excerpt from Planning Commission Minutes of Feb. 5, 1958;
- c. A Feb. 4, 1958, letter from J. R. Patrick stating this map substantially conforms to the tentative map, and listing the conditions for approval of the tentative map, and showing compliance with each of them;
- d. January 16, 1958, letter from the Sou. Calif. Edison Co., signed by J. W. Kessler, saying the poles in this tract would be on the rear property lines where possible, and there would be no poles on the front property lines or on the streets;
- e. Nov. 27, 1957, letter from the Dominguez Water Corp., 21718 So. Alameda St., Long Beach, agreeing to service the tract;
- f. A sketch of the tract.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendations of the Planning Commission, and with the stipulations they have made on this tract as shown in Mr. Powell's letter of February 13, 1958.

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

4. FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 24148: R. A. WATT CONSTRUCTION CO.:

A letter of transmittal from Engineering Dept., submitting for approval Final Tract Map No. 24148, containing 14 lots, located along 180th St. and 181st St., westerly of Doty Ave. and northerly of 182nd St., presented by the R. A. Watt Construction Co. Attached were:

- a. A Feb. 13, 1958, letter from G. C. Powell, Planning Director, reported Planning Commission recommendation for approval, with note to be made of stipulations of Tentative Tract Map, and stating the Final Tract Map substantially conforms to the tentative map.
- b. Excerpt from Feb. 5, 1958, Planning Minutes;
- c. Feb. 4, 1958, letter from J. R. Patrick reporting that this Final Map substantially conforms to the Tentative, and listing the Council's conditions for approval of the Tentative Map, stating they have been fulfilled.
- d. A Jan. 21, 1958, letter from Sou. Calif. Edison Co., signed by J. W. Kessler, agreeing that there will be no poles on front property lines or streets in this tract;
- e. Nov. 5, 1957, letter from L. A. County Flood Control District, signed by W. J. Manetta, reporting this tract to be reasonably free from flood hazard;
- f. Oct. 23, 1957, letter from A. E. McVicar, Supt. of Torrance Water Dept., saying we would serve this tract with water;
- g. Sketch of tract.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval, with all special conditions noted by them.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

1. A February 13, 1958, letter from George C. Powell, Planning Director, submitted the following Cases for the Council to set the date and time of the Third and Final Hearings thereon:

- a. CASE NO. 478: Petition of Chacksfield Realty Co., Inc., for a Change of Zone in Tentative Tract No. 24330, being the portion of land south of 186th St., north of San Diego Freeway, from A-1 to R-1.
- b. CASE NO. 479: Petition of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on all of Tract No. 21744, situated on the east side of Prairie Ave., between 183rd St. and 186th St. in North Torrance from A-1 to R-1.
- c. CASE NO. 480: Petition of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on a portion of Lot 16, all of Lots 17 thru 33 inclusive, and the easterly 35' of Lots 40 through 53 of Tract 20019 from R-3 to R-1; and a Change of Zone on all of Lots 34 and 35 and the easterly 35' of Lots 37-39 of Tract 20019 from C-2 to R-1, situated on the west side of Arlington between the alley south of Redondo Beach Blvd. and 164th St. in North Torrance.
- d. CASE NO. 481: Petition of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on all of Tract 22762 located on the south side of 237th St. between Cypress and Pennsylvania in South Torrance from A-1 to R-1.
- e. CASE NO. 482: Petition of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on all of Tracts 22495 and 20252, situated on the west side of Arlington Ave. between Dominguez Channel and 170th St. in North Torrance from A-1 to R-1.
- f. CASE NO. 483: Petition of Torrance Planning Commission for a Change of Zone on all of Tract No. 19835, situated on the west side of Arlington Ave. and 171st St. in North Torrance from A-1 to R-1.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen set the date and time for the Third and Final Hearings on these cases as March 11, 1958, at 8:00 P. M. in this Chamber.

At 7:30 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council re-convening at 7:40 P. M.

Mayor Isen asked the City Manager if any recommendations on the bids opened earlier this evening were ready.

