

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 15, 1959, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

Mayor Isen announced that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1959, and asked the City Manager for a time table on the budget hearings.

City Manager Stevens said the first formal hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, June 23; the second formal hearing will be held Tuesday, June 30, and at that time a tentative budget should be adopted. On July 1, we begin to operate under the new budget. In August, usually at the third regular meeting of the Council, we should have the final figures on assessed valuations, and set the tax rate. The City Manager believed that this year, those figures might not be available until the fourth meeting in August, August 25.

The City Manager reported that AB 158 has been defeated, so we will have the income from licensing contractors. He has added .09¢ to the general fund tax to make it \$1 even, in accordance with the expression from the majority of the Council. He discussed briefly a proposed highway maintenance fund contract under which the City would maintain about 12-1/2 miles of highway within its boundaries. He did not believe that the funds for this would equal the actual expenditures required. He had cut the number of new people planned for to 22, and had cut the outlay for machines, etc., to correspond to that reduction. He said that now we are only about \$75,000 to \$80,000 from a balanced budget. Next week he will have the books complete, and will give the Council detail on each Department Budget, showing the requests, his own recommendations, etc., with the revenue brought up to date.

The City Manager briefed some of his recommendations to the Council on machines, i.e., street sweepers, packers, etc.

The City Manager reminded the Council of the commitments they had made to bear part of the cost of improving Henrietta Street, extend Felbar, etc.

Councilman Beasley asked if the planned budget included an increase in salary for City employees, and the City Manager said it does. He had planned about \$185,000 for this. That is a general 5% increase, and some salary adjustments. He said the figure also included increases for the Water Dept. and Airport personnel, which will not come out of the General Fund.

The Council discussed this in some detail, examining a report from the City Manager dated June 12, 1959, and entitled "1959 Salary Survey Findings and Adjustment Recommendations." The Council was not in complete agreement with the findings as shown in the report.

Councilman Jahn had gone over the report carefully, and had shown his own recommendations in red on the report handed to him.

The various possibilities were discussed, and the basis for the recommendations was described to the Council by the Assistant City Manager, Chapman L. Bone. In reply to a question, Mr. Bone said we have over 500 employees, and that 105 of them have been recommended for a salary adjustment.

Mr. Bone said the 5% general increase would be in addition to the salary adjustments which the Council approved.

The salaries paid by other governmental agencies, cities, etc., had been the criteria for the report handed to the Council.

Mr. Bone answered a question from Councilman Benstead by saying our fringe benefits are in the "middle" bracket.

At 6:40 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council re-convening at 6:45 P. M.

Councilman Drale moved to give a 5% raise to the City's employees for the next year.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Councilman Jahn asked if it was the intent of the motion to give no other adjustments, and Councilman Drale said it was.

Mayor Isen said only the motion could be properly considered at this time.

Councilman Drale said he meant a 5% flat increase for the employees of the City of Torrance, and Mayor Isen said he would second that.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Blount absent).

Councilman Drale moved to eliminate the adjustments submitted by the City Manager.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, and failed to carry by the following tied vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Bradford, Jahn.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount.

Councilman Jahn moved to consider the adjustments and salary ranges of the people listed on the revised report which he had handed to Mr. Bone when it has been prepared and presented to the Council again.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford.

Councilman Drale moved to table the matter until the report as revised is handed to the Council.

Motion to table seconded by Councilman Benstead, and failed to carry by the following tied vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Bradford, Jahn.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount.

Councilman Beasley referred to the main motion, saying he believed the adjustment shown for the Director of Public Works was as agreed at the time he came to the City.

The City Manager said it was, and that the Council had promised this at that time.

There was no objection to that one item.

At the request of Councilman Jahn, Mr. Bone read to the Council the changes in the report which Councilman Jahn had suggested.

Councilman Jahn pointed out that his motion called only for consideration of the revised report.

Motion failed to carry by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Bradford, Jahn.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Isen.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount.

Mayor Isen moved to apply the adjustment to the Director of Public Works as indicated, the Engineering Department as indicated, and the Building Department as indicated.

Councilman Beasley suggested tabling this matter until a 7-man Council was present.

Motion lost for lack of a second.

Councilman Bradford moved that Mr. Bone prepare copies of the report showing the suggestions made and re-presented to the Council together with an estimate of the cost.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Bradford, Jahn, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Blount.

Councilman Beasley moved the Council carry out whatever indications were made to the Director of Public Works in this revision.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale said a promise had also been made to create

a wider spread between the Park Leadmen and the Sr. Park Maintenance men. Councilman Bradford agreed that it had, and that the promise should be kept.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present (Blount absent).

Councilman Bradford referred to the spread mentioned by Councilman Drale, and said it had been felt that the spread should be about the same as it would be in the Street Department.

The City Manager said some time ago the Council had gone on record as saying they wished to get about 5 acres in the Victor Precinct adjacent to the land the schools are taking. He said that after checking on the figures used by the schools, he thought this would cost about \$15,000 per acre, not including the surface rights, which he believed would cost about \$2,000 per acre. There are some improvements on the land in question, and he had no way of knowing what they would cost.

This was discussed briefly.

Councilman Drale suggested that if the Pacific Electric does charge us to cross their easement, we should notify the proper parties so the land can be assessed as revenue-producing land.

The City Manager agreed to see that this is done.

Mayor Isen asked if a list of small expenditures, such as those for typewriters, etc., would be available, and the City Manager said it would.

Mr. Bone asked when the Council would want all this material submitted, and Mayor Isen said it would have to be next Tuesday.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P. M.

A. H. Bartlett

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

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance