

I N D E X

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Edith Shaffer  
Minute Secretary

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Council Minutes  
February 14, 1961

Torrance, California  
February 14, 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 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 14, 1961, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, Torrance, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Bramhall were: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Drale, Vico, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Bradford (absent on account of illness). City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Charles Darrow 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 Vico, the minutes of the regular meeting held February 7, 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. 690. Variance. Helen H. Godshall, petitioner. 1031 Formal hearing on a petition for variance to construct a Mobile Home Park at 1925 South Crenshaw Boulevard. Recommended for denial. Submitted were letter of transmittal, location sketch, excerpts from Planning Commission minutes of January 18, 1961.

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

Mayor Isen asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to be heard regarding Case No. 690; there was no response.

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

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of denial submitted by the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

## PLANNING MATTERS:

7. Letter from Planning Director Powell, noted by Director of 1031 Public Works Peebles, requesting withdrawal of Planning Commission Case No. 640, Harold W. Oldin.

Councilman Blount moved to grant the request. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. Letter from Director of Planning Powell, approved by Director 1026 of Public Works Peebles, requesting additional Planning Commission meetings.

Mayor Isen said the Planning Commissioners should be commended for their willingness to assume this workload and he directed that the meetings be held in Council Chambers. Councilman Drale moved that the weekly meetings be held and that the Council Chamber be used. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried there being no objection.

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

9. Claim received February 6, 1961, of Wilmer T. Walter, for 1174 alleged injuries and damages sustained in bus accident of October 13, 1960.

10. Claim received February 6, 1961, of Willie Norton, for 1174 alleged injuries sustained in bus accident of October 13, 1960.

Councilman Beasley moved to deny claims described in items 9 and 10 and refer them to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried, there being no objection.

11. Letter dated January 27, 1961 from John J. Barton relative <sup>1242</sup> ~~1121~~ to improvement of sidewalks, with notation that the matter has been referred to the Department of Public Works for study and report to be submitted at the next Council meeting.

12. Letter dated February 7, 1961 from W. J. Hanson, Corresponding Secretary of Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, 1150 requesting construction of a four-foot stairway into El Retiro Park.

Mr. Hanson was present and spoke in support of the request. He had a petition signed by over 100 residents of the area, asking for the stairway. Mr. David Halstead was also present and estimated the cost to be around \$1,000. Mayor Isen suggested that Mr. Halstead, Mr. Roach and Mr. Hanson comprise a committee to meet with Director of Public Works Peebles to study the matter.

13. Letter dated February 8, 1961, from The Friends of the 1329 Library Committee, signed by Robert E. Waegner, 4526 Greenmeadows Avenue, Chairman, and Zelig M. Waegner, Recording Secretary, requesting adequate library facilities for the people of South Torrance and describing the inadequate quarters now occupied by the Walteria Branch. Mr. Waegner was present and spoke in support of his letter.

Councilman Beasley moved to refer the request to the City Manager for consideration in next year's budget. Mayor Isen seconded the motion and it carried, there being no objection.

14. Letter dated February 9, 1961, from W. J. Hanson, Chairman 1329 of the Library Commission, requesting acceptance of 5,000 square feet as a standard size for new or enlarged libraries in West Torrance, WALTERIA and North Torrance. 1053

Mr. Hanson stated this is the majority opinion of the Commission but that he thought it preferable to standardize at 3,000 square feet considering the need for a large central library in the Civic Center. He felt this could be done without increasing taxes.

Mrs. Winthrop Saville, one of the Library Commissioners, presented the majority view that the standards can and should be raised.

Councilman Beasley urged that 5,000 square feet be accepted as the standard for branch libraries and, if necessary, he advocated adding a little to the Library Fund from the General Fund in order to erect three such branch libraries.

Mayor Isen suggested building 5,000 square feet libraries and, for the present, furnishing them on the basis of a 3,000 square feet facility. As a means of obtaining money, he called attention to the new CMA store which is being installed on Western Avenue which it is anticipated will bring in about \$150,000 sales tax annually. He moved to allocate one-half of that amount for library construction. Councilman Drale did not approve of the suggestion, but felt the Hollywood-Riviera library which is 2700 square feet and was built at an approximate cost of \$35,000 should be duplicated in West Torrance, the library in North Torrance should be enlarged and the WALTERIA branch brought up to the same standard, all on a pay-as-you-go basis. Councilman Drale moved that the library to be constructed in West Torrance be no larger than 3,000 square feet. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead.

City Manager Stevens suggested it might be well to compromise on 4,000 square feet; built the West Torrance library in the fiscal year 1960-61, WALTERIA in 1961-62 and enlarge the North Torrance library during 1962-63. This being a policy motion, Councilman Drale amended his motion to make the standard 4,000 square feet and follow City Manager Stevens' recommendation. Councilman Benstead, as second, consented and the roll call vote was unanimously in favor (Councilman Bradford absent).

A recess was declared at 8:35 and the Council reconvened at 8:45 P.M.

15. Letter dated February 7, 1961 from the Chairman of the Civil Service Board regarding attendance of members to the Western 1039 Regional Conference of the Public Personnel Association at Palo Alto.

Mayor Isen asked what the past policy has been and City Manager Stevens recommended that the request for attendance of two members as stated in Chairman Morehart's letter be granted. The request for Commissioners' attendance has been normally directed to the Council, whereas the request of a City employee has been normally channeled through the City Manager's office.

Councilman Drale moved that two Commissioners and Mr. T. E. Donovan be authorized to attend, with appropriate expenses paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried

by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

16. Letter dated February 8, 1961 from H. M. Sippel, Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, containing recommendation that the proposed Youth Center building be held until a definite decision is made concerning the type of buildings to be erected at the Civic Center. 1061

After some discussion regarding money available, it was agreed that a committee, to consist of Councilmen Blount, Benstead and Vico, would study this matter and present a recommendation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Engineering Division

17. Letter dated February 3, 1961, from City Engineer Nollac, approved by Director of Public Works Peebles, recommending that the improvement of 187th Place and Cerise Avenue be accepted. 1326 C210

Councilman Drale moved to accept the Notice of Completion as recommended. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

18. Tract No. 24773 - Bond Release. R. A. Watt, Subdivider. Letter dated February 9, 1961, from City Engineer Nollac, approved by Director of Public Works Peebles, recommending release of subdivision bond, with attached letter from Park Superintendent Clemmer and location sketch. 1101 x1121

Councilman Benstead moved to release the bond. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Drale asked that the Department of Public Works inspect the streets which he believes are not holding up as they should. Councilman Drale moved to rescind the immediately preceding motion and put the matter back on the agenda at the next Council meeting for a report on the condition of the streets. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen and carried, there being no objection.

Traffic Division:

19. Report dated February 7, 1961, requested by City Council concerning overhead traffic signals on Torrance Boulevard. 1160

Councilman Beasley moved to file the report, as being informational. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Benstead 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 of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

20. Resolution for STOP sign on Crenshaw Boulevard at Sonoma Street and on Crenshaw Boulevard at Eldorado Street. 1048

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-26

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. 61-26. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Traffic Engineer Whitmer asked the Council whether they wished to wait and install the lights and STOP signs at the same time. Councilman Benstead moved to put up the STOP signs now, properly <sup>1048</sup> mark the streets, and continue with installation of lights at a later date, at the intersections of Eldorado Street and Crenshaw Boulevard and Sonoma Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried, there being no objection.

RESOLUTIONS:

21. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1055

RESOLUTION NO. 61-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING THE TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING ENGINEER TO PREPARE AN ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM, PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, ESTIMATE AND REPORT, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF DIVISION 14, PART 1 (INCLUDING CHAPTER 8), STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, STREET LIGHTING ACT OF 1919, AS AMENDED, FOR THE FURNISHING OF ELECTRIC CURRENT AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN LIGHTING FIXTURES AND APPLIANCES, IN DISTRICT 4 OF SAID CITY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1964.

Councilman Benstead moved to specifically dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 61-27. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-27. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

22. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1000

RESOLUTION NO. 61-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE COMMENDING GEORGE PUTNAM, SOUTHLAND NEWS COMMENTATOR, FOR THE OUTSTANDING TELEVISION PROGRAMS HE HAS PRESENTED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE CAUSES AND RESULTS OF DOPE ADDICTION, AND FOR URGING MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT THE NARCOTIC PROBLEM.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-28. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

23. City Manager's Recommendations:

Expenditures:

1. For the purchase of two 3" short Torrent meters from Hersey-Sparling Meter Company, the sum of \$623.75 including tax, for the San Diego Freeway. 1041 Meters
2. For the installation of one power Radio Phone and Accessory Group mike and cables in Police Unit No. 84, which is presently not equipped with radio, by Motorola Communications & Electronics, Inc., the sum of \$595.04, a budget item. 1301 1042
3. For the purchase of 100 flexible steel sewer rods and one assembly turning handle for Street Department from Flexible Sales Corporation, the only local vendor, the sum of \$368.20, a budget item. 1042
4. For the purchase of one 8-ton capacity, truck-mounted crane from Civil Defense Surplus Property Acquisition Program, the sum of \$550 from Water Department funds, 1041 Equip. Hvy.

Councilman Blount moved the above listed items of expenditure, 1 through 4, be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Public Works:

1. Recommendation that the request of Ross Leo for cancellation of Weed Abatement bill be denied. 1115

Mr. Ross Leo, the property owner who is claiming for refund of tax assessment for rubbish abatement, was present and stated he did not own the property at the time of the work, September 16, 1959. The escrow was opened October 30, 1959. The records and weigh tickets were in order. Discussion was held as to whether or not this is a liability of the present owner, or if he has a cause of action against the title company. The City Attorney could not see that there was any reason not to enforce the bill against Mr. Leo, who was advised to learn from the City Director of Finance the date of transmitting to the County tax authorities this particular item of record. There being no objection, Mayor Isen instructed Deputy City Attorney Dower to investigate this information and advise Mr. Leo to that extent.

2. Recommendation that the traffic signal agreement with the City of Los Angeles be executed and \$800 from the Unappropriated Reserve allocated as the City's share of the project. 1156

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

### Airport Insurance.

The recommendation of the City Manager is to accept the bid of International Aviation Underwriters, under the circumstances set forth in his memorandum dated February 10, 1961. 1009 Ins.

Councilman Blount moved to concur. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

Not on the agenda, but of urgency because of a deadline, City Manager Stevens presented two memoranda received from Jack R. Egan, Airport Manager, dated February 13 and 14 respectively, on the subject of Federal Airport Aid Project Accelerated Program. City Manager Stevens said there is approximately \$125,000 available for this matching fund program. The listed needs were discussed and Councilman Blount moved the City Manager be instructed to make application for funds for the following items: 1009

Perimeter Fence	\$ 30,000
Sewers	100,000
Fire Station	70,000
Water	50,000

The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

24. Councilman Beasley reported that the Committee consisting of himself, Councilmen Blount and Drale, had called on Mr. Telford of the California State Highway Division and Mr. Telford had agreed to place at least temporary signs on the freeway pending completion. 1049 1314

25. Mayor Isen reported that he and City Attorney Remelmeyer had visited the Board of Supervisors on the subject of the Southwest Superior Courthouse with satisfactory results, in that the five-year lease in Inglewood will be limited to three years. He said if there was no objection, he would instruct the City Attorney to write "thank-you" letters to the cities who have adopted resolutions favorable to the location of the Courthouse at the Torrance Civic Center, on behalf of the Council to be signed by the Mayor. 1345

26. Mr. Charles Darrow from the audience asked that a STOP sign be installed at Arlington and 220th Street, particularly in view of the number of school children who pass that way. Councilman Drale moved to refer the matter to the Traffic Engineer for study and report in two weeks, a copy of the report to be mailed to Mr. Darrow. Councilman Vico seconded the motion which carried, there being no objection. 1048

27. Mr. Marvin Anderson of 22025 Anza, appeared and bid \$50 for a 1935 one and one-half ton Ford pickup truck, to be used by Boy Scout Troop No. 996. On motion of Councilman Drale, seconded by Councilman Vico, the bid was accepted. 1164

28. Mr. Ralph Guffey, 5402 Russell Avenue, Hollywood, California, appeared, asking permission to paint house numbers on curbs. The Council reiterated the policy set forth two weeks ago on this subject and on motion of Councilman Benstead, seconded by 1349

Councilman Vico, denied the request. There was no objection and the motion carried.

Councilman Blount moved all bills properly audited, be paid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Bradford absent).

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

*A. H. Bartlett*

City Clerk of the City of Torrance  
California

APPROVED

*Robert J. ...*

Mayor of the City of Torrance