

I N D E X

Council Meeting held March 28, 1961, 8:00 P.M.

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Adjournment.

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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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, March 28, 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, Bradford Drale, Vico, and Mayor Isen. Also present were City Manager Stevens and Assistant City Attorney Dower.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Commissioner Eric Borner of the Park & Recreation Commission led the salute to our Flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Director of Planning Powell opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

On motion of Councilman Benstead, seconded by Councilman Beasley, the minutes of the regular meeting held March 21, 1961, were approved, as written, there being no objections thereto.

5A. Mayor Isen stated that a member of the Torrance Police force, Police Officer Wm. O. Winther, was recently the recipient of 1000 a very unusual and singular honor from the South Bay Bar Association. The award is made to the outstanding police officer of the area. Captain John Maestri stated Mr. Winther had composed a Traffic Investigation Manual which is being used by the California State Highway Patrol and several other police departments in the South Bay District. Mr. Winther was introduced by Captain Maestri and congratulated by Mayor Isen on behalf of the Council and the City.

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

PLANNING MATTERS:

6. CASE NO. 636. VARIANCE, R. A. WATT. Letter from Planning Director Powell regarding petition to build apartment house on east 100 feet of Lot 17, La Fresa Tract, with sketch attached. 1031

Mayor Isen stated this case was continued to this evening so that parties who may be interested could be heard. The recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission had carried no consideration of 173rd Street as a part of the Master Plan of Streets and Highways.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone in the audience wished to be heard on Case No. 636, there was no response.

Councilman Beasley moved to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vico and carried, there being no objection.

Councilman Drale asked Mrs. Mamie Moore, an adjoining property owner, if she was satisfied and Mrs. Moore said she is, except that she would like to have a letter from Mr. Watt, stating the sewers would be installed. Mrs. Moore was assured by Mr. George Fouts, representing Mr. Watt, that would be done. Mrs. Moore is aware that the connection to the sewer will be at her expense.

Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the variance, with the conditions set forth above. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

7. CURBS, GUTTERS AND SIDEWALKS. Petition requesting installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks on 182nd Street from Bailey Drive to Prairie Avenue, with location sketch attached. 1358

Deputy City Clerk Bramhall noted that there was 64.7% approval represented by the petition.

Councilman Benstead moved the City Engineer be instructed to prepare preliminary report in this matter. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. Letter dated March 21, 1961, from HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION urging the Council to restore El Retiro Park to its original condition by removing whatever work has been done toward paving of a road to service the sewer pumping station. 1150

Mr. Thomas Roach, 168 Vista del Parque, Vice President of the Association spoke in support of the communication, stating in detail the objections the homeowners have to the placing of this 16' road through the picnic and playground area. He stated he was told by the Department of Public Works that the road is necessary to service the pumping station. Taking into consideration the use of the road and its location, Mr. Roach said the Homeowners Association does not believe there is any justification for its construction. He considers improvements to the baseball diamond, the basketball court, etc., more necessary than such a road.

Mayor Isen agreed with Mr. Roach that the park should be restored to its original condition forthwith, and so moved. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9. Communication from Mrs. Eric Borner, dated March 14, 1961 as representative of the Hillside Community regarding THE POOR CONDITION OF CREST ROAD. 1359

Mrs. Borner was present and introduced Mrs. Robert Powers and Mrs. Tony Santella, representing over 100 residents of the Victoria Knolls area affected. Both Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Santella described the conditions which exist and the hazard to children and asked the City to accomplish two things:

1. fill in the ravines caused by water erosion and restore

2.

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the ground cover plants thereon; and, 2. install a six foot chain link fence on property owned by the City paralleling the sidewalk.

City Manager Stevens said when this letter was received it was referred to the Department of Public Works and it has been estimated that the cost of doing what the residents of the section ask would be roughly \$2500, if done by City forces and considerably more if done by contract. It was determined that this figure encompasses the area from Highcross Avenue down. Director of Public Works Peebles called attention to the fact that it would be necessary to obtain the right to enter on private property to erect such a fence. However, the petition of the residents also submitted letters from property owners granting such permission.

