

I N D E X

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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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Council Meeting
February 21, 1961

Torrance, California
February 21, 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 21, 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: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Vico, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE

At the request of Mayor Isen, Lt. Swayne Johnson of the Torrance Police Department 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 Drale, seconded by Councilman Vico, the minutes of the regular meeting held February 14, 1961, were approved as written, there being no objections thereto.

HEARINGS:

6. Mayor Isen announced the hour of 5:30 o'clock p.m. having arrived, this is the time and place fixed for the hearing of protests, objections or appeals in respect of the assessment and work under and pursuant to resolution of intention, Resolution No. 3962, and the Improvement Act of 1911. 1237

Deputy City Clerk Bramhall presented affidavits of publication, mailing and posting notices of hearing on the assessment, and on motion of Councilman Benstead, seconded by Councilman Bradford, and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent) they were received and ordered filed.

Mayor Isen asked if there were any written protests or objections received against the assessment or against the improvement as constructed or against the proceedings. Deputy City Clerk Bramhall read in full a letter dated February 20, 1961, from Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Boxer, 20506 Toluca Avenue, Torrance, protesting the discrepancy between the estimate originally given by the City and the final bill, amounting to \$30.56 for each home in the tract, or an additional cost of \$1,833.60 for the sixty homes, and asking the reason therefor.

Councilman Drale asked Assessment Engineer L. J. Thompson to explain the difference. Mr. Thompson explained that part of the additional cost is due to the fact that house laterals do

not have to show in the design. There were no house laterals constructed on Garnet and Entradero. The breaking of the water line which Mr. and Mrs. Boxer mentioned, Mr. Thompson said would not be a part of the assessment or cause the higher amount. Mayor Isen asked that City Manager Stevens write a letter of explanation to Mr. and Mrs. Boxer.

Councilman Drale moved the protest or request of Mr. and Mrs. Boxer be denied. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

Mayor Isen asked if any person who has filed a written protest or his representative, desired to be heard in support of such protest; there was no response.

Mayor Isen asked if any person wished to make an oral protest; there was no response.

Councilman Drale's questions directed to Mr. Thompson revealed that the cost will be 5% higher than the estimate.

Councilman Benstead moved to close the hearing. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-30

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND CONFIRMING ASSESSMENT AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER RESOLUTION OF INTENTION, RESOLUTION NO. 3962 (Assessment District No. A-11-59-1) (Spencer-Toluca Sewer Assessment District)

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 61-30. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-30. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

Mayor Isen welcomed a group of young ladies from Bishop Montgomery High School who are studying government.

PLANNING MATTERS:

7. WAIVER W-203. Ernest E. Harris, 169 Del Parque, 1036 requesting waiver to set within the 10' exterior sideyard setback, recommended for approval.

Councilman Drale moved to grant Waiver W-203. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

8. Letter dated February 16, 1961 from six residents protesting an allegedly deplorable condition at 2222 Ellinwood Drive. 1152

9. Communication dated February 16, 1961 from Walteria Civic Organization protesting certain conditions at 4086 Newton Street which seem to indicate a business is being conducted, and another unsanitary condition at 24243 Park Street. 1152

Mayor Isen said these two items of business were similar and could be considered together. There was a written report on Item 8 from the Director of Planning and Mr. McKinnon of the Building Division gave an oral report of the Park Street and Newton Street addresses.

Mayor Isen asked that the City Manager reply to the letters and, on behalf of the Council, asked for a report on how the matters are being taken care of within two weeks. Mr. McKinnon's oral report indicated there is no basis for complaint as to the house on Park Street.

