

CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

Torrance City Council
December 14, 1954
Council called to order at 8 p.m. by Mayor Nicholas O. Draie. Other Councilmen present: Victor E. Benest Jr., Willys G. Blount, Albert Isen, Mervyn M. Schwab. Also present: City Manager George Stevens, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, City Attorney James M. Hall, Fire Chief J. J. Benner, Police Chief Willard H. Haslam.

R. S. Schoonover of Pacific Hills led the pledge of allegiance and Rev. Arthur E. Bello, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church asked the invocation as requested by the Mayor. Minutes of the Dec. 7, 1954 meeting approved.

Hearing on vacation of portion of 244th St. opened, affidavits of publication of hearing notice submitted, one letter of approval read, and hearing closed without further action.

Planning Commission Case 330, the petition of Clyde H. Glenny for variance to permit construction of a drive-in theater on Hawthorne Ave. near 236th St. denied on the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Speaking for the variance was H. W. Hertzberg, attorney representing Glenny. Councilmen voiced objections to the drive-in on the grounds that the site was part of the restricted area of Walteria Lake in which the Council has banned building of all type. Move to deny the permit was carried with three votes. Councilman Benstead voting "no" and Councilman Isen abstaining.

Action of the Traffic Commission in providing parallel parking on a portion of Crenshaw Blvd. between 174th St. and 171st St. sustained by 4-1 vote of Council. Councilman Isen voted "no". Residents of the area had petitioned for change to parallel parking in entire area. Parking in front of business property is now diagonal, all other parallel.

Report of Recreation Director Harry Van Bellechem on the In-Service Training Institute which he attended at Stanford University received and filed.

Petition signed by 803 residents in the Crenshaw Elementary School district requesting a push-button stop and go traffic signal at 187th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. referred to the Board of Education of the Torrance

Unified School District as being a matter occasioned wholly by school traffic.

Copy of Redondo Beach City Council Resolution endorsing formation of a South Bay branch of the YMCA filed as a matter of record.

Copies of a petition filed with the Torrance Planning Commission protesting Change of Zone in area south of 242nd St. filed as a matter of record after Mrs. Paul Slonecker, of 24480 Neece Ave., assured the Councilmen that the original copy was on file with the Planning Commission.

Letter from School Superintendent J. H. Hull stating school district opposition to annexations in general read and filed as a matter of record.

Request of North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. that John Mulvihill, of 3705 W. 171st St., be considered for an appointment to the Planning Commission when a vacancy occurs referred to Councilman Schwab, who will have the next appointment to that body.

Request of William Barnett for license to sell hand-made novelties in the City of Torrance after Jan. 1, 1955, filed without action.

Report of the Civil Service Board on promotional examinations for rank of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and assistant chief of the Torrance Police Department approved by the Council.

Request of National Supply Employees Club, Longren Aircraft Associates Club, Brotherhood of Operative Potters No. 218, and Shell Employees Club to use Civic Auditorium with payment of janitorial fees approved.

Letter from School Superintendent Hull thanking Council for holding up Don-Ja-Ran tract below Hollywood Riviera until a satisfactory school site could be obtained and stating that the district found it impossible to divert funds from urgent school problems for traffic signals read and filed. Various comments were made on the fact that both subjects were handled in the let-shaw Blvd. referred to the Board of Education, which consisted of a single sentence.

Letter from the California Division of Highways read stating that the state had approved installation of traffic signals at 174th St. and Crenshaw Ave. with the understanding that the cost of the installation could be shared by state and city. Planning and details of lights to be worked out between the two agencies in the near future.

Invitation from Councilman E. W. Linaker of Manhattan Beach for city officials to attend dedication of new fire station in that city read and filed. Dedication was last Sunday.

Recommendation of John R. Patrick, assistant to the city engineer, that Bob Bosnyak be given a 30-day extension on contract for North Torrance Sewer District No. 2 because of soil and weather conditions, approved.

Personnel recommendations of City Manager approved.

Appropriation of \$6,695.02 to Forsythe Construction Co. for improvements on Ashley Ave. approved on the recommendation of City Manager.

Appropriation of \$9,885.45 to Zavas and Sons for construction of a sanitary sewer along Crenshaw Blvd. from Lomita Blvd. to 2300 feet south thereof at service new Airport Industrial development approved on recommendation of City Manager.

Recommendations of the Planning Commission on various matters referred to City Manager for placing on Council agenda at his discretion concerning urgency of items. Matters included recommendations on annexation of El Nido, Rolling Hills, Riviera Precinct; rezoning of Victor beach area; amending Land Use Ordinance 612 to provide for erection of church directional signs; amending same ordinance to require future commercial de-

velopment to provide off-street parking; and recommending approval of Torrance Unified School District selection of school site south of 182nd St. along Florence Ave. in North Torrance.

Resolution 2652 authorizing execution of Community Recreation Agreement with County of Los Angeles adopted.

Resolution 2653 authorizing execution of contract with R. E. Payne for construction of new Central Fire Station approved.

Ordinance 715 establishing traffic control measures and setting time limits on the recently installed parking meters adopted as an urgency ordinance by 4-1 vote with Councilman Benstead dissenting.

Recommendation of City Manager that the city reimburse Paul's Chevrolet for the police car demolished on Pacific Coast Hwy. last month approved. Reimbursement will be at nominal value less salvage value of demolished vehicle.

Offer of AAA Scrap Metal Salvage Co. Inc. at 190th and Normandie to purchase the city's 1924 American La-France ladder truck for \$400 accepted by the Council on the recommendation of Fire Chief Benner and City Manager Stevens that it was a fair offer and as much as the city could hope to obtain for the ancient vehicle. A spokesman for the firm told the Council that his company did not plan to scrap the vehicle but wished to preserve it.

City Attorney Hull reported that the letter stating the intentions of John Wiley Jones Co. to remove their bottling operation from the present Border Ave. plant to a location outside the city with terms of a previous agreement with the city. The local plant will continue to be used as office and sealed tank storage of chlorine according to the agreement. A written opinion on the matter was asked from Hall. He also was instructed to inform the

management of the firm of the status of the agreement.

City Attorney Hall reported that the work of codifying Torrance City Ordinances was "coming along," but that it had been an enormous task. He also noted that it was his opinion that the city received a "real bargain" in the contract for the work.

Councilman Isen moved and it was carried that Water Superintendent Angus McVicar be instructed to take over service of water to the Arlington Heights home development in North Torrance on Jan. 3, 1955, and that a letter be sent by registered mail with a return notice of receipt notifying the officials of Moneta Water Co. of the Council's action and advising them of the Jan. 3 date for switching the service. He also included in his motion a statement authorizing the water superintendent to give whatever notice he deemed appropriate to homeowners who would be affected by the change in service that water service may be interrupted during the day of Jan. 3. He asked that the water superintendent take what measures he thought best with regards to making a final meter reading for Moneta Water Co. in the event that officials of that firm chose not to cooperate with the city in the matter. All items carried.

Councilman Isen recommended that the pro-rata sale of city business licenses be halted and that persons applying for a city business license for the calendar year — even in December — be charged for the entire year. The matter was referred to City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Isen commented that the city-owned parking lot at Cravens and El Prado needed regulation and that parking meters may be needed on the lot. The Council will study this proposal.

Councilman Isen suggested that the center parking plan for Cabrillo Ave. had been sufficiently

tested and that a permanent curb should be installed down the middle of the street to separate parking lanes. City Manager Stevens said the city street crews were scheduled ahead for some time and that it was his opinion that the curbing should be installed by bid. The recommendation was approved and ordered. The City Engineer will do the preliminary engineering.

Councilman Isen commented on the unsightly fence surrounding the property at 215th St. and Cabrillo Ave., scene of a waste products company fire last Memorial Day, and asked if it could be cleaned up. City Attorney Hall reported that court action had been instituted by City Prosecutor Boris S. Woolley on the whole matter and that he would report the progress of the case to the Council next week.

Councilman Isen told other members of the Council that he was disturbed with the city's Civil Service Board over the signing of an affidavit concerning the matter of two former city officials, James B. Dresser, and Cecil Smith, who seek reinstatement to their former city jobs.

DEC. 16, 1954 TORRANCE HERALD Three



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