

I N D E X

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Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary

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Council Minutes
November 14, 1961

Torrance, California
November 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, November 14, 1961, in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Those responding to roll call by Deputy City Clerk Bramhall were: **COUNCILMEN:** Beasley, Benstead, Bradford, Blount, Drale, Vico, and Mayor Isen. **ABSENT:** None. City Manager Peebles and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mrs. Eve Bisou led the salute to our flag.

4. INVOCATION:

Councilman Bradford opened the meeting with an invocation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting held November 7, 1961, were held until next meeting. Because of the Holiday on Friday, November 10, they were late in reaching the councilmen.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

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

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Drale 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 Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

MARBLE ESTATES REZONING:

8. Communication from City Attorney Remelmeyer concerning petition re zoning of Marble property, and submitting:

A. Certificate of the City Clerk showing sufficiency of the referendum petition.

B. Ordinance No. 1277 repealing Ordinance No. 1262, which rezoned the Marble property from M-2 to R-1 and C-1.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall presented the Certificate of Sufficiency of the referendum petition in this case and, on motion of Councilman Drale, seconded by Councilman Bradford, and unanimously carried by roll call vote, it was ordered filed.

Mayor Isen announced that under applicable law the Council is required to reconsider the adoption of Ordinance No. 1262. Councilman Bradford so moved and the motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved that Ordinance No. 1262 be repealed and the motion was seconded by Councilman Bradford. Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1277

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1262 IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH ORDINANCE RECLASSIFIED THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 711 (MARBLE ESTATE-DON WILSON PROPERTY) FROM M-2 TO R-1, AND FROM M-2 TO C-1.

Councilman Drale moved to specifically waive further reading of Ordinance No. 1277. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Bradford moved to approve Ordinance No. 1277 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9. Mr. Charles Deck, President, Torrance Property Owners Association, requesting Council to rescind its action relative to rezoning the 155 acre Marble Estate property from industrial to residential.

Mr. Deck was present and said if the Council is interested in doing any more rezoning from industrial to residential, having the referendum on the April election ballot would give the people a chance to express their views. Councilman Drale said he believes the Council is aware of the people's views now.

In view of the action taken on Item 8, the letter was ordered filed, there being no objection.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

10. Eastern Industries - Laboratory for Electronics, Inc., requesting an exception under Ordinance No. 1208, with recommendation of City Manager Peebles.

City Manager Peebles said Item 23 on tonight's agenda deals with policy on this subject and suggested it be considered first. If the policy matter meets with approval of the Council, Item 10 would be automatically solved.

23. Policy re street work on major City streets.

Councilman Benstead questioned the statement about \$2.50 per lineal foot promised by Laboratory for Electronics, Inc. City Manager Peebles explained that by approving Item 23, the policy would be that the City would put in curbs and gutters on major streets; for that reason, the statement would not be applicable.

Councilman Bradford referred back to the Certi-Bond question which was considered about a month ago and City Manager Peebles said this policy would include Certi-Bond as affecting a major City street.

Mayor Isen further clarified the policy as not obligating the City to install improvements right at the time, but said it could be done at the time of development.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt the policy set forth in Item 23, as follows:

"When a property owner dedicates property to the City of Torrance on a major City street, as defined by the Major City Street Plan, the City construct curbs and make-up pavement as well as provide the necessary engineering to achieve good drainage for this type of construction."

The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Vico,
Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead.

Councilman Benstead inquired what effect this policy would have on cases in the past and Mayor Isen said he did not believe there were many affected major streets. City Manager Peebles said a report could be made on the subject but City Attorney Remelmeyer said past transactions would not be affected.

Item 10, having been accomplished by the passing of Item 23, was then ordered filed and there was no objection.

11. Mrs. Charles N. Mercer letter dated November 3, 1961, requesting enforcement of leash law, with copy of Ordinance No. 843 attached.

Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed. Councilman Benstead said something more than filing should be done and asked if there is not an enforcement agency for the leash law. Councilman Drale mentioned the South Bay Humane Society with whom the City has a two year contract. Mayor Isen said he believes there has been considerable improvement in the situation over the past several years. Councilman Beasley reported complaints of property owners in the oil fields area that there are packs of dogs which travel at night and create problems. Mayor Isen said if the contracting agency is not doing anything about droves of dogs, it seems time to get a new agency. Such occurrences should be reported to management.

Councilman Bradford moved to refer the matter to the City Manager for the purpose of contacting the South Bay Humane Society and insisting upon enforcement. There was no objection.

12. Petition bearing 558 signatures of residents, requesting replacement of services of South Bay Humane Society with those of the SPCA.

There were many citizens present on this item and the spokesman of the group was Mrs. Dorothy Roberts, 1314 Teri Avenue. She said the purpose of the petition is to replace the South Bay Humane Society as a contracting agency, with the SPCA. She outlined the unsanitary conditions which prevail at the dog pound on Earl Street and the lax manner in which the duties are performed, citing many individual instances of dereliction and cases of pets being destroyed without proper notification or cause.

Mayor Isen explained that it is difficult to get bids from other agencies at the time the contract is renewed or put out to bid.

The SPCA which Mrs. Roberts recommends is located on Jefferson Boulevard near Crenshaw and is about a 20 minute drive from Torrance.

City Manager Peebles said although the contract is for two years from July 1, 1961, it provides for termination on thirty days written notice from either party.

Councilman Beasley agreed with Mrs. Roberts regarding the poor conditions at the pound and asked what is being done about the promise of the society to improve the facilities. He asked that the Health Department, the Building Department and the Engineering Department investigate and see that the pound is improved to the point that it is adequate to properly fulfill its functions under the contract. The South Bay Humane Society should be put on notice that unless the facility is brought up to decent standards, the City will terminate its contract.

Mayor Isen said an administrative committee to consist of the Health Officer, the Building Superintendent, the City Engineer and the City Manager should consolidate the complaints and confront the South Bay Humane Society with them and see what can be done to get better service. When a report is made by this committee, Mayor Isen asked that a copy thereof be mailed to Mrs. Roberts.

13. Petition bearing approximately 500 signatures of residents requesting crossing guard at Henrietta and Spencer Streets, with comments of Traffic and Lighting Engineer Whitmer and Lt. Nash, together with excerpts from Traffic Commission minutes and report of Los Angeles County Schools Pedestrian Crossing Guard Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Bennington of 5614 Konya Drive came forward to speak but Mayor Isen moved the request for a crossing guard at this location be granted forthwith. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Isen asked that the Traffic Commission be a little more flexible in carrying out the crossing guard regulations, especially when the cost is negligible.

A recess was declared at 8:30 and the Council reconvened at 8:40 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ENGINEERING DIVISION:

14. Award of Contract - Improvement of Victor Street from Torrance Boulevard 785' northerly. Recommendation of City Engineer Nollac dated November 8, 1961, with concurrence of City Manager Peebles that bid of Miller-Bonsall Company in the amount of \$5,719.73 be accepted. Bid summary attached.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the City Engineer and City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15. ACCEPTANCE OF STREET EASEMENT DEEDS. City Engineer Nollac's transmittal of easement deeds, acceptance of which has been approved by City Attorney Remelmeyer and City Manager Peebles.

Councilman Drale moved to accept the following street easement deeds:

1. Dated October 27, 1961 for the widening of 171st Street over a portion of Lot 53, La Fresa Tract given by B & A Investment Co., Inc.
2. Dated October 24, 1961 for the widening of 238th Street over a portion of Lot 7, Tract No. 1046, given by Norman and Rebecca Young.
3. Dated October 18, 1961 for the widening of Amie Avenue over a portion of Lot 4, Tract No. 3458, given by Leavitt and Edith Glaze and Henry and Marjorie Goodwin.
4. Dated October 27, 1961 for the widening of Atkinson Avenue over a portion of Lot 48, McDonald Tract given by C & N Development Co., Inc.
5. Dated October 21, 1961 for a stairway from Vista Del Parque into El Retiro Park over a portion of Lot 17, Block P, Tract No. 10300, given by Thomas and Doris Roach.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and carried, there being no objection.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING DIVISION:

16. Acceptance of bid - 10,000 pounds of glass spheres (beads). Recommendation that bid of Unimasco, Inc. in the amount of 12¢ per pound be accepted, with signature of concurrence of City Manager Peebles and bid summary.

Councilman Blount moved to concur in the recommendation of the Traffic and Lighting Engineer and City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-206

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR INCLUSION OF THE FULL TIME ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN THE FEDERAL OASDI SYSTEM.

Councilman Drale moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-206. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 61-207

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THE STORAGE OF MICROFILM RECORDS AT BISCAILUZ CENTER.

On inquiry by Councilman Benstead, Director of Finance Scharfman stated the cost of the space planned to be utilized totals \$90 for the five years of the contract and will accommodate 200,000 feet of microfilm.

Councilman Beasley moved to adopt Resolution No. 61-207. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES:

19. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall presented for its second reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 1276

AN ORDINANCE 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"

This deals with permission to use angle parking within the marked stalls in the intersection of Eastwood Avenue and 172nd Street.

Councilman Bradford moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1276 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Vico, Mayor Isen.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale.

20. At the request of Mayor Isen, Deputy City Clerk Bramhall assigned a number and presented for first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 1278

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTIONS 31.61, 31.63 AND 31.64 OF "THE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954" RELATING TO SALES AND USE TAX, AND SUBSTITUTING NEW PROVISIONS THEREFOR.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve Ordinance No. 1278 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Beasley, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

21. Recommendation that certain changes be made in the bus schedule on a six months trial basis and that accurate records be kept and a report made to Council. The change deals principally with increase in number of trips to Los Angeles and return with the purpose of increasing revenue.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur in the recommendation of the Bus Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley. Mayor Isen mentioned the citizens' committee which is also working on this, but expressed the thought that they should work with City management and with the Bus Superintendent for better results and coordination. Councilman Beasley said he and Bus Superintendent Chamberlain attended the meeting at the American Legion hall and the lay bus committee proposes to bring in some recommendations for Council consideration at the next 8:00 o'clock meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. John Mulvihill from the audience asked for copies of the changes proposed and was furnished with them.

22. Recommendation of acceptance of office furniture bids on various accumulated lists of items from Los Angeles Desk Company, Parrish Stationers, International Business Machines, Addressograph Multigraph, and Torrance Desk, all being budgeted items of office furniture.

Mayor Isen asked that all except the items from Torrance Desk Company, be considered together. However, Councilman Bradford asked if the regular bidding procedure had been followed and, while Assistant City Manager Bramhall said it had, the memorandum states "quotations". Councilman Bradford moved to approve the items from the companies other than Torrance Desk, as requested by Mayor Isen, and Councilman Benstead seconded the motion.

Councilman Blount asked to see a bid summary on these items. Before he votes, he said he would like to see what the other bids were.

Councilmen Bradford and Benstead withdrew their motion to approve, and Councilman Beasley moved the City Manager's office furnish the names and bid figures from the companies who had also bid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Drale and there was no objection.

23. This item was handled in connection with Item 10.

24. Miscellaneous recommendations:

A. Expenditures:

1. Recommend authorization to purchase turn-out coats, pants, boots, helmets and gloves for Fire Department total sum of \$422.14, a budget item.
2. \$1,140.10 to Albros Fire Equipment Company for five 15 minute MSA cub oxygen masks with case and audio alarm, and for five 15 minute MSA cub oxygen bottles, for the Fire Department, budget items.
3. \$483.19 to Hild Floor Machine Company for 2 Model G 18" 3/4 hp Motor with polishing brush (buffer waxer) and for two Bassine scrub brushes #19401 for Fire Department, budget items.
4. \$613.60 to Downey Mower and Saw Company for two air brooms #7-W (Lo-Blo) for Water Department, a budget item.
5. \$635.98 to Hersey Sparling Meter Company for two Hersey Model C.T. 2" per Torrance specs for the Water Department, a budget item.
6. \$360 including tax to Lewellen Press for 32,000 printed envelopes for City Departments.

Councilman Benstead asked as to Item 1, how many outfits the figure represents and Chief Benner said four, for the new men.

Councilman Drale moved to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 under Expenditures. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PROCLAMATIONS:

25. Mayor Isen proclaimed November 25, 1961, as "Crusade for Americanism Day".

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

26. City Manager Peebles informed the Council that a resolution has been received approving the \$31,000 for the Carson Street cut through from the County Board of Supervisors.

27. Councilman Beasley asked if something can be done about the brush where the overpass south of South Torrance High School intersects with the service road. As the shrubs and brush presently exist, there is danger to the high school students when they step out onto the service road. He asked that the Traffic Engineer see if traffic can be slowed down on the residential service road.

28. Councilman Beasley said Torrance may be able to acquire about one-half of the right-of-way for the extension of Hawthorne without any cost, together with some free dirt, thus effecting a saving of about \$30,000 or \$40,000.

29. Councilman Drale introduced the Dominguez Channel Arlington Bridge incident and Mrs. Van Wormer of 2119 West 169th Place spoke on behalf of the numerous citizens interested. Councilman Drale read from the report furnished the Council by City Manager Peebles and City Manager Peebles explained that even though the bridge was built at the same time and in connection with the flood control channel, the County Flood Control District claims it is not their responsibility due to the fact that it is a secondary consideration with respect to the flow of water in the channel and that the bridge proper was widened by them for the benefit of Torrance. We actually own the overlying easement and moneys were allocated for widening the bridge.

Councilman Blount did not concur in the District's viewpoint as set forth by City Manager Peebles. He stated there was no bridge at Arlington; only four pipes which were continually clogging and requiring clearance by Torrance City employees. The water backed up to 168th Street in North Torrance on several occasions. The reason for putting in the bridge which presently exists at Arlington, was as a flood control measure, according to statements by the County at that time. Councilman Blount said he can understand that the Los Angeles County Flood District, as a legal conjecture, would certainly try to disown any responsibility although he doubts if they would have done so had the tragic accident not occurred. The next step the Council should take in order to press the issue with the Los Angeles County Flood District, is to turn the matter over to the City Attorney. He said we should insist to the Board of Supervisors that if it is proper to put hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money into these beautiful fences, they should protect the openings which are in effect the bridges. If it takes a motion to so turn this over to the City Attorney, he so moved. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion.

Councilman Beasley asked the City Attorney if the City did not grant easements when the County built the bridge. Mr. Remel-meyer thought the City only signed a contract for the betterments and also contributed toward the cost of the bridge. City Manager Peebles said the betterments were for the various bridges all through the length of the Dominguez Channel within the boundaries of Torrance.

Councilman Bradford considered the returned received by the taxpayers of Torrance for the amount of money spent, to be very meager. Mayor Isen asked if it would not be possible to have Supervisor Chace's deputy come in tomorrow and see what can be done. He added that parents should watch their four-year old children closely.

Referring to the sump at drained Lake Walteria, Councilman Beasley said on two occasions the County Flood Control District has insisted they have complete control and retain control and maintenance.

Mr. Cusimano who was one of the first at the scene of the accident said there are three schools in this neighborhood, the children from which cross this bridge and thus the hazard is compounded.

Roll call vote on Councilman Blount's motion was unanimously favorable.

City Manager Peebles and City Attorney Remelmeyer promised a report for next Council meeting.

Mr. John Risica of 16533 Casimir stated time is of the essence of any report or negotiations - the sooner the better.

30. Jack R. Egan, Airport Manager, stated Mr. Mosher of the Telephone Company was to have been present this evening to talk about the underground cable from the highway into the telephone pole adjacent to El Rancho Motel. Councilman Blount asked that it be put on the agenda for next week as Mr. Mosher did not seem to be in attendance.

31. Mr. Frank Owen of 4819 Emerald Street asked when the work would be done on Emerald Street, stating with all the trucks working in the subdivision, the street is in bad repair and hazardous. City Manager Peebles will check it out and give Mr. Owen a report.

32. Mr. George Tom, speaking of the Arlington bridge matter, asked that the chain link fence be high enough to keep teenagers from walking on the rail because of the danger of falling. Mayor Isen said this hazard should be considered at all seven different locations and suggested an eight foot fence.

There being no further oral communications, the Council was adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

APPROVED:

Albert Isen
Mayor of the City of Torrance

A. H. Bartlett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance
California

Edith Shaffer
Minute Secretary