10. Communication dated February 14, 1961 from Torrance B.P.O.E., requesting installation of a street light at their new lodge at 1820 Abalone Street. 1229

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted by means of installing a light on an existing pole. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

City Manager Stevens said under past policy, this would involve no installation charge, only maintenance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM LICENSE DEPARTMENT

11. Communication dated February 14, 1961 recommending the deletion of three oil well bonds from Bond No. 21B20689. 1227

The wells involved are Redondo Community numbers 1, 2 and 3, located on the West High School property bounded by Del Amo on the north, Victor on the east, Spencer on the south and Henrietta on the west. They have been abandoned and the property cleared, and the provisions of Section 19.33 have been complied with.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation of the License Inspector. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

12. Communication dated February 8, 1961 from Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club requesting permission to use City property at 375 Palos Verdes Boulevard for sale of fireworks during the legal days prior to and during July 4th, with recommendation of approval, under the requirements of the Police and Fire Departments and the Fireworks Ordinance, including insurance. 1221

Councilman Benstead moved to grant the request as per recommendation of the License Inspector. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

13. Memo from Public Works Director Peebles resubmitting verified claim for refund to Mrs. Heybrock, Claim No. 2 and recommending denial. 1115

Councilman Drale moved Item No. 13 be denied.

Mrs. Heybrock was present and orally protested, giving her reasons. Councilman Vico said an investigation should be made into the claim. The Department of Public Works, however, has records supporting the work done and Councilman Bradford said any protest should have been made prior to the work being done. The property is posted for two weeks prior to work.

Councilman Benstead seconded Councilman Drale's motion and it carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford,
Drales, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

14. Claims for refund on tax assessments, recommended for denial, of Bernal, Inc., and B. A. Wechsler. 1115

Councilman Bradford moved to deny the claims. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford,
Drales, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

15. Claim for refund on tax assessment against Hugh Gibbs. 1115

Mr. Fred Hergan was present representing Mr. Gibbs and questioned the validity of the assessment.

Councilman Drale moved to deny the claim. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote.

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford,
Drales, Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Vico

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING DIVISION:

16. Letter dated February 15, 1961 from Traffic & Lighting Engineer Whitmer recommending approval of the proposal of Broadway-Hale Stores and Del Amo Estate Company for installation of lighting on existing Edison Co. owned poles, with the properties assessed in conjunction with the next lighting district. 1059

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

ENGINEERING DIVISION:

17. Notice of completion of improvement of Newton Street at Pacific Coast Highway. C 212
X 1093

Councilman Benstead moved to accept the improvement so that settlement may be made with the contractor, Savala Paving Co. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

18. Letter report on Tract No. 23988, letter from John J. Barton regarding installation of sidewalk along the northerly edge of his property and another letter regarding reworking of his driveway. 1242
1121

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation set forth in the report of the City Engineer. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

19. Letter from City Engineer Nollac transmitting for acceptance by the City Council easement deed from C. N. Cake, et ux for the widening of Anza Avenue and an alley over portions of Lot 4 in Tract No. 3218. 1177
D320

Councilman Benstead moved to accept the easement deed listed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried, there being no objection.

20. Proposed South Torrance Sanitary Sewer Assessment District No. 4, with letter to City Manager from City Engineer dated February 14, 1961 and letter from Roy O. Gilbert, Los Angeles County Health Officer, location sketch and resolution. 1344

City Manager Stevens said this matter was put on the agenda inadvertently and asked that it be returned for further study of the complicated legal and engineering problems involved.

Mr. Frank Scarfo, 2752 Orange Avenue, said this sewer was promised long ago and described the conditions which now prevail. Mrs. Martha Lindsey of 23323 Pennsylvania Avenue spoke along the same lines. City Manager Stevens explained the financial procedure and City Attorney Remelmeyer said there are legal ramifications he would like to study.

Councilman Drale suggested a report be available at the 5:30 meeting on March 7, 1961.

21. Acceptance of future street, Lot 54, Tract No. 22214. Letter to City Manager from City Engineer, dated February 15, 1961, with attached location sketch and resolution. 1092

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC STREET PURPOSES LOT 54 OF TRACT NO. 22214.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 61-31. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

Councilman Benstead moved that Resolution No. 61-31 be adopted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

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

22. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1303 X1003

RESOLUTION NO. 61-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND MUNICIPAL DATA PROCESSING, INC., FOR PROCESSING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1911 BONDS.

With deletion of the "9" erroneously set forth in 3a of the agreement, Councilman Blount moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-32. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Benstead asked what this would amount to for the year and City Manager Stevens said the cost to set it up would be 415 parcels at 65¢ and then the semi-annual cost of 9¢ per parcel. Councilman Benstead called attention to the fact that the items are being furnished by the City, but City Manager Stevens said this would be true in any event, as it is a matter of processing only.

