

I N D E XCouncil Meeting held January 17, 1961, 5:30 P.M.

Donation of land for Superior Courthouse
Resolution No. 61-9 adopted 1,2

HEARINGS:

Case No. 687, variance, Cantrell, denied 2,3

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Petition for 1911 Act Assessment District covered under 9.b of this meeting 6
- b. League of California Cities re sister-City program 3
- c. Petition for acquisition of Torrance Beach property referred to City Manager 3
- d. Report on Franchise Ordinances from Tidewater Oil 3
- e. Sign for Elks show, granted 3

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:Personnel:

- 1. Appointment of Chemical Board member 4
- 2. Scharfman to Fresno 4
- 3. Personnel meeting set for Jan. 23 5:30 P.M. 4

Appropriations:

- 1. To Southwest secretary, \$393.80, approved 4
- 2. Increased cost of Blue Cross Insurance, approved 4,5
- 3. Weed Abatement, reactivation of program, approved with conditions 4,5

Public Works:

- 1. Sewer Construction from Revolving Fund, concurred 4,5

Storm Drains:

- 1. Bluff St., held for priorities 5
- 2. Anza Avenue, held for priorities 5

Joint Powers Act Agreement, approved 5

Approval of Engineering matters 5,6

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:Building Division:

- a. Consumers Mart Sign, approved with conditions 6
- b. Jody's Restaurant & Liquor Store sign, approved 6

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

- a. Sewer Reimbursement District No. 13 Resolution No. 61-10 adopted 6
- b. Sewer Reimbursement District No. 14 Resolution No. 61-11 adopted 7
- c. Sewer Reimbursement District No. 17 Resolution No. 61-12 adopted 7

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 1214 approved at first reading 7

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 61-13, grant of easement to Pacific Telephone & Telegraph 7,8

Acceptance of work on restrooms at LaRomeria and McMaster Parks 8

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

Index
1.

Council Minutes
January 17, 1961

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Remelmeyer re Catterlin to Berkeley meeting, approved 8
- 2. Whitacre re clarification of rubbish pickup 8
- 3. Drale re storm drain report 8
- 4. Blount re payment of bills 8

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

Index
2.

Council Minutes
January 17, 1961

Torrance, California
January 17, 1961

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, January 17, 1961, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Torrance, California.

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

At the request of Mayor Isen, Attorney Al Mazzia led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Gilbert S. Zimmerman of the First Methodist Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 10, 1961, as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

Out of order on the agenda and in deference to the attorneys comprising the committee therefor, it was requested by Mayor Isen, that the Council first consider the resolution dealing with the Southwest District Superior Court building and land.

Attorney Boris Woolley expressed the desirability of a unanimous vote on the resolution from the standpoint of publicity and good public relations. The resolution, it was pointed out, is not a legal commitment, but merely an indication of policy which leaves the door open for negotiation.

Mr. Mervin M. Schwab spoke in favor of the resolution, as an interested citizen.

Councilman Bradford said he thought the taxpayers have a right to know how much land is to be donated and that it will not detract from the needs of the Torrance Civic Center.

City Manager Stevens said there will probably be a reasonably definite answer to the question of how much land is necessary on January 21st. A committee of three judges has been appointed to select the site for the new Southwest Superior Court Building and they will be in Torrance for the purpose of viewing the Civic Center, on January 21st, Saturday, at about 11 o'clock A.M.

Councilman Beasley 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 Benstead, 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. 61-9

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 Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-9. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen instructed City Attorney Remelmeyer to prepare and deliver copies of the resolution to each of the members of the County Board of Supervisors, to the Clerk of the Board as a whole, to each of the Judges comprising the committee and to Mr. Hollinger of CAO, before the time of the visit to Torrance on Saturday.

HEARINGS:

a. Case No. 687 - Variance, petitioner: Kathryn E. Cantrell. Formal hearing on Case No. 687, for variance and conditional permit for a garage apartment to the rear of existing duplex at 17039 and 17041 Crenshaw Boulevard, in Zone R-2. Transmitted were recommendation of denial, sketch, excerpt from Planning Commission minutes of December 21, 1960, protest of Mrs. May Alice Cook and approval letter of Mrs. W. G. Hudson.

Deputy City Clerk Whitacre presented Affidavit of Publication and there being no objection, it was ordered filed.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone wished to be heard on Case No. 687.

There was presented letter of approval from Mrs. Bonnie Whalen and Clare C. Whalen and a letter of disapproval signed by Robert J. Enis and Theresa G. Enis.

Mr. E. G. Collins, 17025 Crenshaw Boulevard spoke against the variance as not being the answer to the problem. He said some duplexes in the neighborhood have been made into triplexes with a resulting parking problem. He suggested commercial zoning from 174th down to 170th.

Mr. N. C. Chaddock of 17017 Crenshaw Boulevard said inasmuch as this variance would only cover that particular corner, he would approve; though otherwise he too would like to see the area go to R-4 or commercial zoning.

Mr. Burlingame of 24208 Crenshaw Boulevard spoke on behalf of the petitioner, Mrs. Cantrell, as she was unable attend the Council meeting. He is the man who plans to do the construction. There will be four garages, he said for the three units proposed. He believed the commercial zoning would cause difficulty in an R-1 area. The building of another unit would enable his client to more closely meet the taxes by giving full use of the land.

Councilman Benstead moved the hearing be closed. Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Drale said the area about 300 feet north from Artesia is commercially zoned. The people in the rest of the area under consideration have petitioned to rezone to commercial but there was not enough support to

effect such a change. He thought some of the people wished it rezoned to R-3. He suggested the people in the area get together and decide what they want done with respect to a little less than two blocks on both sides of the street. Based on this suggestion, Councilman Drale moved to deny the variance petitioned for and that something be done by the property owners toward bringing a proposal to the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Beasley said he thought it is a matter for Planning Commission study but agreed the proposal could be made by the property owners.

The roll call vote in favor of denial of the variance was unanimous.

8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Petition bearing signatures of 15 residents requesting formation of 1911 Act Assessment District for installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

City Manager Stevens said this item of business is covered later, under item 9.b.4.

b. League of California Cities dated January 5, 1961, by Perry Walker, president, requesting appointment of official to serve as a member of the League Committee on International Municipal Cooperation.

Councilman Bradford said he thought such an appointment should be made by the Mayor of Torrance and Councilman Beasley so moved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and carried, there being no objection.

c. Petition bearing signatures of eight residents requesting immediate acquisition of Torrance Beach property to alleviate dust and nuisance problem.

Councilman Beasley said there is tentatively arranged a meeting on February 2nd with the property owners, Mr. Paul Moore, City Manager Stevens and Planning Director George Powell. It is not a public meeting.

Mayor Isen, on behalf of the Council, asked City Manager Stevens to write a letter asking the Board of Supervisors to speed up the matter and show every consideration to the people in the area to bring about the betterment which could be caused by acquisition of the property.

Mr. J. F. Scanlon of 316 Paseo de la Playa, commented on the good work Redondo Beach has done on its beach property and the need for parking space as far as Torrance Beach is concerned. He offered to keep working on this project until something is accomplished.

d. Tidewater Oil Company communication dated January 3, 1961, reporting on City and County Franchise ordinances.

Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, this item would be filed. There was no objection.

e. Torrance Elks Lodge No. 1948, letter dated January 12, 1961, requesting permission to install sign advertising Elks-A-Poppin' Show to be held February 23-25.

Councilman Blount moved to grant the permission requested. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried, there being no objection. Lee Schlens, Superintendent of Building Inspection, will notify the Lodge.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

Personnel:

1. Report of appointment of Mr. M. L. Sagenkahn, Chief Technologist, Synthetic Rubber Division, Shell Chemical Company, to Chemical Board.

City Manager Stevens explained the method of choosing members of the Chemical Board. There being no objection, the item will be filed.

2. Recommendation that Mr. Jerome I. Scharfman, Director of Finance, be authorized to attend the Municipal Finance Officers' Seminar at Fresno, February 3-4, 1961, with appropriate expenses paid.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager that Mr. Scharfman be authorized to attend with appropriate expenses paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. Recommendation that a personnel meeting be held with the Council as a whole.

Mayor Isen suggested that the meeting be held January 23, 1961, at 5:30 P.M. It was agreed this is the best time and the City Manager will remind the Councilmen in advance.

Appropriations:

1. To Southwest Secretary the sum of \$393.80 for special mailing service regarding the change-over in refuse collection. This is the lowest of three bids received.

The service involved was the mailing of 24,000 notices to those residents for whom the City will do pickup service.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve this appropriation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Recommendation that the City participate in the increased cost of Blue Gross Group insurance by increasing its contribution by 10%, thereby making the cost to the individual employee 78¢ per month compared with the old rate of 74¢; the increase to an employee with one dependent 98¢ per month, and the increase to an employee with two or more dependents \$1.15 per month.

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

3. Weed Abatement. Recommendation of the City Manager to reactivate the program of weed abatement only.

Councilman Drale moved to discuss this matter at the January 23 personnel meeting. Councilman Vico mentioned a person whom he said should be permitted to bid on weed abatement if the program is again in effect. Mayor Isen said he would vote "No" on weed abatement this year. Councilman Bradford said one of the problems, he believes, is the personnel appointed by the City to supervise the program. Councilman Beasley seconded Councilman Drale's motion that the program be approved, subject to the results of the discussion which will be held at the closed personnel meeting January 23, 1961.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

Public Works:

1. Sewer Construction from Revolving Fund. Request from Public Works Department for loan of moneys from the Unappropriated Reserve to the Sewer Revolving Fund and

recommendation that at this time \$56,000 be loaned to the Sewer Revolving Fund with the understanding that as moneys come into said fund they be returned to the Unappropriated Reserve.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote. This covers Victor Precinct Trunk Sewer, Sewer at Crenshaw from 233rd to 234th St., and sewer in Emerald Street from Madrona Avenue to Amie Avenue.

Mr. Philip Wilson, representing the Police Department asked to be heard on the Blue Cross Insurance item. He expressed dissatisfaction as to the rate increase and suggested that the City pick up 100% of the basic rate to employees. Mayor Isen said nothing could be done at this late date as to the program for this year. He suggested that during the forthcoming week, Officer Wilson get together with the association representing all City employees, and Administration and work out these problems.

Councilman Beasley suggested getting a three-year guarantee of rate, but City Manager Stevens said the rate is based on experience rating and Torrance's rating has not been good.

Storm Drains:

a. Bluff Street. Recommendation that the City not participate in the Bluff Street drainage program at this time, until priorities be established and further that it be assured that the \$20,000 requested will be available. Also recommended that the Engineering Division be authorized to prepare the project.

b. Anza Avenue. Recommendation that the Council not commit itself at this time, pending development of a priority list for drainage projects and determination of the availability of funds.

Mayor Isen moved to concur in the recommendations of the City Manager as to these two items of business. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried, there being no objection.

Joint Powers Act:

Recommendation that the City approve the Joint Powers Act Agreement covering Civil Defense and Disaster activities in Area G. The agreement is to run until revoked rather than for one year only, as in the past.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the City Manager's recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Recommendations of approval re Engineering Matters:

1. Notice of completion of Madison Avenue Sewer from 155' north of Senefeld Drive to 675 feet south of Senefeld Drive; and of Ardath Avenue at 163rd Street.

2. Notice of Completion of grade crossing protection at Torrance Boulevard and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway.

3. Cabrillo Avenue Assessment District A 11-60/2i.
This item was withdrawn from the agenda for one week.

4. Proposed Assessment District, 229th St., from Arlington Avenue to Cypress Street. Recommendation that petition be returned to original petitioner for additional signatures.

5. State Gas Tax Project No. 67, remodeling of traffic signals and channelization of Artesia and Crenshaw Blvds.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve Items 1, 2, 4 and 5 listed above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Wm. Farren, 2272 West 229th Street, the first signer on the petition mentioned in Item No. 4, was present, and explained how close to the required 60% the signatures cover. He will take the petition and get additional signatures and then talk with City Engineer Nollac.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Building Division:

a. Request of Consumers Mart of America, 20201 Western Avenue for permit to install two signs, with comments of Lee Schlens, Superintendent of Building Inspection, recommending approval, with the understanding that the approval of permits for the signs not be issued until the permit for the main building has been obtained.

Mr. Ed Erskin was present representing CMA and Mayor Isen complimented him on the large, beautiful building which is planned, and welcomed his company to Torrance.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the Building Inspection Superintendent. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

b. Request of C. N. Cake for permit to install a sign for Jody's Restaurant & Liquor Store, with recommendation of approval by Lee Schlens, Superintendent of Building Inspection.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager and the comments of the Building Inspector. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

a. Resubmission of Resolution creating Sewer Reimbursement District No. 13, authorizing agreement with Gardena Valley Homes, Inc.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-10

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING SEWER REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT NO. 13, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH GARDENA VALLEY HOMES, INC., THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO MAKE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER THEREIN.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-10. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-11

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING SEWER REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT NO. 14, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH C. N. CAKE THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO MAKE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER THEREIN.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-11. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-12

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING SEWER REIMBURSEMENT DISTRICT NO. 17, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH KENT PROPERTIES, INC., THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO MAKE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER THEREIN.

Mayor Isen moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-12. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1214

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 30.17(10) ENTITLED "RULES AND REGULATIONS GENERALLY" OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" BY ADDING PROVISIONS FOR EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COST OF WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS IN SPARSELY DEVELOPED AREAS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER MAIN EXTENSION REVOLVING FUND.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve Ordinance No. 1214 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-13. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens mentioned an additional item of business not appearing on the agenda, a communication from Director of Public Works to the City Manager dated January 13, 1961, requesting final acceptance by the Council of the construction of restrooms at La Romeria and McMaster Parks. His recommendation noted thereon was for concurrence.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. City Attorney Remelmeyer stated Mr. Catterlin, Torrance's City Prosecutor has been invited to attend the Western Regional Traffic Court Conference at Berkeley January 23-27 and has been invited to speak there. Mr. Remelmeyer recommended Mr. Catterlin be allowed to attend with expenses paid, not to exceed \$200.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation. Mayor Isen seconded the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. City License Inspector Whitacre asked for clarification on rubbish pickup. The January 10th minutes reflected that licenses were to be good for commercial and industrial pickup only and based on that, Mr. Whitacre said they are issuing licenses with "Good for Commercial and Industrial Pickup Only" typed on them. Is it permissible for a private contractor to come in and haul rubbish from a family residence which the City would not normally pick up? Otherwise, the householder would have to haul it to the dump himself. Mayor Isen suggested this be referred to the City Manager for clarification and recommendation.

3. Councilman Drale asked for a progress report on the Storm Drain and wanted to know if work should not be underway at this time. City Engineer Nollac said there would be a report from the Department of Public Works immediately.

4. Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

APPROVED


Mayor of the City of Torrance

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

8.

Council Minutes
January 17, 1961