Councilman Drale moved, that the most critical factor being the fence, the City install the fence and gradually the other improvements could be made. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead. Mayor Isen stressed the importance of connecting the fence tightly so there would be no free space which might be a temptation to children. In answer to a question by Mayor Isen regarding financing the project, City Manager Stevens said the money is available. The citizens who were present from the area said if the City will put in the fence, they will take the responsibility of planting the hillside and possibly even filling in some of the crevasses.

Councilman Drale's motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10. Communication from TORRANCE YOUTH BASEBALL COUNCIL, Walter 1105 C. Virgil, Secretary, dated March 21, 1961, REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ERECTION OF A SNACK STAND AT EL NIDO PARK for the benefit of the League and game spectators and waiver of permit fees normally required.

Mayor Isen said this should be referred to the Park and Recreation Commission. Assistant City Attorney Dower believed the proposed project might be in violation of the deed restrictions from the County to Torrance and might cause a reversion. Mayor Isen moved that the request be referred to the Park and Recreation Commission and that Assistant City Attorney Dower seek an opinion of the County Counsel. If that opinion is not favorable, he will investigate the possibility of obtaining a waiver of the restriction by order of the County Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley and, there being no objection, carried.

11. COMMUNICATION FROM DONALD H. SHANEDLING, INC., Pacific 1160 Plaza Shopping Center, dated March 20, 1961, RE LEFT TURN CHANNEL LANE ON PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY into the Center.

Mayor Isen said if there were no objections, this item would be referred to the Traffic Commission and that it would also be necessary to negotiate with the State Highway Division.

Mr. John Bartman, Public Relations Director for the Shanedling Company, 6505 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, was present and Mayor Isen asked him to see Traffic Engineer Whitmer for answers to his questions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

12. Recommendation of Director of Public Works Peebles re. 1015
exception to Section 17.100 of Ordinance No. 923 on VEHICLE
WEIGHT LOAD LIMIT. This refers to the request for exception
as to Freddy Freeze Company.

Assistant City Attorney Dower stated the City cannot make
an exception to an ordinance unless the exception is spelled out
in the ordinance. It would be difficult to amend the ordinance
because of the inter-relationship between City and State laws.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this item to the Legal
Department for consultation with the Director of Public Works.
The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead.

Mr. Sam Edelman, 3400 Centinela, Los Angeles, represented
Freddy Freeze Company, and Mayor Isen asked that he consult with
Mr. Dower at intermission, in an effort to determine how this
problem is solved in other communities where the company operates.

ENGINEERING DIVISION:

13. EASEMENT DEED FOR SANITARY SEWER (Lloyd M. Winthrop et ux) 1185
Transmittal of deed from City Engineer and Public Works Director,
approved by easement committee, with attached location sketch of
Hollywood Riviera Sewer District No. 3.

14. EASEMENT DEED FOR STREET PURPOSES FROM UNION OIL CO. Trans- 1177
mittal of deed from City Engineer approved by Public Works
Director, with attached location sketch and resolution accepting
the deed.

Councilman Beasley moved to accept the two easement deeds
listed above under Items 13 and 14. Motion, seconded by Council-
man Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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; reserv-
ing 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 Bramhall
assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 61-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ACCEPTING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY THAT
CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM UNION OIL COMPANY OF
CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-51.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll
call vote.

BUILDING DIVISION:

15. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERSIZED SIGN AT 2003 CARSON STREET 1063
for Fred Astaire Dance Studio, with recommendation of approval
from the Assistant Superintendent of Building Inspection.

16. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERSIZED SIGN at 4605 Torrance Boulevard for STANDARD OIL COMPANY, with recommendation of approval from the Assistant Superintendent of Building Inspection. 1063

Councilman Drale moved to concur in the recommendation of the Building Division with respect to Items 15 and 16. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried, there being no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

17. REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF OIL WELL BOND NO. 431962. Petroleum Midway Company, Griffin No. 8 located at northeast corner of Sepulveda and Cabrillo. 1227

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in the recommendation of the License Department for release of the above numbered oil well bond. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote

At 8:35 p.m., Mayor Isen declared a recess and the Council reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY

18. OPINION OF ROBERT K. DOWER, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY dated March 23, 1961, regarding RETROACTIVE PAY. 1004
Sal. X1276

Mayor Isen questioned Mr. Dower as to when the provision requiring 4/5 vote was adopted. Mr. Dower said it was after the Council was increased to seven members and added that the 4/5 affirmative vote was not necessary in that the ordinance was not "emergency". Mayor Isen asked him to check the history of the provision.

RESOLUTIONS:

19. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1230

RESOLUTION NO. 61-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ON THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-52. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

20. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1111
1109

RESOLUTION NO. 61-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING CERTAIN PENDING LEGISLATION.

This resolution deals with proposed exemptions to the sales and use tax.

Councilman Beasley moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 61-53. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Isen asked that his vote be qualified to the extent that, referring to AB60, he favors a bill exempting medicines for human beings from sales and use tax. His vote on the others listed is to oppose them.

21. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall 1111
assigned a number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 61-54

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE OPPOSING AND ENDORSING CERTAIN PENDING
LEGISLATION.

This resolution deals with various industrial relations and political activities of public employees, provisions of the Brown Act, zoning, contract awards, and crossing guards.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-54.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following
roll call vote:

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

22. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall 1111
assigned a number and read title to: 1175

RESOLUTION NO. 61-55

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ENDORSING A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO
AMEND THE MAYO-BREED FORMULA AS PROPOSED IN
ASSEMBLY BILL 1320.

Councilman Blount moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-55.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous
roll call vote.

22A. Mayor Isen stated another resolution dealing with pending 1111
legislation had been added to the agenda, dealing with public
employees, and asked Deputy City Clerk Bramhall to assign a
number and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 61-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE OPPOSING CERTAIN PENDING LEGISLATION.

Councilman Bradford moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-56.
Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following
roll call vote:

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

ORDINANCES:

23. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall 1004
assigned a number and read title to: Sal.

ORDINANCE NO. 1225

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

This is the position approved at the Council meeting held March 21, 1961.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve Ordinance No. 1225 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Drale asked regarding the classification of GANG MOWER OPERATOR, whether it has been referred to budget. Director of Public Works Peebles stated it has been referred to the budget for Parks.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

24. Memorandum dated March 23, 1961 from City Manager Stevens 1258 stating that SOUTH BAY HUMANE SOCIETY, Mrs. Blonk, owner-manager, has stated she will be unable to continue pound services to the City beyond the expiration of her contract, June 30, 1961, unless a five year term contract can be negotiated.

Mayor Isen moved that City Manager Stevens be authorized to contact other qualified pound services in the area to solicit proposals, as a five-year contract is not possible. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale; no objections, so ordered.

25. HOUSING COUNTY FELONY PRISONERS IN CITY JAIL: 1360

Councilman Blount expressed some doubt regarding the provisions of the agreement mentioned in Mr. Stevens' memorandum dated March 23, 1961. Assistant City Manager Bone told of the provisions of the agreement which was not available for the Council's perusal. Several questions were asked and could not be answered specifically or favorably.

Councilman Drale moved to put this item of business back on the agenda for next week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blount and there was no objection. It was so ordered.

MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS:

26A. CITY TREASURER AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND SECOND ANNUAL 1039 SEMINAR OF CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL TREASURERS ASSOCIATION in Sacramento, April 19 to 21.

Councilman Beasley moved that Mrs. Leech be authorized to attend the meeting mentioned, with appropriate expenses paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

26B. ARMED FORCES DAY BUDGET. Recommendation that Ranchero Days' budget be transferred to Armed Forces Day budget. 1173 1287

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Vico.

Councilman Bradford asked who comprises the list of VIP's for dinner and Mayor Isen told him the list consists of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine officers, plus the City Council and their wives, the same as last year.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER FINAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

1009
Tower

City Manager Stevens said the final plans and specifications have been approved by the FAA with the exception of some very minor changes which will probably come by letter by next week and in order to expedite awarding the contract, he would recommend that the final plans and specifications be approved and that the City go to bid at the earliest possible time.

Councilman Beasley moved to concur in Mr. Stevens' recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

APPROPRIATION: For purchase of one surplus TD-18 Crawler-Tractor, the sum of \$550.

1041
Tractor

Councilman Vico inquired as to the cost of getting the tractor in working condition and Director of Public Works Peebles told him about \$1200, of which the government will pay one-half.

Mayor Isen moved to concur in the recommendation for the purchase of the surplus tractor for \$550. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

EXPENDITURES:

1. To E. B. Moritz Foundary, the low bidder, the sum of \$1248 including tax, for the purchase of 30 sewer rings and covers. 1041
Genl

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the expenditure listed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. That the City enter into a rental agreement with International Business Machines Corporation for rental of a printing card punch, an alphabetic verifier and a card sorter, for the sum of \$155 per month, a budget item.

1041
Equpt
a/c

Councilman Beasley protested the purchase of so much new equipment and employment of so many people in the Finance Department. He thought the budget in Finance is getting too heavy. City Manager Stevens explained that there was considerably more money budgeted, as well as higher classification of personnel, so that actually there will be a net saving compared to what is set up in the budget.

Councilman Drale moved to concur in approval of the rental agreement described. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote:

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

AIRPORT FIRE STATION COST ESTIMATE:

1009
Fire

Copies of the estimate had been furnished to the Councilmen for study. City Manager Stevens said the two items of oven and refrigerator can come out of the estimate because they will be from another budget. Also, he believed there should be an optional bid for the septic tank and cesspool which would save about \$900. The total reduction would be about \$1800. This would make the cost about \$74,000 and the architectural fee of \$6,000, or a total of \$80,000. The city could budget \$70,000 and would require an additional \$10,000.

Councilman Drale moved to call for bids. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

City Manager Stevens remarked that this project is in this year's budget and is the only fire station programmed or for which money is allotted.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PROCLAMATION:

27. Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of April 11 to 14, 1961, as BUSINESS SHOW WEEK and asked that the City Clerk's office send a certified copy of the proclamation to Wm. McCann, c/o City Hall, Santa Fe Springs, California. 1057

28. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and read title to: 1323

RESOLUTION NO. 61-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE ALLEY PARALLEL TO AND NORTHWESTERLY OF PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD FROM VIA VALENCIA SOUTHWESTERLY TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE BOUNDARY, IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Benstead moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-57. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29. Recommendation for PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT from City Manager. The equipment consists of traffic controller to replace the one at the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard which was destroyed beyond repair by an electrical short. No standby was available. The price was \$488.80. 1160

Councilman Drale moved to ratify the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

30. YOUTH CENTER BUILDING AT CIVIC CENTER. Copy of letter dated February 8, 1961, from the chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission was on the agenda in answer to a request from Councilman Bradford at the last meeting. The preference was expressed in that letter to withhold suggestions for a youth center building until a more definite decision is made concerning the type of buildings to be erected at the Civic Center. 1191 Youth X1061

Councilman Bradford said this could be two or three years away. He thought if there is a building design in keeping with the type of architecture we have here now, he cannot understand the concern for the type of buildings which may be erected at some later date.

Councilman Drale agreed with Councilman Bradford and suggested that this be discussed at a meeting to be held April 10, 1961, Monday, at 5:30 in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Commission. Mayor Isen asked that the phrase "within the Master Plan" be added to the sentence regarding the type of buildings to be erected.

The proposed meeting will be an informal work session followed by dinner. City Manager Stevens will make the arrangements and issue the invitation to Park and Recreation Commissioners.

31. REPORTS:

The office of the City Clerk reports the receipt of summons 1174 and complaint in Superior Court case No. 767043, John C. Beres dba Walter Fields Garage vs. Torrance Bus Lines et al., for damages as a result of bus accident of October 13, 1960. This claim was denied by the Council on December 20, 1960. Summons and Complaint have been referred to the Legal Dept.

32. Mayor Isen announced the following information on bids: 1006
X1041
Genl
Coin operated lockers at Benstead Plunge. Bids will be received until 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 1961, in the City Clerk's office.