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

ORDINANCES:

23. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and presented for its first reading: 1004 Sal. & Pos. Class.

ORDINANCE NO. 1217

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1183 BY ADDING CERTAIN POSITIONS WITH THEIR SALARY RANGE TO THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve Ordinance No. 1217 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

24. License Department. Recommendation that the Council concur in the ruling of the License Inspector to require Mr. A. Van Kralingen to obtain a business license on the same basis as others engaging in this business, with correspondence. 1221 Genl

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC STREET PURPOSES LOT 24 OF TRACT NO. 22214

Councilman Beasley moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 61-31. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale. On motion of Councilman Drale, seconded by Councilman Blount, the Council by roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent) unanimously concurred in the recommendation.

Public Works

Concurrence in the recommendation of Director of Public Works Peebles to purchase three new packers for the Street Division, to be used as replacements for the oldest three in the fleet, which are old, expensive to maintain and of smaller capacity than that recommended for the most efficient operation, a budget item. 1041 Equip Hvy

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

Library Furnishings

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of City Manager Stevens and the Library Commission to purchase furnishings from the current budget as indicated in letters dated February 15 and January 5, 1961, from the Chairman of the Library Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent) 1329

Ray Watt Dump at Western Avenue

City Manager Stevens reported that the committee of Councilman Bradford, Blount and himself, met with Mr. Watt and a representative from Thiem Industries. Mr. Stevens said he requested two things: a grading plan from Mr. Watt which would indicate roughly what is there now and particularly what would be there once it was graded. He was given a map which he considered insufficient. There is other information which has not been furnished to Mr. Stevens. After some delay because of the Thiem representative being out of town, it was determined that the Company would not object to the dump if it was about 75% solid fill, no garbage, etc. They have removed their objection. 1031

Councilman Blount moved to hold this item of business until the City Manager is in possession of the papers he needs and that it be returned to the agenda at that time. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford. Mayor Isen mentioned Mr. Peebles' report and City Manager Stevens said he is in accord with the conditions set forth therein. Mr. Watt was present and said he thought Mr. Stevens had received the map. Councilman Blount consented to change his motion to provide that the full report be made next week and Councilman Bradford made no objection. The motion carried, there being no objection from Council members.

Expenditures:

- 1. To Halprin Supply Company for one portable deluge set Akron No. 501MT with 3 2 1/2" outlets, the sum of \$468.89, a budget item. 1042
- 2. For the purchase of a power and converter unit, shaft and related automotive parts from National Harvester Company, the sum of \$745.51, required for the repair of Packer Unit No. 625, a garage division request, for which funds are available. 1042

1042

3. For the purchase of pipe, elbows and related fittings, from Howard Supply Company, Los Angeles, the low bidder, the sum of \$441.92.

Councilman Drale moved to approve the expenditures listed as items 1, 2 and 3 above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present. (Councilman Beasley absent).

Position of Intern

City Manager Stevens recommended the position of Intern be established in the Administrative Department on a part time basis under conditions as explained in his memorandum dated February 15, 1961.

1004
Pos.
Class.

Councilman Benstead moved to hold this item for the next personnel meeting. Mayor Isen seconded the motion, which carried, there being no objection.

26. Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of February 27 through March 4th as BUY AMERICAN PRODUCTS WEEK and further urged that it be not only that week but every week from now on.

1057

27. The City of San Gabriel, by its letter dated February 10, 1961, transmitted to the Torrance Mayor and City Council a copy of a resolution urging Americans to awaken to the ever-increasing threat of Communism and asking adoption of a similar resolution by all City Councils in Los Angeles County.

1069

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to a counterpart of the resolution passed by San Gabriel:

RESOLUTION NO. 61-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, IMPLORING ALL PATRIOTIC AMERICANS TO AWAKEN AND TO FIGHT ALL COMMUNISTIC ACTIVITY.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-33. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley absent).

