

Torrance, California
November 14, 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, November 14, 1939 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilman: Hitchcock.

Councilman Murray moved that the minutes of a regular meeting held October 24, 1939 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the State Relief Administration, advising that it has become necessary to specify an expiration date in all contracts with S.R.A. and suggesting June 30, 1940 as the expiration date of Torrance Project No. 1612.

Councilman McGuire moved that June 30, 1940 be accepted as the expiration date of the contract between the City of Torrance and the State Relief Administration covering Project No. 1612. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, addressed to Leonard J. Young, was read, acknowledging receipt of letters of October 17 and October 27 concerning program for removing tracks and other facilities on Cabrillo Avenue upon the purchase of right of way thereon by the City of Torrance. It advised further that Pacific Electric Railway Company will communicate with the City Engineer at a later date after the matter has received due consideration.

A communication addressed to L. J. Young from the State of California Department of Public Works was read, advising that Work Order 27XM74 in the amount of \$200.00 had been issued to defray the cost of surveys and plans by the City on Hawthorne Avenue (State Highway Route 164) from Torrance Boulevard to the North City Limits. Another communication from the Department of Public Works, addressed to District Engineers, was read, advising that an apportionment of \$2,307.27 had been made as the October 1939 quarterly payment of 1/4 cent gas tax allocation for expenditure on streets of major importance. It was decided to withhold action until the return of Mr. Hitchcock.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of order adopted by the Board approving the comprehensive plan for the drainage development of Gardena Valley, and authorizing submission of same to various municipalities within the affected area for similar adoption.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of resolution adopted by the Board, declaring portions of Elena Avenue, Redondo-Wilmington Road and other streets within the City of Torrance to be part of the County System of Highways and requesting consent for improvement of the County.

A communication was read from the Southwest Cities Flood Control Association, urging adoption of a resolution approving the drainage of Nigger Slough.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1375

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE COMPRE-
HENSIVE PLAN FOR DRAINAGE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE GARDENA VALLEY.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1375 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

An invitation to the Torrance Municipal Band to participate in the Third Annual Band Review and Musical Salute to Santa Claus to be held at Long Beach, California on November 24, 1939 was read. Referred to the Chamber of Commerce for recommendation.

A communication was read from Angel Molinar, #11 203rd Street, requesting permission to operate a pool hall in Pueblo. Councilman Murray moved that the request be referred to the Chief of Police for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Clinton Keifert and Clinton Keifert, asking that something be done about the condition of Elm Street between Torrance Boulevard and Carson Street. A request for a street light on the corner of Eldorado and Elm Street was submitted. Referred to the City Engineer for recommendation.

A communication was read from Jack Stanley Dillon, 1617 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, requesting permission to appear before the City Council and give a physical cultural demonstration and brief outline of his activities, since, he said, the business license ordinance contains no provision for his method of operation.

Mayor Tolson stated he could see no objection to the activity if it is conducted properly on a vacant lot.

Mayor Tolson called Mr. Dillon at this time, but Mr. Dillon being absent, no action was taken.

A communication was read from the Dominguez Land Corporation, offering Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Tract 5944 (located at Huber and 213th Streets) for sale. It was decided to investigate the matter further before making any decision.

A petition bearing 26 signatures was read, asking that every effort be made to eliminate the flood water menace at the intersection of 231st Street and Narbonne Avenue.

Engineer Young advised that dry wells had served the purpose very well until the recent oil activity, at which time oil companies had allowed sump oil to flow into the wells, clogging them and destroying their usefulness. However, he added, the wells had been cleaned since that time and were expected to function normally.

Mr. Luck in the audience said the condition is a very grievous one and asked that some definite steps be taken to remedy it.

There was a short discussion on the matter, Councilman Powell, Engineer Young, Mayor Tolson and Mr. Luck participating. Councilman Powell said the matter should receive prompt attention and be remedied if possible.

The matter was finally referred to the Engineer to obtain prices and investigate the matter thoroughly.

A communication from the office of City Attorney McCall was read, recommending that the bill of Mr. James A. Hudson for damages to his property be denied.

Mrs. Hudson in the audience again voiced her objection to the

manner of handling the drainage problem in North Torrance, stating that their property had been damaged far in excess of the bill presented to the City. She said the drainage ditch put in by the County or State had been filled by the City, thereby flooding all the property in time of storm.

Councilman Powell suggested that if the pipe which had been installed for drainage purposes were lowered, he felt the water would drain off with little trouble. Engineer Young said the pipe cannot be laid below the grade of the ditch, because it would become filled with silt in a short time.

Mr. Keith substantiated Mr. Hudson's statements and urged that something be done immediately to remedy the condition. Mr. Klusman also added a few remarks pertaining to the matter.

Clerk Bartlett presented a report covering the activities of Mr. Bernhard C. Bunje and Mr. J. O. Bishop, Civil Service Board members, at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada held October 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1939.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, tendering his resignation as Director of Public Safety, it being stipulated that acceptance of said resignation will not affect his Civil Service status and Captain of the Torrance Police Department which he had retained during the time served as Director of Public Safety.

