

City Council Proceedings

Torrance City Council
March 22, 1955

Council called to order at 8 p.m. by Mayor Nicholas O. Draie. Councilmen present: Victor E. Benstead Jr., Willys G. Blount, Albert Isen, Mervin Schwab, and Mayor Draie. Others present: Deputy City Clerk I. J. Hallanger, City Attorney James M. Hall, City Manager George Stevens, City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop, Planning Commission Secretary George Powell, Fire Chief J. J. Benner, and Police Chief Willard Haslam.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Sam Levy, Rev. Harry Shippel of the First Christian Church gave the opening invocation. Minutes of the March 15 regular meeting approved.

Scheduled hearing on a debt limit report for improvement of 203rd St. from Crenshaw Blvd. to a point 1734 feet east of Crenshaw opened without written or oral protest. Resolution No. 2701, a resolution of intention for the improvement of the property, adopted at the following closing of the hearing.

Resolution of intention No. 2695 on vacation of streets in tract 10307 adopted following a hearing at which no protest was entered. City Attorney Hall instructed to draw up necessary ordinance vacating the streets.

Request of the Women's Auxiliary of the Torrance Memorial Hospital for permission to hold a rummage sale April 1 and 2 in the Torrance Theater Building, 1401 Sartori, granted.

Council voted to enter a protest to the Public Utilities Commission on a request of the California Water Service Co. for an increase in rate.

Letter from Ben N. Scott, representing Retail Clerks International Association Local 906 supporting legal measures to enforce fencing of oil well property within the city referred to the city attorney for consideration in the ordinances now under preparation by his office.

Claim for damage to his automobile submitted by Joseph L. Tomchak, of 4626 Pacific Coast Hwy., which occurred at 240th St. and Hawthorne Ave. on the roadway now under construction, denied and referred to the State of California and the private contractor doing the road construction. City Clerk instructed to notify Mr. Tomchak of the action.

Petition containing 103 signatures stating that residents in the "neighborhood of the new proposed park adjacent to Seaside School are opposed to any use of this property for other than that of a playground for children," received by the Council and referred to the Recreation Commission.

Copy of resolution of the City of Santa Monica requesting that immediate action be taken to discontinue the discharge of raw sewage into Ballona Creek referred to the city manager and city attorney for study and a recommendation to the Council.

Invitation from California

Sewage and Industrial Wastes Assoc. to attend a conference in Riverside on April 28, 29, and 30 referred to the city manager for a recommendation.

Request of Board of Supervisors that city adopt ordinance abolishing single chamber incinerators within the city by July 1, 1955 tabled when Mayor Draie reported that the July 1 deadline had been canceled.

Letter from Torrance HERALD concerning deadlines for publication of legal matters of the city filed as a matter of record.

Request of Long Beach Mayor George Vermillion that the city adopt a resolution protesting certain bills before the Legislature concerning Tideland monies referred to the city attorney for preparation of a suitable resolution on his recommendation that the Legislature be requested to divert Tideland funds for purposes other than beaches and parks referred to the city manager, city attorney, and Recreation Commission for a recommendation.

Civil Service Board request that members be permitted to attend a regional conference in Lake County in May approved with the condition that expenses would be allowed for two members or one member and the secretary.

Letter from C. C. Duncan, president of the Downtown Retail Merchants' Assoc. requesting that action to obtain new parking facilities in downtown Torrance be expedited was filed with the council. The council was preparing to take the first step in forming an assessment district and acquire parking sites as the result of the report submitted by the Parking Committee.

Letter from Tony Paravano agreeing to provide sewer facilities to a new north Torrance tract under consideration filed for the record.

Resolution 2691 authorizing acceptance of a permit for a driveway from the Ellinwood school site area adopted after a letter from the Torrance Unified School District offering to pay for the installation of the drain made part of the record.

Tentative tract map No. 21512 held over from March 15 meeting approved.

Final tract map for 29 homes submitted by Milton Kaufman approved.

Tentative tract map No. 21645 approved with the stipulation that the city be able to convert a drainage easement at 170th St. and Casimir Ave. to permit widening of the street to full paving width and that the subdivider be required to improve the additional 20 feet made available by the easement. It was also provided that a section of 170th St. proposed as a 60-foot street be widened to a full street with the development of an adjoining subdivision.

A new ordinance setting building lot minimums at 6500 square feet with a minimum of 60 foot frontage was requested from the city attorney.

Recommendation that the city require all subdividers to provide ornamental street lighting in all new tracts held over by the Council for further study on the recommendation of the City Manager.

Recommendation that a wal-

or be granted on the front setbacks in Tract 21173 located on the perimeter of a cul-de-sac in view of the possible extension of the street in the future tabled by the Council.

Recommendations of the Planning Commission for several changes in the city's land use ordinance which governs access roads to dwelling lots, rezoning of subdivided property, and provision for parking for public and commercial buildings put on a 5 p.m. agenda for discussion by the Council on April 5.

Resolution 2702 accepting grant deed to property in southwest Torrance for new fire station adopted. City Manager Stevens authorized to close escrow on the property.

Resolution No. 2703 stating city's opposition to Colorado River Basin projects and the Fryingpan - Arkansas project adopted and copies ordered sent to California representatives in Congress.

Resolution No. 2704 requesting repeal of agreement with the County of Los Angeles for allocation of recreation funds adopted. Funds requested total \$4822.

Ordinance No. 733 exempting the sale of property by manufacturers from sales tax where such property is to be transported outside the city without undue delay adopted at its second reading. Councilman Isen and Benstead opposed the measure.

Ordinance No. 731 establishing the Airport Commission adopted on the motion of Councilman Benstead who asked for the deletion of a section which stated that nothing in the ordinance would amend, restrict, modify, or interfere with an agreement between the city and Collins-Dietrich Air Service, operators of the airport. Councilmen Blount and Schwab voted against the ordinance on the grounds that the section should not be deleted. A substituted section named the city attorney and city manager ex-officio members of the commission. It must be presented to the Council again before final adoption.

Ordinance 734 establishing certain traffic control measures adopted as urgency ordinance at its first reading.

Ordinance 736 reclassifying property in Planning Commission Case 331 introduced and adopted.

Ordinance 736 reclassifying property in Planning Commission Case 334 introduced and adopted.

Ordinance 737 regulating establishment of trailer parks and governing trailer coaches and camp cars introduced and adopted.

Resolution 2694 authorizing execution of quit claim deeds on the easements held by the city in south Torrance for abandoned water mains adopted.

City Manager Stevens reported that meetings with the Dominguez Water Co. and the principals of Hody's Restaurants to discuss matters pertaining to the city had been scheduled for next week.

City Attorney Hall was granted authority to employ Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeier for a two month period at a salary of \$400 a month beginning March 28. Remelmeier will perform duties as an assistant city attorney during that period.

On the recommendation of the city attorney, the Council canceled the April 5 public hearing on annexation of 6500 acres known as the Rolling Hills Addition. Hall told the Councilmen that "I am convinced that we'll either have to start all over again, or adopt another procedure."

Purchase of the low lot on Paseo de Gracia for \$2500 was approved on the recommendation of the city attorney.

Offer of George Binder to make two parking areas available to the city was approved and the city attorney instructed to draw up a suitable contract.

Assessment district and off-street parking report submitted earlier by Chairman C. T. Rippey of the parking committee ac-

cepted and city attorney instructed to commence proceedings on formation of an assessment district in the downtown area to finance purchase of off-street parking lots.

The Council adjourned until its next scheduled meeting, 5:30 p.m., March 29.

Much of State's Factory Output Located in Area

Nearly 59 per cent of the State's factory output is now concentrated in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, according to the Research Department of the California State Chamber of Commerce. Much of this is in the industrial city of Torrance.

Since Feb. 1954, Los Angeles has ranked third largest in the nation in terms of manufacturing employment, surpassing metropolitan Detroit. This was revealed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Manufacturing employment has increased in the Los Angeles metropolitan area from 387,143 in 1947 to 611,400 in 1953, a rise of 66 per cent within the six year period as compared to a statewide increase of only 47 per cent.

Ino its recently published "Economic Survey of California and Its Counties, 1954" the Chamber noted that from January, 1947 through June, 1954, 4,080 firms have expanded their facilities or located new plants within Los Angeles County, for a combined capital investment of \$1,319,887,917.

Investments increased since January, 1951, six months after the start of the Korean War — through June, 1954, total capital investments in new plants and expansions have increased at a phenomenal rate, reaching a cumulative total of \$980,883,167, during three and one-half year period.

Los Angeles is one of the State's 68 counties covered individually in the 300 page book, published every four years by the State of California as a section of its Blue Book. The data, collected and compiled by the State Chamber, is used by marketing and business research agencies, management consulting, factory locating services, libraries and information services throughout the country. Information on each county includes population, income, manufacturing, mining, business, agriculture, resources and trends. In an effort to give a comprehensive picture of each county in the State, the survey includes a brief account of each county's history, topography, climate and tourist attractions. Uniform tables on economic data also afford quick and easy comparison.

Advantages Told In its report on Los Angeles County, the Chamber had this to say about its favorable industrial "climate": "The long term factors which have led to rapid development and expansion of manufacturing industries in the Los Angeles metropolitan area primarily have been industrial location advantages in the field of distribution, marketing, supplemented by such production advantages as relatively low-cost fuel and electric power, some favorable factors of labor supply and efficiency which are related to the climatic and other attractions of the area."

In relation to other major metropolitan areas of the Nation, the Los Angeles area led in rate of increase in number of manufacturing plants, and value added between 1939 and 1947. It ranked third in the number of establishments and fifth in value added by manufacture. In specific industries, the area ranked first in production of aircraft and parts, pumps and compressors, refrigeration equipment and machinery and canned sea food."

New High in 1953 Leading industry in the area, the Chamber noted, was transportation and equipment, averaging 193,400 workers in 1953. The most striking increase in employment was in aircraft parts where employment increased from 65,531 in 1947 to 167,400 in 1953. According to the census of manufacturers, transportation and equipment industries reached an all time high in 1953 when the value added by manufacturers totaled \$1,432,901,000.

Commenting on the great industrial strides made by the entire Southern California region, the State Chamber said:

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