28. Mr. Alevy of 3825 Stevely Avenue, Long Beach, California representing Robbin Amusements, spoke requesting permission to put on a promotional carnival at the North Torrance Shopping Center, 190th and Inglewood Avenue. Mayor Isen called attention to the fact that there would be insufficient parking space if this were done. Mr. Alevy explained the means by which the merchants plan to take care of parking space for the event which would last five days, by Pacific Coast Shows.

~~1062~~
1062

Daniel B. Mont, O.D., 4854 West 190th Street, chairman of the center, said the plan has been unanimously approved by the Center merchants.

Mayor Isen said in the past there have been times when citizens were not satisfied with the shows, admission fees, etc. and Councilman Blount too said the City has had problems

with carnivals not complying with City regulations and requiring many trips by City employees to see that rules are complied with. Mr. McKinnon of the Building Division told of similar incidents, as did Chief Benner of the Fire Department.

Councilman Benstead moved to deny the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote:

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

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN: Vico.

ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Beasley.

29. City Manager Stevens mentioned that February 27th is the last Monday in the month and there are personnel matters to be discussed. Mayor Isen scheduled a personnel meeting at 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 27th. The Airport Committee will also meet on February 27th.
30. Deputy City Clerk Bramhall reported that summons and complaint have been received, February 3, 1961, in Superior Court Case No. 763821, action of Betty Gardena vs. City of Torrance et al for fatal injury of Ronald Middlekauf on February 12, 1960 and have been referred to the City Attorney. 1174
31. Councilman Benstead moved that unoccupied condemned structures be removed. The motion was seconded by Mayor Isen and Councilman Drale and Bradford mentioned specific instances. Mayor Isen instructed City Manager Stevens to see that proper measures are taken immediately on the subject. 1070
32. Councilman Benstead mentioned private trash collectors' trucks from which papers not fastened down, or covered, fly. Councilman Blount said in this regard some of the other cities whose trucks pass through Torrance are the worst offenders. Councilman Benstead moved that the ordinance controlling such matters be enforced. There were no objections. 1153
33. Councilman Bradford made similar complaint about trucks which are presently hauling sand down Crenshaw Boulevard. The load should either be covered or dampened to prevent flying sand and dirt. 1153
34. Councilman Blount asked that a study be made with the possibility of clearing up hazards on 190th between Western and Hawthorne Avenues. Councilman Bradford mentioned specifically the telephone posts along the south edge of the right of way. He asked if the utility companies could not be prevailed upon to move the poles back to the fence of General Petroleum so that the street might be improved. 1128
35. Councilman Drale moved the City Attorney be authorized to write a letter to Superior Court Judge Burke asking him to meet with the local committee to encourage promotion of the Superior Courthouse in Torrance. Councilman Blount seconded the motion and there was no objection. 1345
36. Councilman Drale said while he and Mayor Isen were at the County Supervisors Board meeting, they heard a discussion of permitting aged people who are on pensions to ride for reduced fares. He thought it might be good for some such plan to be initiated in Torrance. Mayor Isen asked that Bus Superintendent Chamberlain make a report after getting information from Metropolitan Transit as to how they plan to implement such a plan. 1016

37. Councilman Vico again mentioned the ditch between Anza and the sump which should be cleaned out. Also, the corner of Halison and Hinsdale. 1137

38. Councilman Vico advocated hiring ten more policemen. City 1004
Manager Stevens said budget studies are being started. Coun- Addi.
cilman Bradford agreed with Councilman Vico, stating the Pers.
Police Department is undermanned. There is a lot of pilferage
around industrial plants. He is in favor of police working
in pairs on the night shift. There being no objection, Mayor
Isen referred the matter to City Manager Stevens for study
and to the Police Chief for a recommendation.

39. Mayor Isen called attention to the splendid work of the 1000
Police Department with respect to the market holdup on X1144
February 17, resulting in return of the greater part of the
money taken. He asked that the record show commendation of
the Police Department.

40. Councilman Dralle moved all bills properly audited be
paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by
unanimous roll call vote of those present (Councilman Beasley
absent).

41. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

A. H. Bartlett

City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

APPROVED

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance