

Torrance, California
September 26, 1939

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday evening, September 26, 1939 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 12, 1939 be approved as written. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, advising that a special announcement of the Torrance Factory Frolic will be made on Radio Station KNX, Los Angeles, during the Scattergood Baines Radio Program September 27, 1939 between 2:45 and 3:00 P.M.

A communication was read from the J. N. Pyles National Detective Service, commending Chief of Police Stroh and Motorcycle Officer Percy Bennett for their good work and wholehearted cooperation in handling oil field investigations.

A communication was read from the City-Wide Improvement Association, expressing appreciation of the action taken by the City Council in deciding to acquire the Pacific Electric Railway Company right-of-way on Cabrillo Avenue.

A communication was read from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, acknowledging receipt of letter of September 18, 1939 advising that the offer of the Pacific Electric Railway with reference to purchase of Cabrillo Avenue right-of-way was accepted by the City of Torrance.

It was suggested that Mr. L. J. Young, City Engineer, confer with Mr. E. C. Johnson, Chief Engineer of Pacific Electric Railway Company, and agree upon a plan of handling removal work of the track and overhead.

The matter was referred to Mr. Young to contact Mr. Johnson and report at the next meeting.

A communication was read from the Palos Verdes Homes Association regarding public transportation for Palos Verdes Estates and requesting that their committee be given an opportunity to meet with a committee appointed by the City Council for discussion of the matter.

Referred to the committee which was appointed to confer with the Gardena City Council relative to their proposed municipal bus service, of which committee Councilman McGuire is Chairman.

A communication was read from J. H. Stroh, Chief of Police, together with a notice served on Fred Crawford temporarily revoking his license to operate a pool hall at 1214 El Prado Street in the City of Torrance. Chief Stroh recommended that Fred Crawford be notified to appear at a fixed time before the City Council and show cause why his license should not be permanently revoked and that after due hearing his license be permanently revoked.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh's recommendation be complied with and that Mr. Fred Crawford be notified to appear before the City Council October 3, 1939 at 7:45 P.M. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Leonard J. Young, City Engineer, together with estimates of the cost of installing sewers and street improvements in the area west of Crenshaw Boulevard known as Vista Highlands. The total sewer cost was given as \$35,423.00. Mayor Tolson advised that the Sanitation District has already made application for a W.P.A. project to put in the trunk line.

Clerk Bartlett read the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Library of the City of Torrance, the following recommendations having been made. (1) that the firm of Bill and Scotty inspect the roof at the library, (2) that some awning company be contacted for recommendations for the protection of the front doors of the library from rain, (3) that the City Council be requested to have the plans for the Library at Walteria ready for the next Library Board meeting to be held October 10, 1939, (4) that the lady employed part time in the library be paid the average wage of city employees (sixty-seven and one-half cents per hour), to be retroactive from the day of employment by the City.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes be filed. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1363

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DESIGNATING THE CITY CLERK AS THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY FOR MAKING OUT THE REPORTS OF EARNINGS OF CITY EMPLOYEES TO BE FILED WITH THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

Councilman McGuire moved that Resolution No. 1363 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1364

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING PLAN NO. 1 FOR THE RETURN TO THE TAX ROLL OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY.

Attorney McCall stated the plan is all outlined as approved by the title companies and is now ready to submit to the Board of Supervisors with a resolution of the City Council.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1364 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Young reported he had investigated the request of the Walteria Civic Association relative to opening of Park Street from 240th to 242nd Street. He said the street would have to go through open acreage that is unsubdivided. He added that the normal procedure would be to wait until the property is subdivided, at which time it is possible the street would be dedicated in the proper location.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Young be instructed to notify the Walteria Civic Association to this effect. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Young presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 314

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND CREATING AND ESTABLISHING FIRE ZONES.

Councilman Powell moved that Ordinance No. 314 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell asked Attorney McCall to report regarding the tentative ordinance submitted at the last meeting by a number of merchants relative to regulating hours of retail food stores. He stated that the sympathies of the City Council are with the merchants in this endeavor, but added that the legality of such a step must be given due consideration.

Attorney McCall reported he had checked the law covering this point and had presented the matter at the Oakland Convention to the attorneys of the entire State of California. They had been of the opinion that such an ordinance could not be successfully enforced, having been tried in various cities and been held unconstitutional. In view of these facts, Attorney McCall stated that, in his opinion, an ordinance requiring stores to close at a specified hour could not be enforced.

Mayor Tolson added he had talked to Louis Burke, Attorney for the State League of Municipalities, who had advised very strongly against adoption of such an ordinance, stating the same facts as outlined by Attorney McCall.

Attorney McCall said that every official at the Oakland Convention was in favor of regulation and that it might be possible to create such legislation, but it is not within the power of the City Council to so legislate.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$78.24, plus sales tax, be made for 300' 3/4" hose for the Park Department. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman McGuire moved that the city automobile fleet insurance be renewed as of October 13, 1939. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman McGuire moved that J. O. Bishop and Mr. Bunje be designated as delegates to attend the Civil Service Convention at San Francisco with expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Murray moved that the City Clerk be authorized to sell for \$500.00 Lots 15 and 16, Block 52, Torrance Tract to the Foursquare Gospel Church of Torrance for the purpose of erecting a church building. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$135.00 be made to replace broken lamp pole at Carson and Acacia Streets. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that Chief of Police J. H. Stroh and Judge Lessing be authorized to attend the Police Chiefs' Convention at San Francisco with expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$279.28 be made for installation of the three fire hydrants requested by the Fire Department at a previous meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

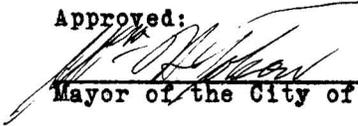
Mr. Joel Hagberg of Waleria addressed the Council regarding a matter which he asserted happened during the last gubernatorial election. He also asserted that he would not pay the dog license fee required as long as the South Bay Humane Society is keeping the full amount of the collections, maintaining that the City should keep a portion thereof.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:30 P.M., upon motion of Councilman McGuire, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to October 3, 1939 at 7:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:


Mayor of the City of Torrance