

Torrance, California
August 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, August 13, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 23, 1940 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 6, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Lawndale Civic Association, requesting an investigation of stop sign on Prairie Avenue at 174th Street with the view of having it removed.

Mayor McGuire requested Clerk Bartlett to forward a communication to the Lawndale Civic Association, advising that the sign

was placed on Prairie Avenue instead of 174th Street due to the fact that no signs can be placed on 174th Street, it being a State Highway, and further, that the sign had been requested by the North Torrance Improvement Association.

A communication was read from the Railroad Commission of the State of California, advising that a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, August 16, 1940 at 10:00 A.M. for discussion of transportation service between Los Angeles, Gardena and the City of Torrance and requesting the presence of the City Attorney.

A communication was read from the Torrance Municipal Band, agreeing to play at the Wilmington Fiesta Association Parade to be held August 24, 1940 for the sum of \$80.00.

After a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Wilmington Fiesta Association Parade officials for services of the Torrance Municipal Band August 24, 1940 be denied, in view of the fact that the budget setup allows for only one concert other than the regularly scheduled concerts for certain functions. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Santiago Carrera, Secretary of Lodge No. 121, Alianza Hispano Americano of Harbor City, again requesting use of the Torrance Civic Auditorium for a Saturday evening dance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Alianza Hispano Americano Lodge No. 121 of Harbor City for use of the Civic Auditorium for a Saturday evening dance be denied for the Saturday requested and every other Saturday. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Grill Crawford, 2107 Lomita Boulevard, Lomita, applying for permit to operate billiard room at 1650 Cabrillo Avenue.

Councilman Babcock moved that the application be referred to the Police Commission for recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John Ashton Shidler, Attorney-at-Law, referring to the Civil Service Ordinance of the City of Torrance and expressing the opinion that (1) the Civil Service Commission does not have the power to set age limits for applicants, and (2) Ordinance 249 requires that, unless the Council ordains otherwise for economy reasons, beginning firemen be classified as hosemen or laddermen, and not as engineers, and requesting Attorney McCall to state whether or not he concurs in this opinion.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney give a ruling in compliance with Mr. Shidler's request. Councilman Babcock asked Clerk Bartlett about the advisability of getting a ruling on this matter from the Attorney-General of the State of California.

Attorney McCall advised he could pass on the matter and would submit a ruling at the next meeting.

No further action taken on Councilman Babcock's motion.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, office of H. L. Byram, Tax Collector, demanding that funds be provided for payment of all delinquent assessments for all projects in the City of Torrance under Improvement Bond Act of 1915, for which current assessments have terminated but which have delinquent assessments for prior years still outstanding.

A communication was read from the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, extending an invitation to members and associates of the Association to a meeting to be held at Santa Barbara August 26, 27 and 28, 1940.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Electrical Engineer be authorized to attend the meeting of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors at Santa Barbara August 26, 27 and 28, 1940, expenses paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute contract with the County of Los Angeles County Public Library for library services for the year 1940-41. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from Associated Assessment Engineers, recommending unqualified approval of settlements in the amount of \$352.60 covering liquidation of 1915 Act Districts.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1396

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENT
COVERING LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTEDNESS OF
1915 ACT DISTRICTS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1396 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the motion of August 6, 1940 authorizing purchase of Water Department materials in the following amounts be rescinded: \$401.70, \$491.51, \$137.18, \$328.62 and \$465.73. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for materials for Act of 1927 Municipal Improvement District No. 1 of the City of Torrance, said bids to be opened August 26, 1940 at 5:00 P.M. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Clerk Bartlett presented for first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 319

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIXING
THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1940.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Ordinance No. 319 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Assistant Engineer Jain reported that he had accompanied Mr. Graham, County Health Department Inspector, upon Mr. Graham's request, to an inspection of the Western Avenue Auto Courts. Mr. Graham, stated Mr. Jain, was acting on a complaint and was requested to investigate housing conditions at the camp. Mr. Jain said that during the course of the inspection, he had noted that certain of the trailers had been raised off the ground, or wheels removed in such a manner as to bring the buildings under the classification of permanent residences. He declared he had contacted the State Division of Housing and Immigration and asked for a State ruling on trailer camps, being informed that the matter is governed by local ordinances. The State Division of Housing and Immigration did, however, submit a sample ordinance for consideration, mentioning that approximately thirty cities of California had adopted the ordinance.

Mr. Jain added that the buildings as they are at the present time do not comply with the building ordinance.

Mayor McGuire suggested that the sample ordinance submitted by the State Division of Housing and Immigration be referred to the Ordinance Committee and that, in the meantime, Mr. Jain inform the owner of the Western Avenue Auto Courts that the buildings must comply in every respect with the building ordinance.

Attorney McCall reported that the complaint on the Cabrillo Avenue right of way matter had been completed and is being checked by the Engineer.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$154.60 be made for material to repair 230th Street from Narbonne Avenue west. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Assistant City Engineer Glenn M. Jain be appointed Acting City Engineer during the absence of City Engineer Young. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Acting Engineer Jain be authorized to hire a temporary engineer at a salary of \$150.00 per month until further notice. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that both Acting Engineer Jain and Ralph Perkins be allowed \$25.00 per month automobile expense, effective as of July 1, 1940, until further notice. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to offer some solution to elimination of hazards of open sump holes in the City limits of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up an ordinance or take whatever steps he deems necessary to regulate building of five foot fences beyond the building setback line on the property line. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up an ordinance for the licensing of plastering contractors, establishing the fee at \$50.00 per year, thereby affording plastering contractors the same protection from outside firms which the electrical and plumbing contractors are given.

A short period of discussion followed, it being mentioned that the matter had been discussed several times in the past. It was decided to investigate the matter thoroughly before taking definite action.

Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion.

Mayor McGuire moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the contract with Menard and Tabery, Inc. for decoration of the Civic Auditorium for the fiscal year 1940-41. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Clerk be instructed to write a letter to the City Auditor and arrange a meeting for discussion with the Council of the 1940-41 budget. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Summers asked Attorney McCall for a ruling on the Civil Service Ordinance as requested by John Ashton Shidler, stating he had been informed that Attorney McCall would submit his opinion at this meeting. Attorney McCall advised he (Mr. Summers) had been misinformed, as he had only heard of the letter when it was read this evening.

Attorney McCall read Ordinance No. 253 pertaining to callmen, and stated he would submit his opinion at the next meeting.

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

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$254.93 be made for 450 ft. 4" Class B 150# Cast Iron Pipe for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

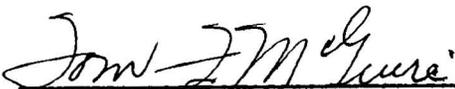
Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$123.60 be made for 12 5/8" x 3/4" Water Meters for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$128.75 be made for 100 3/4" cement meter boxes for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

At 8:27 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to August 20, 1940 at 5:00 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:


Mayor of the City of Torrance