

Torrance, California  
February 13, 1940

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, February 13, 1940 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 McGuire moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 23, 1940 and Adjourned Meetings held January 24, 25, 29 and 31, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of a communication from the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation addressed to the Asbury Rapid Transit System, Inc. and to the City of Torrance was read, advising that the hearing in the application of Asbury Rapid Transit System, Inc. for motor coach service, Torrance, Lomita, Gardena and Los Angeles, and the application of the City of Torrance for a municipal bus operation, Torrance-Los Angeles, had been continued to March 15, 1940 at 10:00 A.M., Room 187 City Hall, Los Angeles, California.

A petition signed by the Southern California Drilling Company and eight citizens was read, requesting that the property at 2911 230th Street be cleaned up and made safe, stating that sump holes and debris left by former oil drilling operations creates a hazardous condition for small children in the vicinity.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company (Association Division) advising that for the twelve months preceding February 1, 1940, under provisions of Franchise Ordinance No. 127, no receipts or earnings were derived by said company from the use and ownership of pipe line, for the construction and operation of which said franchise is granted.

A communication was read from Quandt Pumping Station regarding overflow of the Walteria supply tank. It was stated that a device on the tank will signal when the tank is within three feet of its water capacity, allowing ample time to contact the pumping tank and prevent the overflow. It was decided to wait a few days to see whether or not the matter is handled satisfactorily.

A communication was read from Maurice Foreman, Hubert R. Thompson and John H. Stroh, requesting removal of three eucalyptus trees from 1720 Watson Avenue. The matter was referred to the Council as a whole for investigation, a date to be decided on later.

A communication was read from C. F. Smithers, John H. Stroh, Maurice Foreman, Hubert R. Thompson, requesting that Watson Avenue be named properly to avoid confusion in locating the street. It was stated that the street begins at 218th and Manuel, extending north to the high school, and ending at that point, creating confusion as to the name of the portion extending to Carson Street.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney and City Engineer be instructed to draw up an ordinance to comply with the request. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the action, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Sunset Oil Company, requesting cancellation of franchise granted by Ordinance No. 150 to the Julian Petroleum Corporation, franchise having been transferred to the Sunset Oil Company, stating that all pipe lines under said franchise have been removed and no delinquencies exist thereunder.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 316

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 150 "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING TO THE JULIAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION A CERTAIN FRANCHISE" AND REPEALING BOND COVERING SAID FRANCHISE.

Councilman Powell expressed the thought that the proposed ordinance should be discussed with the Ordinance Committee before presentation of it to the Council. The ordinance was discarded and the communication referred to the Ordinance Committee.

A communication was read from C. E. Snyder, Sanitary Inspector, Los Angeles County Health Department, regarding inspection made of dog kennel at 1827-182nd Street. The report indicated that the kennel is operated in a sanitary manner and in compliance with all rules and regulations. A report was also read from Police Chief J. H. Stroh on the same matter, in which it was stated the premises are kept faultlessly clean, with a minimum of barking and noise from the dogs.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the petition protesting against operation of the dog kennel be tabled. No second to the motion.

Mr. Hopkins in the audience entered an oral objection to the kennel at this time, having signed the original petition of protest. He said anyone who so desired could stay at his home overnight and make their own observations as to the noise and disturbance. Mr. Watkinson, owner of the kennel, extended the same invitation, adding that barking of the dogs all over the neighborhood were the real disturbances.

Clerk Bartlett said he had been advised the only alternative for those seeking revocation of the kennel license would be a civil action, which statement Attorney McCall affirmed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to direct a communication to the circulator of the petition, advising that the City Council has no authority in the matter; that a civil action is the only alternative. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried, Councilman Powell voting in opposition.

Engineer Young read a communication from Roy Marvin, requesting a permit to build on the easterly 50 feet of Lot 1, Block 10, Tract No. 4070, to a line closer than the 20 feet required by the ordinance, and recommended that the request be granted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Roy Marvin be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Young presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 1376

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO QUITCLAIM CERTAIN  
BUILDING SETBACK LINES IN TRACT NO.10540.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1376 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.

A communication was read from O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician, recommending that the request for installation of a street light at the corner of Western Avenue and Carson Street be denied.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request for street light be denied. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Attorney McCall advised that, in the matter of naming Watson Avenue, he felt a resolution would be sufficient, authorizing naming the street and placing of signs at the proper places. It was also suggested that a white line be painted on Carson Street to direct traffic, there being some confusion at that point as to which way Carson Street continues.

After a short discussion on the matter, Councilman Murray moved that the City Engineer be authorized to make an investigation and study of the drainage problem at Cravens Avenue and Carson Street and at 213th Street and Border and Cabrillo Avenue, and submit a cost estimate. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be made for repairs to Ocean Avenue and 237th Street. 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.

Councilman McGuire reported total income to date from operation of municipal busses to be \$794.11. He gave an estimate of \$50.00 per day as the cost for operating said busses and said that, as nearly as it can be estimated at the present time, the busses operate at a loss of about \$10.00 per day, which, he said, is a small loss in view of the fact that no advertising had been done to date. He added that the hearing has been postponed to a date in March.

Councilman McGuire asked Engineer Young what had been done about the drainage problem at 231st Street and Narbonne Avenue. Engineer Young said he had studied the problem to some extent. He said he had contacted the engineers in the sanitation district office, who had informed him that storm water cannot be permitted

to go into the sanitary sewers. He added he had requested this ruling in writing, and is waiting from same. He said it would not cost a great deal to put in a six inch tile sewer line, which would serve the purpose well. After continued discussion on the matter, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to obtain prices on dry wells. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draft an ordinance regulating parking spaces for doctors and taxi cabs. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to purchase signs indicating doctor and taxi cab parking spaces. 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.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Albert Isen and Mr. Pruitt, of the audience, spoke with reference to the Bus System and the proposed Civil Service Ordinance. Mr. Isen also spoke with reference to a recent meeting between the Council and City Employees.

Mr. Griffith, pastor of the Four-Square Gospel Church, discussed the matter of the size of a lot the church desired to purchase from the city for the purpose of erecting a tabernacle thereon. He was advised to contact Engineer Young to obtain figures and data relative to the lot.

Mr. Jack Smith requested permission to place a wire from the corner of Sartori Avenue and El Prado Avenue to the Erwin Hotel whereby a bell system could be installed for taxi cab service.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Electrical Department and the Engineering Department for action. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman McGuire moved all bills properly audited be 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.

At 9:36 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman McGuire, the meeting adjourned.

  
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City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

  
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Mayor of the City of Torrance