

Parking District Eyed Downtown

Formation of a parking assessment district for the main shopping section has been asked by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. In a joint city-chamber conference, the Title Insurance and Trust Co. has been awarded \$200 for a title search and appraisal of more than 200 lots comprising the downtown shopping center.

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CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

Torrance City Council
January 4, 1955
Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Nicholas O. Draie. Councilmen present: Victor E. Benstead Jr., Willys Blount, Albert Isen, Myrtle M. Schwab, and Mayor Draie. Others present: City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, City Attorney James M. Hall, City Manager George Stevens. Pledge of allegiance led by Reid Bundy, invocation offered by Councilman Schwab. Minutes of Dec. 28, 1954 meeting approved.

City Clerk Bartlett reported that the city's \$450,000 bond issue had been received and deposited at the Bank of America.

A request for a free business license by the Department of the Blind, State of California, granted.

Employment of a temporary clerk to assist with the issuance of 1955 business licenses approved on the recommendation of City Clerk.

A refund of \$5500 from the federal government toward the purchase of the city's new fire truck was accepted by the Council. The government assists the city in paying for such equipment and reserves the right to call out such equipment in the event of a national emergency. "They would do it anyway," City Manager Stevens said in recommending that the city accept the payment.

A communication from City Prosecutor Boris S. Woolley recommending that all apartment buildings designed to be occupied as furnished living quarters be required to provide vented heating systems read and City Attorney Hall instructed to draw up an ordinance providing for this requirement.

Communications from the First Methodist Church and the fields of the Potters local of American-Standard thanking the Council for making the Civic Auditorium available for Christmas functions for the groups read and filed as a matter of record.

Recommendation of Fire Chief J. J. Bennett that city-owned buildings used as public meeting places be posted with signs giving the maximum number of persons permitted in the building at one time in accordance

with state codes approved. Under the plan, maximum attendance at the Civic Auditorium will be 914 persons. McMasters hall in north Torrance 195, El Retiro Park hall in southwest Torrance 212, and Waleria Recreation Park hall in south Torrance 123.

Letter from John Wiley Jones Co. Manager W. P. Fitzgerald outlining firm's intention to store bottled chlorine gas at their Border Ave. plant after the main operations of the plant are moved out of the city read to Council. City Attorney Hall reported that this was in keeping with the company's agreement with the city to cease the blending and bottling of the material here.

Cal Morgan, manager of South Shore Motors, Torrance branch, requested that the city install parking meters along Cabrillo Ave. in front of the company's new lot at 1311 Cabrillo. City Manager Stevens instructed to survey the area and make a recommendation to the Council.

A letter from Regional Water Control Board No. 4 concerning recreational beaches in Los Angeles County filed without reading. No reference made to contents of letter.

The city's bicycle licensing ordinance repealed by 4-1 vote of Council. A voluntary registration system will be maintained by Police Department whereby bicycle owners may register the bicycles by serial number. A nominal charge of 25 cents will be levied for this service. Registration will not be compulsory and no licenses will be issued.

A meeting with school board members to discuss city school business was set by Councilmen for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at a south Torrance restaurant.

Lease of a coin sorter and counter to handle the coins collected by the city's parking meters approved on a three months basis for \$100. The rental fee can be applied to the \$27 purchase price of the equipment at the end of three months if the city desires to purchase it, City Manager Stevens reported.

Purchase of a five-acre park site in the new west Torrance development of the Milton H. Kaufman Co. for approximately \$29,000 was approved by the Council. At the same time, the Council agreed to assist the developer with the paving of Anza Ave. between Torrance Blvd. and Sepulveda in another tract planned by Kaufman. The street is a major county highway.

Resolution 2699 authorizing agreement with G.R. G. Inc. for repayment of costs of an off-site sewer adopted by Council.

Results of a civil service examination for the newly created position of Superintendent of Building announced by City Manager Stevens. Top three men on the list will be interviewed by Stevens this week and a recommendation given the Councilmen next week. John Russell, who has been acting in that capacity on loan from the County will be offered a six month contract to remain on the job with the new man.

Resolution 2670 authorizing execution of grant of easement from city to Southern California Edison Co. adopted.

Ordinance 718 ordering vacation of portions of Newton Ave.

Annexation

(Continued from Page 1)
city holders to the City Council, latest proposition was to have the city annex virtually the entire uninhabited portion of the large hill area. Boundaries roughly would extend from the present Dicalite mine in South Torrance, across a 100-foot strip past Palos Verdes Dr. North, then spreading southward to the Pacific Ocean.

Westward, the property extends to the Palos Verdes City limits, and eastward to a line along Palos Verdes Dr. East in the Miralote section, above San Pedro. Skirted are the Rolling Hills and Portuguese Bend residential communities.

Ordinance 721 repealing certain Civil Service ordinances and adopting a single comprehensive personnel ordinance defeated as urgency ordinance when its adopted motion carried only by a 3-2 vote. Councilmen Benstead and Draie voted against the measure. It will now be reintroduced as a regular ordinance and as such can be adopted by a majority vote, according to a ruling by City Attorney Hall.

Ordinance 724 adopted at first reading as urgency ordinance setting forth job classification and specifications for Superintendent of Building and for building inspectors in city.

Ordinance 725, setting forth restrictions for building of structures on adobe soil, adopted as urgency measure.

City Attorney Hall instructed to rule on obligation of city and proposed developer of airport on effective date of lease for purposes of lease rental payments.

A recommendation that the wording of airport leases be changed in the future to allow the County Assessor to consider value of land to leases in making assessments of real property on city-owned land approved.

Approval of City Attorney's recommendation that the city enter condemnation proceedings on whatever rights the Moneta Water Co. might have in the area it serves in North Torrance voted by Council.

City Attorney Hall reported that the Department of Defense should make a ruling on the city's request for modification of the government restrictions on the property about Jan. 17. At the same time, he reported that a representative of The General Services Administration would be here on Monday to inspect the property with reference to surface rights.

On the recommendation of City Attorney Hall, Council approved extension of option on Airport triangle to Store Properties, Inc., to six months from date.

Recommendation of City Attorney that the city engage a full time attorney, preferably one just beginning a practice, to serve as assistant City Attorney approved after discussion on manner of choosing the candidate. Hall suggested that the assistant be given the job of handling city prosecutor duties, and be an advisor to city commissions and boards in addition to routine city business in the office.

An annual audit of Torrance Municipal Airport was ordered by the Council on the motion of Councilman Benstead.

Annexation of a triangle of land adjacent to Redondo Beach on the west limits of Torrance is awaiting discussions of move with Del Amo Estate officials, owners of the property, the City Manager reported.

Jobless Federal Workers Handled In Local Office

Unemployment insurance for former Federal civilian employees will be handled at the local office of the Department of Employment, as well as state claimants. Winona Ellis, manager, announced yesterday.

The state agency will be an agent of the Federal government in administering the new program, which gives former employees of the government the same protection against wage loss now available to workers in private industry.

Filing claims under the program will be similar to procedures used for state work, she said. Eligible persons will receive \$10 to \$50 a week, depending on prior earnings.

Applicants must be available for work, and must meet conditions. Social security cards and two forms issued when workers left their last jobs should be brought along, she pointed out. Claimants already getting unemployment insurance may benefit from the new federal law, if they also had government jobs during the base periods of their state claims.

Although federal employment was outside of California, she said, applicants may file claims here.

Scout Bids Sought for New Courses

Nominations are now in order for boys to attend the Junior Leader Training course for Scouts and Explorers, Dr. Howard A. Wood, district chairman, said yesterday.

For the fourth year the Sears, Roebuck Foundation will sponsor six weeks of training at Philmont Scout Ranch for two members, and eight from each district will go to Lake Arrowhead camps.

Each unit of the Harbor district will nominate one boy for the course, and a series of eliminations will follow, according to Kenneth Leatherman, training chairman.

Car Windows Taken
Four windows were taken from his Jeepster auto when it was parked at 1809 W. 24th St., Robert O'Beiz reported to Torrance police.

Local Bank Tells Rise In Deposits

Total deposits at the California Bank increased more than \$40,000,000 during 1954 to reach a record level of \$32,241,183. Dec. 31, A. O. Oteasa, vice president of the Torrance office, reported yesterday.

Bank resources rose from \$28,027,584 to \$32,106,504 during the year, he said. Loans and discounts of \$213,851,324 were 20 percent higher than a year ago. Final net profits rose from \$2,152,154 to \$2,977,518, or an increase of 88 cents a share, to \$3.57. Dividends of \$1,320,000 were paid to shareholders. This totaled \$1.25 per share on \$900,000 shares, but no dividends were paid on 201,000 shares in issue late in the year.

On Dec. 31, capital funds were \$36,799,807, consisting of \$12,500,000 capital stock, \$17,500,000 surplus, and \$6,799,807 in undivided profits.

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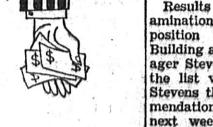
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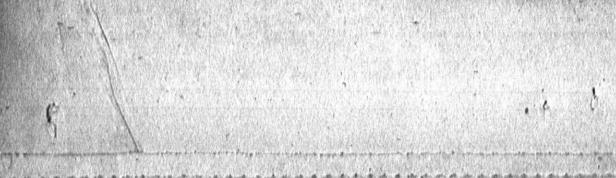
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