

I N D E XCouncil Meeting of February 7, 1961, 5:30 P.M.

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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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Torrance, California
February 7, 1961

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, February 7, 1961, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Torrance, California.

2. ROLL CALL

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.

3. FLAG SALUTE

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Harry VanBellehem led the salute to our Flag.

4. INVOCATION

The Reverend Gerald W. Garlid of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Benstead, seconded by Councilman Beasley, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 31, 1961, were approved as written, there being no objections thereto.

Mayor Isen gave a brief explanation of Council procedure for the benefit of the audience.

HEARINGS:

6. CASE NO. 688. Change of Zone from A-1 and C-2 to C-3. 1033
Submitted by the Planning Commission. Parcel No. 2 of Case No. 688, recommended for approval. Attached were letter of transmittal, excerpts from Planning Commission minutes of January 18, 1961, and location plan.

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

A letter of protest from Mr. and Mrs. John A. Forlan dated January 30, 1961 was presented and ordered made a matter of record.

Mayor Isen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to be heard regarding Case No. 688.

Mr. Patrick O'Melveny of Del Amo Estates Company exhibited a map and told of his company's wish to have certain of the property zoned C-2, so as to make best use of the area and maintain the standard which has been established by the Del Amo Shopping Center. Mayor Isen instructed Director of Planning Powell to indicate on the map which was designated Exhibit A, the property recommended as excepted from the change of zone.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission, with the exception of the area indicated on Exhibit A which shall remain in its present zoning of A-1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Director of Planning Powell said the change of zone would be from C-2 and A-1 to C-3 on that portion of land being 300 feet in width along the westerly side of Hawthorne Boulevard down to a point 600 feet north of Sepulveda and from that point it takes in the entire parcel all the way over to the houses on Ocean Avenue, a distance of 620 feet. No action will be taken on the balance of the area at this time. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PLANNING MATTERS:

7. Waiver No. W-200. Marvin M. Chalek, 16713 Elgar Avenue, 1036 requesting waiver of rear yard requirement to extend residence within 6.8 feet of the rear property line, recommended for approval.
8. Waiver No. W-202. Dean Lehman, 21609 Ellinwood Drive, 1036 requesting waiver of rear yard requirements to exceed required limitation. Recommended for approval.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendations of approval on waivers numbered W-200 and W-202. The motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried, there being no objection.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

9. Letter from Inter-State Highway Committee received January 30, 1961, re stoppage of Federal appropriations for freeway systems and suggesting that a letter be sent to Congressman Cecil R. King urging continuation of the Federal contribution toward freeway construction. 1332

Councilman Beasley moved to instruct City Manager Stevens to prepare and mail such a letter on behalf of the Council, to be signed by Mayor Isen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and, there being no objection, carried.

10. Letter dated February 1, 1961 from Independent Cities of Los Angeles County, advising of the next meeting time and place and asking for representation from the City of Torrance. 1017

Councilman Blount moved that Mayor Isen be designated as the director from Torrance and that Councilmen Drale and Beasley be named as alternates. Councilman Vico seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it carried.

11. Letter dated January 31, 1961, from Magic Lens Studio, Bill Burris, 4144 Pacific Coast Highway, WALTERIA, California, recommending that the STOP sign on Crenshaw Boulevard at Eldorado Avenue be removed. 1048

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed. The request has been referred to the Traffic Engineer and he is instructed to write a reply to Mr. Burris. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried, there being no objection.

12. Letter dated January 31, 1961 from the Manager of the Special Features Department of the American National Red Cross asking that the City fly a 5 x 8' Red Cross Flag at the City Hall during the annual fund-raising drive during March. 1062

Councilman Benstead moved to grant the request contained in the Red Cross letter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ENGINEERING DIVISION:

13. Letter from City Engineer Nollac, submitting 12 easements for acceptance, ten being for street and 2 for sewer purposes, with location sketches attached. 1177 Street

Councilman Drale moved to accept the following easements:

1. For widening Ashley Avenue from Edward and Elizabeth DeMirjian, dated January 16, 1961, Lots 5 and 6, Tract No. 9306.
2. For widening Del Amo Boulevard, from Aurora and Rudolph Rivera, dated January 19, 1961, Lot 18, Tract No. 8857.
3. For widening Ocean Avenue, from Basil E. and Yvonne M. Cunningham and Larry D. and Phyllis C. Long, dated January 9, 1961, Lots 19 and 20, Tract No. 454.
4. For widening Del Amo Boulevard, from Lester R. and Harriet Quinn, dated December 22, 1960, Lot 35, Tract No. 2895.
5. For widening Madrona Avenue, from Standard Oil Company, dated January 5, 1961, Lot 6, Block 315, Tract No. 1952 and Lot 1, Tract No. 10778.
6. For widening 234th Street from Pacific Unitarian Church, dated January 6, 1961, Lots 26 and 27, Tract No. 530.
7. For slope easement for partial widening of 234th Street from Mrs. Hazel Day, dated January 6, 1961, Lots 28 and 29, Tract No. 530.
8. For partial widening of 234th Street, from Mrs. Hazel Day, dated January 6, 1961, Lots 28 and 29, Tract No. 530.
9. For slope easement for partial widening of 234th Street, from Horace B. Carter, dated January 6, 1961, Lot 30, Tract No. 530.
10. For partial widening 234th Street from Horace B. Carter, dated January 6, 1961, Lot 30, Tract No. 530.
11. For Sanitary Sewer purposes (Victor Precinct Trunk Sewer Section II) from William K. and Zeld M. Kulpaca, dated December 5, 1960, Lot 18, Tract No. 3218. 1185 Sewer
12. For Sanitary Sewer purposes (Victor Precinct Trunk Sewer Section II) from Kenneth E. Watts, Stanton E. Watts and Iva M. Watts, dated January 3, 1961, Lot 17, Tract No. 3218.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

14. Recommendation of the License Inspector for release of Oil Well Bond of Gene W. East, No. 596171. 1227

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Beasley asked with regard to an oil well on Walnut Street which he has been told the City owns, whether or not any revenue is being received. City Manager Stevens informed the Council that the City has never had the mineral rights on the property Councilman Beasley mentioned.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING DIVISION:

15. Report requested by City Council concerning the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Sonoma Street, with two accident studies attached. 1048

Councilman Benstead did not agree with the recommendation of the Traffic Engineer. In his opinion, a light should be considered at this intersection. Councilman Beasley does not believe a STOP sign or other signal would have the desired effect.

Councilman Benstead moved to place STOP signs on Crenshaw Boulevard at Sonoma Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale. After some discussion Councilman Benstead amended his motion to include the installation of flashing lights on the STOP sign and Councilman Drale consented to the amendment. Roll call vote carried the motion, as follows:

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

AIRPORT MATTERS:

16. Recommendation of the President of the Airport Commission Abrams of approval of the renting of E. G. Kidwell's radio shop, formerly occupied by Western Avionics, to John Costantino dba Bay Aero Radio, commencing February 1, 1961, and 1010
Kidwell

Recommendation of approval of Mr. Kidwell's plans to display and sales patio on his leasehold subject to the approval of the City departments having jurisdiction thereof.

Mayor Isen stated the letter was informational only, and as such, was ordered filed. There was no objection.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

17. Recommendation dated January 31, 1961 regarding site for the new Walteria Library. 1329

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried, there being no objection.

18. Summary of action taken by the Park and Recreation Commission at their meeting of January 25, 1961, dated January 31, 1961. 1194

This being informational only and there being no objection, Mayor Isen ordered the communication filed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

19. Recommendation of City Manager Stevens that a new class specification of Garage Superintendent be established in accordance with duties, responsibilities and entrance requirements set forth. 1004 Pos. Class.

Councilman Bradford moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

20. Midyear Salary Survey. 1004 Salaries

Councilman Drale moved to table this item until the budget sessions for the next fiscal year. Mayor Isen seconded the motion and it carried by the following roll call vote:

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

21. Miscellaneous Recommendations:

On motion regularly made, seconded and there being no objection, the following items were considered together:

Expenditures:

1. To State Educational Agency for surplus property for one Trailer mounted Electric Arc Welding Unit and two 10" Centrifugal Salvage Pumps for Garage and Street Divisions, the sum of \$539. 1042

2. The following recommendations of the Park & Recreation Commission:

- a. Request to install locker rental system for Victor E. Benstead Plunge. 1006
- b. Request for appropriation for improvements at La Romeria Park. 1193
- c. Recommendation for distribution of 1960-61 Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers fund. 1208

With respect to Item 2c, City Manager Stevens recommended that the difference, if any between \$65,000 and the actual cost, be appropriated from the Unappropriated Reserve.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendations above set forth, accepting also the recommendation of City Manager Stevens as to Item 2c. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. Public Works. Recommendation of City Manager Stevens that the bid of Copp Paving Company in the amount of \$10,678 for improvement of a portion of Spencer Street be accepted and all other bids rejected. 1348

Councilman Vico objected to the awarding of this bid as recommended. He felt some assurance should be given of the liability of the contractor. Councilman Bradford agreed to some extent with that view, stating that he thought the City should investigate bidders. City Manager Stevens and Director of Public Works Peebles explained at some length the law on the

subject, as well as the procedure of sending out specifications, obtaining bidders' bond and the various requirements of contractors from a financial standpoint.

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

Improvement of Cabrillo Avenue. Recommendation that \$4,500 1340 be allocated from the Unappropriated Reserve for the installation of make-up paving on Cabrillo Avenue from Lincoln to Sepulveda Boulevard.

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

Recommendation of formation of an assessment district for 1019
the improvement of 229th Street from Arlington Avenue to Cypress Street.

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

Victor Park Branch Library. Architect's estimate on cost 1170
of building, \$12.50 per square foot, exclusive of furnishings, assuming the City would take care of landscaping.

City Manager Stevens stated there has been set aside \$45,000 for this building. Taking into consideration the cost of furnishing the library of approximately \$4.00 per square foot and the architects' fee of \$1.30, plus the \$12.50 per square foot for the bare building, the cost will run about \$17.80 per square foot. The County Library Commission has recommended 5,000 square feet for this branch. Comparison was made with other branch library footage as well as population figures in the areas served and to be served.

Councilman Beasley moved to send this item of business back to the Library Commission (of Torrance) for a recommendation or some sort of standard for determining the size of building. Some consideration was given to using the same plans as for the library at El Retiro Park but City Manager Stevens said he does not think that is possible, but he will determine. Mr. W. J. Hanson, Chairman of the Library Commission, was present and gave as his views on the subject that it is important to establish a tax rate which will provide equal library facilities for the various areas of the City. Mr. Hanson said the Library Commission will present a recommendation. Mrs. Hannah Saville, a member of the Commission, spoke briefly on comparative populations of the library areas.

Councilman Drale moved to refer the matter back to the Library Commission to work out within the existing funds so as not to cause a tax rate increase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and, there being no objection, carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

22. Mayor Isen proclaimed February 5 through 11 as CHILDREN'S 1057
DENTAL HEALTH WEEK and the week of February 12, 1961, as NATIONAL BEAUTY SALON WEEK.

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Mayor Isen also proclaimed the week of February 8th as 1057
BOY SCOUT WEEK.

23. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

It was noted that the Office of the City Clerk has received 1174
Summons and copy of complaint in the case of Josephine E. Harmon
vs. City, Case No. 763315, for alleged injuries sustained in bus
accident of October 13, 1960. The claim was denied by Council
action on December 16, 1960 and referred to the Legal Department.

24. Also noted was Franchise Tax Statement of gross receipts
from Socony Oil Co., Inc. for period ending October 31, 1960.

25. Mayor Isen announced that bid for Airport Liability Insurance
will be opened Tuesday, February 7, 1961 at 10 A.M.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

26. City Manager Stevens said it is necessary to send in for 1009
registration by February 10th with the Federal Aviation Agency, Tower
the plans for the Airport Tower. They have been approved in
preliminary form by the Airport Committee and there is no sub-
stantial change. Councilman Beasley moved to concur in approval.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll
call vote.

27. City Manager Stevens thanked Mr. Gale Whitacre for his time
and help in attending Council meetings as Deputy City Clerk and
mentioned that Mr. John Bramhall would now be filling that
position.

28. Councilman Beasley suggested a resolution supporting the 1230
State College planned for the South Bay area. Mayor Isen said
he expects to hear from Mayor Slaney of Rolling Hills in this
respect. If and when he calls Councilman Drale asked the City
Attorney Remelmeyer be authorized to prepare a suitable reso-
lution. There was no objection.

29. Councilman Beasley again mentioned the lack of signs on 1049
Harbor Freeway indicating approach to Torrance. He believes 1314
if a delegation were to call on Mr. Telford, Assistant State
Highway Engineer, and point out the problem personally, some-
thing might be accomplished.

Mayor Isen said if there was no objection, Councilmen
Beasley, Drale and Blount would be appointed to make such a
call. There was no objection.

30. City Manager Stevens mentioned the proposed Uniform Building 1160
Code and said there is now a bill in the Legislative hopper,
AB 787, as a result of a letter from Torrance to the League
of California Cities.

31. Councilman Blount moved that the Traffic Committee or
other suitable City agency study the intersection of Rolling
Hills Road and Crenshaw Boulevard. He has had calls from
several parents saying there is planned a shift of school
attendance which will result in more children crossing at
this intersection.

32. Councilman Blount distributed to the members of the Council
for study copies of a brochure on a multi-purpose auditorium
which he said McNeil Construction Company claims can be built
for about \$1,000,000.

33. Councilman Drale said there is to be another report made on location of the Superior Court house for the Southwest District. He moved that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare a resolution asking the County Regional Planning Commission to make another report to the CAO office and that possibly the boundaries may be expanded. Councilman Drale also moved that the resolution be adopted this evening with the understanding that it would be prepared by the City Attorney and a copy sent to the Board of Supervisors. 1345

The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-25

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO MAKE A SURVEY OF THE SOUTHWEST AREA OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO RELOCATE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SOUTHWEST SUPERIOR COURT DISTRICT.

Councilman Beasley moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 61-25. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-25. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

34. Councilman Drale moved that a suitable resolution in perma plaque form be prepared for presentation to news commentator, George Putnam, for the work he has done toward eliminating the narcotics problem. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford and carried by unanimous roll call vote. 1000 1343

35. Councilman Blount moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

A. H. Bartlett

City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

APPROVED

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

8.

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