The City Manager replied that there were none ready, and reported that it had been requested that the recommendations be made very carefully, at the next meeting of the Council.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS:

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3414

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT; TO WIT: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER LINE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

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. 3414.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3415

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THOSE CERTAIN EASEMENT DEEDS FROM THEODORE F. VERRALL.

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. 3415.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3416

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM ROBERT R. COX AND MARLENE COX.

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. 3416.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3417

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO ACCEPT AND CONSENT TO DEEDS OR GRANTS OF PROPERTY OFFERED TO THE CITY.

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. 3417.

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

A cover letter from City Attorney Remelmeyer, dated February 13, 1958, presented a resolution accepting an easement deed from the heirs and distributors of the estate of Edda O. Thompson, and a copy of the agreement with the heirs and distributors of said estate for the widening and paving of Prairie Avenue, and reported that as it had not been possible to process the instrument within the time set in the agreement, an extension of time had been granted, to March 1, 1958.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3418

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN EASEMENT DEED FROM THE HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF THE ESTATE OF EDDA O. THOMPSON FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRAIRIE AVENUE AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF SAID ESTATE OF EDDA O. THOMPSON FOR THE WIDENING AND PAVING OF PRAIRIE AVENUE.

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. 3418.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3419

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOUTH BAY AND COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 5 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

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

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

Councilman Drale asked for an explanation of this, and Mayor Isen recapped the information furnished to the Council previously concerning the termination of these agreements.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3419.

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

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3420

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING, CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 1958.

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

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

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3420.

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

ORDINANCES:

1. A cover letter dated February 13, 1958, from City Attorney Remelmeyer, submitted for its first reading a proposed ordinance providing that only poolrooms and billiard halls which operate in connection with family-type recreation centers be allowed to remain open for business on a 24-hour basis, and requiring that permission for such operation must be obtained from the City Council. This was prepared and submitted in accordance with the direction of the Council at their meeting of February 4, 1958.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 945

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 18.16 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" RELATING TO THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF POOLROOMS AND BILLIARD HALLS.

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

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

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 945 at its first reading.

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

2. A February 12, 1958, letter from the City Attorney submitted for its second and final reading Ordinance No. 944; the City Attorney reported that at their meeting held on February 11, the Council had unanimously approved the ordinance at its first reading, provided that Section 3 should be deleted. Pursuant to those instructions, the City Attorney had deleted Section 3 of the Ordinance as he had originally prepared it.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 944

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 17.74 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" ENTITLED "AUTHORITY OF POLICE TO IMPOUND VEHICLES", AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION THEREFOR.

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 944 at its second and final reading.

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

3. A February 12, 1958, letter from the City Attorney presented for its first reading a revised proposed Ordinance re trailer coaches and utility trailers; this is a further revision of the ordinance which was presented to the Council on August 8, 1957 pertaining to the regulation of the parking of trailer coaches on certain public and private ways and within building setback lines.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 946

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING SECTION 28.44 TO "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF TRAILERS ON CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WAYS AND WITHIN BUILDING SETBACK LINES: REPEALING SECTION 28.4 OF SAID CODE PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 28 REGULATING TRAILERS, AUTO AND TRAILER PARKS, AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION THEREFOR RELATING TO THE SAME MATTER.

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. 946 at its first reading.

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

Councilman Drae asked if this would be a part of our original trailer ordinance, and the City Attorney said it would.

4. A cover letter from the City Attorney, dated February 10, 1958, submitted to the Council certain traffic regulations embodied in an urgency Ordinance, as directed by them at their meeting of January 28, 1958.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 947

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 17.35 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954".

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

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

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Ordinance No. 947 at its first and final reading.

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

Mayor Isen read a Proclamation proclaiming March 7, 1958, as Arbor Day in the City of Torrance, and March 2 through March 8 as Plant a Tree Week, and requested that every citizen and organization in the City of Torrance take part in this annual event.

Mayor Isen reported that Mr. Lockman of the Christian Service Organization had been waiting to talk to the Council, and had been most patient. Mayor Isen asked if the Council would object to hearing Mr. Lockman before Oral Communications are taken up. There were no objections, and Mr. Lockman was invited to speak to the Council.

Mr. Lockman, Vice President of the Christian Service Organization, told the Council that the Christian Service Organization is a 15-year old organization which has operated in Orange County. He presented to the Council a program for their 15th Anniversary Banquet, which was held this month at the First Christian Church at 1720 W. 17th St., Santa Ana. He also presented to the Council a letter which was dated February 18, 1958, and outlining their operation in detail. The letter explained that they had bought the salvage operations and trade name of the Veterans Industries from its former owner, and when they applied to our City for a free license, they had not given either full or complete data to clear this. The letter outlined the problems this has caused them, and explained that they have been investigated and cleared by the Detective Bureau of Long Beach.

Mr. Lockman explained they had bought the salvage operations of the Veterans Industries, and the trade name, because they wished to expand into Los Angeles County, and had no inkling of the problems which would be involved in this. He said the organization has an excellent reputation in Orange County so far as he can discover.

Mayor Isen asked if Christian Service Organization has been cleared by the County Welfare Dept. as yet.

Mr. Lockman said they have not, but today they contacted the California Bureau of Intelligence and they can file a complete copy of their certified articles of incorporation with them, so the information will be readily available to everyone. Mr. Lockman said he had talked to the Chief of Police today, and the Chief had told him to come here with his problem.

Mayor Isen asked Assistant Police Chief Porter if he had checked this.

Mr. Porter replied that when they applied for their free license to collect salvage in Torrance, there had been nothing against the Christian Service Organization, however, it had been reported to the Council that Veterans Industries did have an unsavory reputation.

Councilman Blount asked if Mr. Ellison, who had been the owner of Veterans Industries, is connected with the Christian Service Organization.

Mr. Lockman replied that he is; he offered to resign from the Board when this trouble began coming up, but the Board had not accepted the resignation. He repeated that Mr. Ellison has a good reputation in Orange County.

Councilman Drale suggested their credentials be presented to the police for checking and if they are bona fide, that they be given a license to collect salvage here.

Assistant Police Chief Porter said the Police and License Departments had approved the license for Christian Service Organization and the Council had refused it because of the unsavory reputation of Veterans Industries.

Capt. Wm. J. Heacox, U. S. Marine Corps, Santa Ana, spoke to the Council in great detail about the good this organization tries to do, and their high ideals. He said they must have the permit to continue their good work and to expand their field of operations.

Councilman Jahn thought the vote last week had been on the Veterans Industries, and not on the Christian Service Organization. If the claims made here tonight can be substantiated, and if they

want a free license as was requested last week, he moved to concur with the recommendation of the Police and License Departments and this with the stipulation that this be only a conditional permit to return here in 6 months for a report to the Police Dept. for a review. At that time a check should be made with the Council.

Councilman Benstead said the Veterans Industries had been refused a license by this Council, and he would suggest that their papers be carefully checked by the City Attorney rather than the license people or the Police Department.

Councilman Drale seconded Councilman Jahn's motion, subject to the approval of the credentials of the credentials of the Christian Service Organization.

Councilman Jahn so amended his motion.

Mr. Heacox assured the City Council their organization would live up to the requirements of the City in every way.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At this time the City Attorney reported to the City Council that in his opinion it is too late to put a Charter Amendment on the ballot. He referred to the section of law which governs such amendments, and said that any charter amendment must be submitted not less than 40 nor more than 60 days after the completion of advertising in the official newspaper. We have not advertised any Charter Amendments, and February 27th is exactly 40 days before the election. In the case of a City or County of 50,000 or more population, copies of any proposed charter amendments must be printed and mailed to each qualified voter. That would have to be done more than 40 days prior to the election. For all these reasons, the City Attorney thought it would not be possible, before February 27, 1958, to comply with the law regarding Charter Amendments.

Councilman Jahn moved that the letter from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, suggesting a Charter Amendment, be taken from the table and be filed.

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

Mayor Isen directed the City Attorney to write to the Association and notify them of this.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported to the Council that the Department of Employment has notified him they have found suitable space for their hearings nearer to their offices, and they will not need the Council Chamber.

City Manager Stevens reported that Jack R. Egan was No. 1 on the Eligible List for the job of Airport Manager, and has been appointed to the job. He will come to work on March 1, 1958. He has had years of experience, and is fully qualified.

In reply to a question, the City Manager said Mr. Egan is now living in Rolling Hills.

Councilman Benstead asked who is responsible for keeping utility easements clean.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said the owner of the easement is probably responsible, although in many instances where such easements are a part of a yard, they are kept up by the person who owns the yard.

Councilman Benstead reported there is such an easement at Clearside and Sheridan which is between fences, and the weeds are waist high. He believed this was a utility company easement, and pointed out the fire hazard which would exist when the weeds dry.

The City Attorney said the Fire Marshall would check such situations.

Councilman Benstead moved the Fire Marshall survey the various utility easements and see what can be done to clean them up.

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

Councilman Benstead said the Santa Fe right-of-way on Madrona needs cleaning up; the guard rails are pretty well delapidated, it is very dirty and the weeds are bad in there. He asked that the Santa Fe be notified to clean that.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale asked if the guard rails are not City property.

Mayor Isen said they are in bad condition, and they should be repaired.

There were no objections, and the motion was ordered carried.

Councilman Blount referred to the discussions the Council had held with the helicopter service on Western Avenue and the nearby residents. At that time, the people who own the helicopter service had agreed to certain things which they are not doing. The people in the area have been very patient. Lately, the company in question has been flagrant in their violations of their agreement. They have even been 'buzzing' cars on Western Avenue, according to information he has received. He thinks it is time the City should do something properly and legally about the man who made the agreement, and see if the business is in a proper zone and see that he behaves or moves.

Councilman Jahn said he would second such a motion.

Councilman Benstead agreed, and said he had heard they have been 'buzzing' cars on Western Avenue.

Councilman Blount so moved, referring this to the City Attorney's discretion, but with the aim of getting something done.

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

Councilman Blount said we would soon have a 7-man Council; he asked how they would be seated, saying the rostrum would be very crowded.

City Manager Stevens said the chairs have been ordered.

The Council asked whether the 9-man Planning Commission is able to be seated at this table, and discussed the fact that they feel the Councilmen will be too crowded.

Councilman Blount thought the table should be extended, and Councilman Jahn agreed.

Councilman Blount directed the attention of the City Council to the corner of Plaza del Amo and Madrona, saying the paving there is full of holes and is very narrow and dangerous. He recommended to all Departments of the City concerned that something be done and the paving be repaired.

Mayor Isen asked for a poll of the Council on the appointment of Mr. Osborne to the Planning Commission which he had announced last week.

Mr. Osborne's appointment was unanimously approved by the Council when they were polled.

Mayor Isen congratulated Mr. Osborne, who was present, on the unanimous approval of his appointment, and told him the Council hopes he will find the service to the City to be productive and enjoyable.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if the 'Pest Harborage' Ordinance has become final, asking that when it does, the matters of mosquitoes and stagnant water be made a part of it.

The City Attorney said he would give the Council a memo on this at their next meeting.

Mayor Isen referred to the Library Board being formed, and felt there should be an appointment to that Board from the new Western section of the City. The area is new, and he said he would encourage suggestions from the Councilmen so the appointees suggested can be considered in time for appointment to the Board of a well qualified person.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney if work is being done to make our 'Rabies Ordinance' conform to the new State law.

The City Attorney replied that he has re-drafted our Ordinance and it is to go to the County Health Officer for checking; this is being done in accordance with instructions he received from the State Health Officer.

Mayor Isen asked if the problem of the oil well at 235th and Crenshaw is being settled.

The City Attorney reported that he and Mr. Powell, Mr. Russell, his secretary, and interested Department Heads had gone to the area and spent some time checking various violations of the law and making notes and taking pictures. They are now sending out notices and putting this in the form of violation of our ordinances. In a few days, he felt we would be ready for prosecution.

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

Councilman Jahn moved to adjourn to 5:30 P. M. Tuesday, February 25, 1958.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P. M.



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

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance