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Edith Shaffer  
Minute Secretary

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Torrance, California  
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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, January 10, 1961, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Whitacre were: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Vico and Isen. ABSENT: None. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Miss Joan Evanson, a senior at Narbonne High School, led the salute to our Flag.

Councilman Drale opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 3, 1961, as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

Mayor Isen stated two nominations had been made for the vacancy on the Library Commission: Mrs. Winthrop L. Saville and Mrs. George Heaton, both of whom are extremely interested in Library Commission matters. Inasmuch as the southern section of the City in which Mrs. Heaton resides is well represented on the Commission, Mayor Isen asked that the Council be polled on the appointment of Mrs. Saville. The poll showed the Council unanimously in favor of the appointment and, the Library Commission being in session in the conference room, Councilman Drale left the meeting and informed Mrs. Saville of her appointment.

Case No. 636, R. A. Watt, petitioner, was included on the agenda inadvertently and so was not considered at this meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Claim dated January 4, 1961, of Ronald W. Rich, for alleged damage to vehicle on December 30, 1960.

Councilman Drale moved to deny the claim and refer it back to the Legal Department. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

2. Letter dated January 5, 1961, from Library Commission asking that certain shelving and furniture be installed at El Retiro Library, with recommendation of City Manager Stevens that the request be held, pending receipt of similar projects for the other library branches. When all requests have been received it will be determined if such funds are available and the priority list can then be established, Mr. Stevens stated.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the City Manager's recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

3. Letter dated January 3, 1961, from Frank Jones, President of El Camino Civic Association, Lawndale, California, alerting

the City Council on Lawndals' proposed Annexation No. 6.

Mayor Isen asked the City Attorney what is expected of the Council in this respect and Assistant City Attorney Dower explained the territory covered from a map on the blackboard and the possible future moves of Lawndale and the effect on the surrounding cities. Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, he would instruct Assistant City Attorney Dower to cooperate with the group which sent the letter and report back if there is anything further that the Council should do.

Mr. Dower said it might be necessary to file an injunction suit against the City of Lawndale to prevent such annexation. Councilman Beasley moved to authorize the Legal Department to file an injunction suit if it appears feasible. In answer to the question by Councilman Vico about the cost of such a move, Mr. Dower stated it would involve only the administrative time of himself. There was no second to Councilman Beasley's motion.

Councilman Drale was not in favor of getting into litigation with Lawndale and moved that no injunction suit be initiated on behalf of Torrance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico. Mr. Dower stated in principle Lawndale is not following proper legal procedure and he does not think they should be allowed to follow such a line of action. Mayor Isen's opinion was that while no injunction should be filed at this time, the Assistant City Attorney should watch and report back the proceedings taken. Councilman Beasley said he does not appreciate the methods used by Lawndale in denying the rights of a large body of people in the area who have said they don't want to annex to any City. Mayor Isen instructed Assistant City Attorney Dower to follow through and if it is determined to be necessary to file any protests or legal proceedings, to report back to the Council for further instructions.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Remelmeyer for a report as to Alondra Park and whether or not something devious might be going on there also. Mr. Remelmeyer reported the proceedings that have been followed on Alondra Park. He has been attempting to get the County Counsel to appeal the decision but so far no appeal has been taken. At this time, he is attempting to get the Attorney General to file a writ of quo warranto and has drafted papers for that purpose, which he hopes to have before the Attorney General in the next few days.

City Attorney Remelmeyer said by annexing the park, Lawndale obtains the police power jurisdiction. The County remains the owner of the park but Lawndale government would have jurisdiction of the property and the ordinances of the City of Lawndale would govern activities in the park. They might restrict activities of people in the Park other than those who are residents of Lawndale. There is now pending in the Superior Court a suit by the City of Pico Rivera in which they claim the County has the duty to convey the title to parks to the cities upon incorporation and the same thing would be true of annexation. If this is determined to be valid and the City of Pico Rivera wins its suit, it would mean that a precedent would be set by which the City of Lawndale could demand from the County conveyance of the land covered by Alondra Park. A third possibility is that upon acquiring ownership of the park they could institute a proceeding to abandon part of the park and establish a civic center. This is permitted by the Government Code. A condition precedent would be that they acquire title to the park. If they put a civic center on the park, it would mean that the property which has been devoted to park use and paid for by all the people of the County, and used by

everyone in southwest Los Angeles County, would be taken from the people and devoted solely to the people of Lawndale.

Councilman Blount expressed his opinion that Torrance's Legal Department has not done everything it could and should in annexation matters. Assistant City Attorney Dower said everything Lawndale has done has been in the outer periphery of the law, whereas the Legal Department of Torrance has done only such things as are in strict adherence to law.

4. Letter dated January 3, 1961, from Blue Cross of Southern California setting forth proposed insurance rate increase for Torrance City employees, to become effective February 15, 1961, the contract anniversary date.

City Manager Stevens explained this is the result of a request for an early quotation. While it involves about a 10% increase, it does not seem unreasonable under the circumstances and City Manager Stevens recommends that the contract with Blue Cross be renewed. Mr. Stevens will bring back to the Council next week his recommendation and the cost involved.

5. Letter dated December 30, 1960, from Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants Association, signed by eleven downtown businessmen regarding police protection, with comments of City Manager Stevens.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Captain Maestri of the Police Department read an official communique released by the Police Department to the newspapers, dated January 7, 1961, in answer to the above mentioned letter, stating the method of operation and of assigning different areas of the City police service under varying conditions, and asking for closer cooperation between citizens, businessmen and the Police Department.

Councilman Benstead moved that the letter from the Downtown Merchants Association and a copy of the letter from Captain Maestri in answer, be filed together in the City records. There was no objection and Mayor Isen said the two letters would be filed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

##### Expenditures:

1. To the League of California Cities for the annual service charge for the calendar year 1961, the sum of \$2,000, based on population established at 100,991, a budget item.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager to approve this expenditure. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. To Coast Visual Education Company for the purchase of a public address system, complete, the sum of \$547.04. Funds are available from within the Recreation Department budget through savings to be effected on other equipment purchases.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager to approve this expenditure. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

##### Public Works:

1. Temporary Fencing of Walteria Sump Lake. That the bid of Southern California Fencing Company in the amount of \$3,700 be accepted as the lowest responsible bid and all other bids rejected; and that an additional \$200 be allocated for the project from fees collected on the sump excavations.

Councilman Bradford moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager to so award the contract to Southern California Fencing Company and allocate an additional \$200 for the project from funds collected on the sump excavations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Improvement of a portion of 229th Place. The City Manager recommends that \$1,650 be allocated from the Unappropriated Reserve for the City's portion of the improvement and that it be provided that water service be made through the City's Water Department. It is also recommended that the developer be directed to call for bids for the improvement with the City reimbursing the developer on a unit price basis.

Councilman Bradford moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Councilman Drale asked for discussion and asked if this conforms to the regular ordinance, or if it is something above what the ordinance calls for.

City Manager Stevens expressed the opinion that it at least conforms and in answer to a question by Councilman Drale as to the reason for the request for money, he explained the City policy regarding curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Councilman Blount complained that the letter does not say that and he objected to the recommendation that the developer call for bids and the City reimburse the developer. He stated this is definitely out of order. Councilman Bradford disagreed with Councilman Blount's contention. City Manager Stevens explained that the amount of money \$1,650, would not have been recommended if the Engineering Department had not checked and determined it to be a fair price. He believes a better price could be obtained by having the whole thing done, rather than by having it done piecemeal. Councilman Bradford asked for confirmation of his understanding that the general contractor is to go in and obtain bids for paving and the contract would then be awarded to the lowest bidder with the approval of Public Works and Engineering. City Manager Stevens said nothing would be bought without approving the bid price. It was agreed that this is not set out in the transmittal letter. Councilman Benstead asked if this is merely improving a paper street as it exists today. City Manager Stevens said they have dedicated the right-of-way to the City.

Councilman Drale called attention to the fact that the City's share is about \$1650 and that our Charter asks for everything over \$2,000 to go to bid.

Mayor Isen suggested City Manager Stevens work out a recommendation together with the Legal Department in order to eliminate these objections.

Councilman Bradford said the total price is approximately \$3,000; the contractor puts in his share and the City goes out for bids on the balance. He asked if we would not get a better price on the whole job than by bidding in two parts. Mayor Isen mentioned the additional expense for manpower to work on the bid and awarding of the contract.

Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, this item of business would be returned next week with a definite recommendation from the City Manager. There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

**Traffic Commission Matters:**

1. Recommendation that a school crossing guard be provided at t at the intersection of Calle Mayor and Newton Street,

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager to approve the recommendation of the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Recommendation of the signal priority list which was attached to the agenda covering all the intersections of major and secondary streets within the City as established in the S.C.R. 62 Report.

Traffic Engineer Whitmer made an oral request for approval of work following this priority list as closely as possible so that efforts may be directed to those which are most urgently needed. Mayor Isen commended Mr. Whitmer on the gigantic task of compiling this report in such a concise manner, and suggested approving it as a matter of policy with the understanding that as matters become expedient, changes could be made. Councilman Benstead so moved and the motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. Recommendation of the Traffic Commission that the stop signs at the intersection of Crenshaw and Eldorado be removed from the north and south approaches to Eldorado Street, approved by the City Manager.

Councilman Drale asked for some discussion on this recommendation because children cross there. Councilman Blount asked if this is not the intersection at which a fatality occurred recently and was informed that it occurred one block further south where there is no stop street.

Councilman Bradford considered anything that can be done to slow traffic at that corner is to be desired and suggested the possibility of an amber or flashing light overhead, because with the general lay of the land, the unlighted stop signs are not readily noticeable. The lighting in general in Torrance, Councilman Bradford said, is so poor that he would like to see some of the unlighted stop signs which are located at the sides of streets replaced with the type of light that would more adequately warn motorists.

Traffic Engineer Whitmer mentioned the crossing guard for children at the intersection of Torrance and Crenshaw and stated he believed the point is between convenience and safety. The intersection of Eldorado and Crenshaw is not safe with signs, nor will it be without them. Mayor Isen suggested sending the item of business back to the Traffic Commission and Councilman Drale said his vote would be not to remove the stop signs as recommended. Councilman Beasley said every argument which has been presented on the subject could just as well apply to any corner in the City of Torrance. Councilman Benstead called attention to the statement that 2¢ would be saved to motorists for each stop eliminated and stated he thought lives saved were more important than such a consideration. Mr. Whitmer expanded his view that the stop signs on Eldorado and Crenshaw cause, rather than prevent, accidents.

Councilman Drale moved that the STOP signs described remain as they are now situated. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford,  
Drale.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Vico, Isen.

Councilman Drale stated he concurs in the recommendation of Councilman Bradford that if the sign cannot be illuminated at night that the matter should be sent back to the Traffic Commission for study.

4. Recommendation of the Traffic Commission that the proposed channelization of Sepulveda Boulevard from Madrona Avenue to the westerly city limits be completed as presented on a plan, including the three intersections of Sepulveda-Hawthorne, Sepulveda-Anza, and Sepulveda-Palos Verdes. The installation is recommended to be made with traffic paint at an approximate cost of \$2,850 for labor and materials.

Councilman Beasley asked Traffic Engineer Whitmer for a comparison between the effectiveness of paint and constructed channelization. Mr. Whitmer said he thought painting is generally preferable for several reasons: the area is left available in case of emergency to motorists to avoid accident, and for travel by emergency vehicles. City Manager Stevens said the funds are available for the project and he recommends it be done. Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation to go ahead with the channelization described. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Bradford,  
Drale, Isen.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Vico.

Councilman Bradford moved that after the Clerk has given a number and read the title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived; reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilman the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 61.7

A RESOLUTION 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 Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-7. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Engineering Division:

1. Resubmittal of easements by letter from John E. Rempert for City Engineer Nollac, transmitting eight easements for acceptance by the City Council, as follows:

1. Sanitary Sewer Easement, portion of Lot 37, Tract 3218
  - a. From Fred C. King, owner, dated Dec. 12, 1960
  - b. From Cake Corp., lessee, dated Nov. 30, 1960.
2. Street easements for widening Madison St. south of Senefeld Drive
  - a. From Joyce G. and Elvin F. Schoonover, dated Sept 8, 1960 (Parcel 1)
  - b. From Woodacres Investment Corp., dated Dec. 9, 1960 (Parcel 2A)
  - c. From Nellie and Maurice de Nevers, dated August 30, 1960 (Parcels 2A and 2)

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- d. From Joyce G. and Elvin F. Schoonover, dated September 8, 1960 (Parcel 3)
  - e. From Kenneth F. and Esther E. Jansen, dated October 17, 1960 (Parcel 4)
3. Street easement for Dana Court northerly of 231st Street from Chas. T. Rippey, et al, dated December 14, 1960.

Councilman Beasley moved to accept the easements listed above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 61-8

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OFFERING TO DONATE LAND IN TORRANCE CIVIC CENTER AS A SITE FOR THE COURTHOUSE TO SERVE THE SOUTHWEST SUPERIOR COURT DISTRICT.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-8. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Drale, Isen.  
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Bradford, Vico.

ORDINANCES:

1. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Whitacre presented for its second reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1213

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 24.4 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT DURING WHICH BILLBOARDS MAY BE ERECTED, CONSTRUCTED OR MAINTAINED IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1213 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Vico, Isen.  
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

PROCLAMATIONS:

1. Mayor Isen introduced from the audience, Mr. Vroman, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and proclaimed the week of January 15-21 as JAYCEE WEEK, and urged all citizens of our community to give full consideration to the future services of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

2. Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of January 15-21 as PRINTING WEEK and requested the citizens of our City to join in paying honor to our graphic arts industry and all industries allied to the art of printing, for the great contributions they have made to the progress of our nation and the world.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mayor Isen asked for a poll of the Council on the nominations made last week, as follows:

Mr. George Morehart, reappointment to Civil Service Board, the poll was unanimously in favor.

Mr. James Burchett, reappointment to Civil Defense and Disaster Commission, the poll was unanimously favorable.

Mrs. J. G. L. Crain, reappointment to the Library Commission, the poll was unanimously favorable.

Mrs. Rose Craig, reappointment to the Park & Recreation Commission, the poll was unanimously favorable.

Ambrose Schindler, reappointment to the Park & Recreation Commission, the poll was unanimously favorable.

R. "Pat" Hogue, reappointment to the Water Commission, the poll was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Isen said more attention should be called to Mr. Schindler as one of the all-time greats of football at USC.

2. Councilman Bradford said, with the anticipation of the City being out of the commercial and industrial business of rubbish and garbage collection, there are solicitors in the field. He has had several calls from business men complaining of high pressure methods and one man stopped at his office and said he had to sign up. Mr. Bradford wanted to be sure everyone knows the choice of private contractors to pick up commercial and industrial rubbish is up to the owner of the business. No one has been granted an exclusive franchise. The solicitor of business from Mr. Bradford said he had received a list of all industrial and commercial pickups and charges from the City Hall and Mr. Bradford wants it known that all rubbish collectors have a right to the same information. If this sort of high pressure continues, he thinks the Police and License Departments, through Mr. Stevens, should pick up the license of any operator who uses such a method. This is the sort of activity which Councilman Bradford had anticipated might occur.

Councilman Vico said if this battling develops, he is in favor of the City buying up a few more trucks and collecting the whole thing by City forces. Everyone who has a truck and a license should be given equal treatment.

3. Councilman Bradford repeated his inquiry as to whether anything has been done, or is going to be done, about lighting Torrance Boulevard. Traffic Engineer Whitmer said he hopes to bring that to Council next week. Three plans have been in preparation for about eight months and he believes they are about to finalize.

4. Councilman Bradford also asked what is being done about Del Amo. City Manager Stevens said his recollection of the last action taken was when the Council went along with the recommendation that in order to determine independently where is the best place to cross the railroad track, it be referred to the Railroad Crossing Committee of the County. He presumes that Public Works has communicated with that committee and is awaiting their survey.

5. Councilman Benstead asked what is taking place west of Western Avenue in line with Del Amo and was informed by City Manager Stevens there is a big discount house going in, reputedly three times as big as Zody's Department Store.

6. Councilman Drale mentioned the importance of KNX, the CBS station located at 190th and Hawthorne. In recognition of the place they hold in the community and the development they will cause, he moved a perma-plaque resolution of appreciation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and carried by unanimous roll call vote. City Attorney Remel-meyer was instructed to draft such a resolution.

7. Councilman Vico mentioned the necessity of widening the driveway to the Little League Ballpark on Halison Street. He asked permission from the Council to take up this matter with the Department of Public Works. Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, Councilman Vico could contact the Department of Public Works and relieve the dangerous situation at this location. There was no objection.

8. Further with respect to the rubbish problem, Mayor Isen wished to define the situation as it appears to him. It seemed the deficit the City was incurring was the result of the industrial and commercial pickup and if the City combined residential pickups together with garbage and tin cans, which were costing \$9,000 a month, that we had a very good chance to break even. This is the situation as of March 1st. In answer to his inquiry, the City Manager said letters have gone out, stating the date and plan for taking over, as well as the number of firms capable of handling pickups. Mayor Isen reiterated Councilman Bradford's comment that this must not become a battleground for rubbish collectors. However, in eliminating industrial and commercial rubbish pickups, the question is whether or not it works out well economically. If the rubbish collectors get out of line, the City has a standby system of equipment which could step into the breach if public safety and welfare demand it. No rubbish collectors have a right to call on Torrance merchants and say they have an exclusive franchise from the City. He wanted it made clear that there are thirteen licensees for such collection in the City and any others who wish to come in and apply for a license may do so. If any merchant wishes to come in and make a signed complaint of high pressure treatment, he should come to the Police Department and License Department and these two departments would bring the evidence before the City Council which would have the right to take away the license of any such collector who attempts to take advantage of the situation. Such a person would not be dealing fairly with the people, the administration or the Council, which is trying to put into effect a good workable program.

9. Councilman Benstead moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

*A. H. Bartlett*

City Clerk of the City of Torrance  
California

APPROVED:

Edith Shaffer  
Minute Secretary

9.

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APPROVED:

*Albert Isen*

Mayor of the City of Torrance