He also recommended that the present Acting Chief of the Torrance Fire Department be appointed as Chief of that Department. Councilman McGuire moved that the matter be referred to the Civil Service Board and the City Council for consideration. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Young reported regarding the request of the Walteria Civil Association for installation of 4-way stop signs at the corner of Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard, advising that the recommendation must be made by the Department of Public Works, who require that a traffic count be made before considering the matter. He said the count could be made for approximately \$25.00.

Councilman McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$25.00 be made for a traffic count at the corner of Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard, to be paid from 1/4-cent Gasoline Tax Funds. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Engineer Young reported regarding cost of installing culverts at 236th Street and Lomita Boulevard, advising that the culverts would cost about \$1,000.00 each. He recommended that only one culvert be installed at this time, allowing a reasonable time for observation of performance before installing the second culvert.

Referred to the Street Department for recommendation.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council request an impartial appraisal of the Mack Type 95 one thousand gallon Triple Combination Pumping Engine, recently acquired by the City of Torrance, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Safety Engineer, Mr. Hodge, and the County Fire Department Master Mechanic, Mr. Powelson. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman McGuire requested that the white traffic lines on the streets be repainted, especially on Western Avenue from 190th Street to the edge of the City of Gardena. Referred to the Street Department.

Councilman McGuire stated that, upon his request, the City Engineer had made a survey of the street lighting system in the City of Torrance, which he feels might be improved without a great deal of expense.

Councilman McGuire advised he had visited the Whittier Recreation Center and found it to be very excellent. He said it is sponsored by the City of Whittier and the Police Department and suggested that the City of Torrance might be interested in sponsoring a similar recreational program. He added that several Coordinating Council members had expressed approval of the plan and had offered to spend the revenue derived from weekly dances for necessary equipment. The Council and Chief Stroh were asked to remain after the meeting for discussion on the matter.

Councilman McGuire presented the budget record for August and September, and mentioned that Mr. Klusman could inspect it at any time convenient for him.

Councilman McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$110.00 be made for road material for delivery to the City Yard, Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt of \$739.07 alcoholic beverage license fees from January 1 to June 30, 1939.

Clerk Bartlett also reported receipt of \$3,575.64 Unsecured Realty Collections and \$1,420.58 Unsecured Personal Collections for 1939-40. Matter of record.

Mayor Tolson read a communication from the Police Department recommending that Torrance Boulevard from Cedar Street west to Madrona Avenue and Western Avenue from Border Street to 190th Street be re-stripped. Referred to the Street Department for action.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$139.50 be made for 90 No. 3 cement meter boxes and 10 No. 4 Cement meter boxes for the Water Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Clerk Bartlett reported that, before the sale of any city owned property can be negotiated, the Clerk must be authorized by ordinance to sell same, referring particularly to the proposed sale of certain lots to the Foursquare Gospel Church. Clerk Bartlett presented an ordinance covering this matter, which was referred to the Ordinance Committee for further consideration.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kelsey expressed his appreciation for the improvement of the park on Madrid Avenue.

Mr. Pruitt brought up the fire truck discussion at this time, advising that the City could abrogate their contract with the Mack Truck Company for wilful misrepresentation, in that, he said, the Mack Truck Company had made statements to the effect that the truck had not been used as a demonstrator and he had reliable information that it had been used for such purposes.

Mr. Klusman expressed the attitude that it is ridiculous for the City of Torrance to require an appraisement of equipment by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Isen made a few remarks at this time pertaining to the fire truck. He asked that either he or Mr. Pruitt or someone who has shown interest in the matter be informed when the appraisal is made of the truck. He asked if reports he had heard to the effect that the valve did not function properly and it required about five minutes

before there was proper water to deliver were true. He also expressed the thought that it seemed strange the doors to the fire station had been closed shortly after the fire truck discussion had started, after remaining open for some twelve or eighteen years.

Chief Stroh advised that the firemen have been working on the Ford truck and so long as the doors remained open, so many persons interrupted them with inquiries that it had been necessary to close the doors to complete their work. Chief Stroh said garden hose had been used at the last fire and the valve had stuck, but that the same difficulties had been encountered with the American La-France fire equipment.

Mr. Isen remarked that the controversy on this matter has been started entirely by local persons and not instigated by disgruntled competitive companies.

Mr. Klusman brought up the matter of the drainage in North Torrance again at this time. He said he felt an injustice had been done and that favoritism had been shown certain people, mentioning Mr. John Salm particularly.

Mr. Hudson added a few words also, expressing the wish that something be done to remedy the condition.

Mr. Klusman wanted to know why it is necessary to employ a Water Manager when, he said, the water can be inspected by the County Sanitation District at less expense to the City.

Mr. Salm repudiated Mr. Klusman's accusations, advising that he seeks favors from no one.

Mr. Klusman asked if the audit of the City books had been completed and was advised in the affirmative by Councilman McGuire. He was informed the books were open for inspection at any time.

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

At 9:04 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman McGuire, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:


Mayor of the City of Torrance