

Torrance, California  
June 1, 1959

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an adjourned Regular Meeting at 5:30 P. M. Monday, June 1, 1959, in order to discuss with the City Manager the proposed budget for the fiscal year 1959-60.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:  
COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Jahn, Isen. ABSENT:  
COUNCILMEN: Drale. City Manager Stevens was present.

Mayor Isen announced the purpose of this meeting, and as there were no objections, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

City Manager Stevens reported having had a call from Mr. Updegraf of the League of California Cities urging us to send a wire to Cecil King opposing H. R. 4245, an amendment to which would eliminate the non-taxable feature of municipal bonds. He reported further that the AMA and the League have been opposing this, and recommended that he be authorized to send the wire.

Councilman Drale joined the meeting at 5:35 P. M.

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

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, no objection, so ordered, with Mayor Isen instructing the City Manager to sign the wire with his own name and the names of the Councilmen, in order that Mr. King would know the sentiment of the group.

The City Manager reported that the rough outline before the Council contained the preliminaries of the budget studies; he said the revenue estimates for 1959-60 were also before them, as was the record to date for the last year. He said that during the last year, the "In Lieu Tax" revenue had fallen over \$35,000 due to the decreased sales of automobiles. The sales and use tax income was also disappointing, amounting to \$662,500 to date, with a possibility of exceeding \$700,000 for the year. So far, no benefit from the sales at the Broadway is in evidence.

We must be realistic about this set of figures, the City Manager said, adding that just being optimistic will not increase our income.

Another matter most critical to us, the City Manager said, is AB 158; this would forbid cities to tax state-licensed contractors. If it passes, it will cost us a huge sum of money. We cannot plan on that income until about June 20, when we will know what the Legislature has done about it.

Our assessed valuations are up about 7%. Mr. Carleson made a study, but found there are no definite trends in this. There is no broad, over-all increase in values this year.

So far as sales and use taxes are concerned, the City Manager had estimated \$765,000, which he said was a little too optimistic.

Our estimate on franchise taxes had been low.

Because of the pick-up in business and because of our new licensing ordinance, the City Manager forecast increases in our business license fees.

He believed we would issue more building permits, and our new fees will help increase this. He emphasized the new fees are in line with those of surrounding areas.

The City Manager said he had been disappointed in the continuous decline of income from fines and forfeitures from the Court; this has

been declining regularly for some time.

Regarding motor vehicle licenses, even with the new formula we have a lower income.

There has been rather a sharp increase in licenses for bars and liquor stores.

The school district indicated last year that they would not be interested in further participation in recreation costs, so they are not expected to contribute this year.

The City Manager said personnel made up a large part of the increased costs he has estimated.

The City Manager reminded the Council that we operate with less than half the normal complement of personnel for a City of our size, and that without personnel we can do nothing. He expressed concern as to how long we can continue to operate efficiently with such a small staff, and asked the Council to consider this in their thinking.

The personnel requests made by the various department heads were considered.

Many downward revisions were suggested by the Council in these requests.

The City Manager repeated his statement as to our need for more personnel, and then told the Council that the downward revisions in personnel would substantially cut the equipment purchases requested; without personnel, the equipment means nothing, he added.

The City Manager told the Council that we are committed on our Retirement Fund, and must have an increase of 2¢ for it; as to the Library Fund, he said if we are to operate our own libraries, there would have to be more funds made available. He added that he would like an expression from the Council as to their feelings in the question of whether or not we will increase taxes beyond that.

There were other questions to be discussed, and the City Manager and the Council agreed to meet at 5:00 P. M. Tuesday, June 2 to talk them over.

The Council agreed to take these various matters under study, and the City Manager repeated that the material given to them this evening consisted of the very roughest, most simple basis for budget studies.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P. M.

*A. H. Bartlett*

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

**APPROVED:**

*Albert J. ...*

**Mayor of the City of Torrance**