Playground equipment for La Romeria Park. Bids were received until 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 1961, in the City Clerk's office. 1193
X1041
Play
Equipt

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

33. Director of Public Works Peebles said the Council had asked for a report on the Storm Drain Project. He stated the County Flood Control has advised him they have tentatively scheduled bids on all of our projects for the third quarter of this calendar year. This will throw the project into the rainy season again. Mayor Isen suggested City Manager Stevens and Director of Public Works Peebles work on this the balance of the week and if no encouraging news is received, a committee of the Council should call on the County. 1294
X1318

34. Director of Public Works said one of the drains will go down 190th Street and thus its improvement would have to wait until the drains are completed. 1355

35. Councilman Beasley recalled when Mr. Stevens first came to Torrance during a time when City employees had to discount their paychecks at banks because the City did not have money to pay them in full. He said in the intervening years Mr. Stevens' professional and personal life have been a shining example to the people of Torrance. Councilman Beasley said he would like to have the Park and Recreation Commission seriously consider naming either the Park in West Torrance or Walteria Park, GEORGE STEVENS PARK. 1290
1004
Genl

Mr. Stevens thanked Mr. Beasley but replied that traditionally he believed that honor was reserved for citizens who had died and he hoped to stay alive for a long time.

Councilman Beasley said he did not think the tradition had been closely observed and stressed the idea of naming a park as a way for newcomers as well as others who do not know Mr. Stevens as the Council does to remember him.

Mayor Isen moved a commending perma plaque resolution be prepared and presented to Mr. Stevens. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. 1000

Considering the fact that the budget hearings are coming up very soon and realizing that Mr. Stevens has vacation time and sick leave time coming, Councilman Bradford moved that Mr. Wade Peebles be hired as City Manager, starting July 1st, 1961. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and Mayor Isen asked for discussion.

Councilman Beasley asked if this is a steamroller; if no one else was going to be considered, or if the Council did not dare consider anyone else. He thought the people of Torrance and the Council should give this very careful consideration and draw on the best talent in the United States. He was very much opposed to following the procedure proposed but thought the job should be advertised in order to get the very best man available. He stated he did not mean Mr. Peebles was not that man, but that there should be some basis for comparison.

Councilman Drale moved a substitute that the office of City Manager be declared open as of whenever Mr. Stevens leaves; that it be declared an open job and applications be received from anyone who aspires for the job; that the salary be left open and anyone in, or outside the City of Torrance who wishes to take the examination be permitted to do so. He asked that provision be made for applications to be sent to the Personnel Department and that the Council act as the screening board for selecting the new City Manager.

Mayor Isen asked for discussion on Councilman Drale's substitute motion.

Councilman Benstead did not feel it necessary to go outside the City when there is a man right here who is qualified to hold the job. Councilman Drale answered that he does not mean to be excluding anyone but he does think some effort should be made to determine if anyone else is interested.

The policy of hiring a registered engineer in the State of California was mentioned by Councilman Benstead.

Councilman Vico stated he had been quiet up to now but that he had some ideas to express. He said the talk around town is that someone is being railroaded in, and thought it very important that time be taken to be sure the best man available is selected. He doesn't want in the future to be responsible for making an error in choice. Also, he felt it is not necessary to go far afield; that the Council knows what it wants and given time, can make the right choice.

Councilman Benstead said that in seconding the motion, he had no thought of railroading anyone in. His main concern is that whoever is eventually picked should be working with Mr. Stevens right now and through this coming budget session.

Councilman Vico said he did not think the matter had to be decided this evening and repeated his thought that in order to avoid criticism, enough time should be taken to be sure the right man is selected.

Mayor Isen moved an amendment to the substitute motion to the effect that the decision be made within thirty days. In support of his amendment, he outlined the time element to be considered in approving the budget and the necessity of Mr. Stevens' interviewing department heads between April 19th and May 5th. In order to have money to run the City the next fiscal year Mayor Isen said the budget must be completely in order and approved by June 20, 1961.

Councilman Drale did not consider the reasons set forth by Mayor Isen as being justifying reasons for such haste. He mentioned possibility of the Assistant Manager handling the responsibilities of administration in the interim.

The amendment to the substitute motion (made by Mayor Isen) was seconded by Councilman Vico. Mayor Isen repeated that in order to have a man in charge during the transition period so that the City would not be floundering around without experienced administration, the time limit was necessary.

Councilman Blount disagreed. He stated Mr. Stevens had successfully presented twelve budgets in the past and asked him the direct question, whether or not he intends to leave before the budget for the coming fiscal year is prepared. Mr. Stevens replied that he felt sure the budget would be in shape before that time; that he would see that it is in shape.

Councilman Blount told Mr. Stevens he knew that no budget is a certain thing; that the Council many times has tampered with them. Regardless, he does not see any urgency that would necessitate making such a quick decision, using the budget hearings as an excuse to replace the most important job in the City of Torrance. Councilman Blount said such action would not be based on facts; that the department heads could handle budget matters. The Council is the final authority; they have handled twelve of them in the past and can do so again. He felt Mr. Stevens hand would be reflected in this budget and any contention that a new man must be hired before the budget is considered, is a flimsy excuse. If it is determined that Mr. Peebles is the best man for the job, Mr. Blount said he would vote for him but the Council should have the opportunity to investigate and examine a number of people who have had experience in the field of administration. In answer to Mayor Isen's statement that he did not believe in going out and getting people from other cities, Mr. Blount pointed out that City Hall is full of such people and that Torrance has acquired some pretty good men that way.

Mayor Isen said he believed there had been a complete misconception here; that he felt positive Mr. Stevens would not leave until the budget has been prepared and approved by the Council. He felt, however, that a man should be working with the City Manager and familiarizing himself with the budget so that he could properly administer it in the year to come.

Councilman Bradford enlarged on Mayor Isen's remarks. He spoke at some length about Mr. Stevens having worked with City affairs during the period of rapid growth and thought it very foolish to wait until after his departure to hire a new City Manager when he could be working with present administration and becoming familiar with not only the City, but the people with whom he will work including City personnel as well as heads of corporations and property owners. In answer to Councilman Bradford's question, Mr. Stevens said he would probably plan to leave about the end of May.

Councilman Drale said he would not argue that point. However, he thought it necessary to get the best man possible. Several men had been mentioned, Mr. Scharfman, Mr. Powell, Mr. Bone, Mr. Peebles, but he did not feel it was proper to upgrade a man within the City temporarily and let him believe he would have the job and then later move him back and hire someone else.

Mayor Isen remarked that a City Manager can lose his job at any time and Councilman Bradford agreed that the mortality rate among City Managers throughout the nation is high.

Mayor Isen outlined Long Beach's experience where, after losing their City Manager to Phoenix, they hired the City Auditor within thirty days. He felt the council has had ample opportunity to judge the qualifications of men within the City and spoke highly of Mr. Peebles' performance as head of the largest department of the City. His opinion was that the City might "fumble the ball" and the resulting loss will be to Torrance and the people. There is no need, he said, to raid another city on the basis of being larger and possibly able to pay more money when the requisite efficiency is right here. It would take a stranger to Torrance a year just to become familiar with the streets, let alone get acquainted with the people and the City's problems.

Mr. Stevens came here as a stranger, according to Councilman Drale, and did a magnificent job. He felt people in this particular line of work are trained to be able to take over. There are advantages and disadvantages and it will take more time to decide.

Councilman Drale contends it cannot be done within thirty days and suggested by Mayor Isen's own argument, that sixty days should be allowed. Councilman Beasley moved that there be an amendment to the amendment, changing thirty days to sixty, and his motion was seconded by Councilman Drale. The motion to amend the amendment failed by the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Isen asked for roll call vote on the amendment first made to the substitute motion (the same as above, except allowing thirty days for processing and installation). This amendment failed by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Blount changed his vote to "No".

Mayor Isen said the motion now is that we go to advertising for applications for City Manager without time limits or restrictions of any kind. This is the motion made by Councilman Drale and seconded by Councilman Beasley. The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

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

The original motion was renewed, to appoint Mr. Wade Peebles as City Manager effective July 1, 1961 and failed by the following roll call vote:

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

Commenting on his abstaining vote, Councilman Vico asked Mr. Stevens if there was any possibility of his changing his mind; that it might not be necessary to give him a perma plaque, but Mr. Stevens said he does not want a perma plaque, nor is he going to change his mind.

Mayor Isen said if Councilman Vico wishes to hold his vote for the present, he would like to make a statement which he prepared in anticipation of such a deadlock. Councilman Drale protested Mayor Isen's voting before Councilman Vico and Councilman Beasley said he would hate to see a City manager put in by a four to three vote as it would create a very difficult situation. Mayor Isen asked Councilman Vico for his vote but Mr. Vico said he would vote later - just later.

Mayor Isen read his statement, as follows:

"We are now faced with an urgent situation. The tremendous problems concerning the next fiscal year's budget are upon us. On April 19th to May 5th the City Manager must interview department heads for their budget requirements. By May 24th the proposed budget must be submitted to the City Council and under the law approved on or before June 20, 1961. The problems again this year, as they have been in several years last past are enormous and overwhelming. It is obvious to any informed observer that the population growth particularly in the past five years has caught up with us and we have had to meet and overcome many complex problems. It is necessary for the welfare of the City that there be an orderly transition in administration and that a qualified person immediately step in to work along with Mr. Stevens in order to achieve a change in administration without a disruption in services and orderly government and for him to become familiar with all phases of the job of City Manager. A stranger attempting to take over this work at this time, regardless of qualifications, would take a year to familiarize himself with the City and I believe that we would have a stagnant situation existing with no progress made during at least this period of time, that is a year. This is also coupled with the problem that we might make an unfortunate choice in dealing with a complete stranger and regret it later.

"As far as I am concerned, I do not propose to raid any of our friendly neighbors in an attempt to outbid them and lure their City Manager here. To seek qualified persons would entail much time and needless expense as it is customary in interviewing applicants for a high position such as this to pay their transportation and expenses. I believe that due to our complex problems with reference to parks, building, engineering, streets, garage, traffic and lighting, rubbish, and on and on, it is necessary that a person with an engineering background be City Manager. This has already been proven by Mr. Stevens who is a registered engineer and he made a fine record of service with the City.

"I have seen Mr. Peebles work on City problems and have admired his efficiency and believe that if he is given the opportunity as City Manager that he will prove himself very capable. We are again working on an austerity budget and Mr. Peebles should have a chance to demonstrate that he can effect savings which would afford an opportunity for the extra money desperately needed for capital improvements.

"I think I have said enough to justify the reasons for my vote which is a "Yes" vote for Mr. Peebles and I can assure you that it reflects a studied opinion of his qualifications and my action is motivated only for the best interests of the City of Torrance and our people."

Councilman Drale said he had not been speaking against any one making application. He said he did not think Mr. Peebles had any experience as City Manager and did not know whether or not he was an experienced engineer. He reiterated the statement that this City of 105,000 population should have the best man it can get.

Councilman Beasley expressed the opinion that "there is not too much honor among thieves" referring to the fact that every department head we have, with the exception of George Powell, has been radd from some neighboring City - every city does it, he said, and so do we.

Mayor Isen took exception to the remarks of Councilman Beasley and said he does not want to be placed in such a category. Councilman Beasley said he was referring only to hiring employees from another city and he felt sure the intelligent people in the audience would know what he meant. He said he felt the people of Torrance would demand the best in the way of a City Manager and Councilman Vico agreed with him.

Mayor Isen mentioned the length of his service as Mayor and said the people could decide whether he had had any motives in his actions other than for the good of the City, at a great sacrifice of time and money to himself.

Councilman Beasley suggested a perma plaque for the Mayor.

Councilman Vico still abstained from voting and brought up the question of possibility of damage to the the roadbed of Crenshaw by the Homen Trucking Company trucks which haul dirt there day after day. He asked License Inspector Whitacre if Homen has a Torrance business license and was told they do.

Councilman Vico, in answer to Mayor Isen's insistence that he come back to the subject at hand, said he wants more time; that he will come up with an answer later. He said when he does vote it will be with the thought of over a hundred thousand people and he wants to think it over. However, he said not to worry about it - he would decide.

In conclusion, Mayor Isen said the motion has lost for tonight but Councilman Drale said it would be brought up next week.

36. On behalf of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, 1058 Councilman Bradford presented to the Mayor, Council and the City 1000 the second place award in its division for the float in the parade January 2, 1961.

37. Councilman Drale moved that the Council request from the County preferably Mr. Kenneth Hahn's district, that the portion of Prairie Avenue between 182nd and 190th Streets which is one of the worst strips in the City, be improved. The motion was seconded by 1264 Councilman Bradford and there was no objection; so ordered.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance

R. H. Bradford
City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

15.

Council Minutes
March 28, 1961