

Torrance, California
August 28, 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 Wednesday evening, August 28, 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, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 13, 1940, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 20, 1940 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 26, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Torrance Factory Frolic Committee requesting authorization to erect two band stands, both on El Prado, one at the intersection of Sartori and the other on the vacant lot at the corner of Cravens and El Prado, to be used in

connection with the parade to be held on Saturday afternoon, September 28th, 1940.

Councilman Murray moved that the request of the Torrance Factory Frolic Committee for authorization to erect two band stands be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce requesting that suitable arrangements be made for the transportation of the Torrance Municipal Band to and from Pomona, scheduled to appear at the Los Angeles County Fair at 2:00 P.M., Sunday, September 15, 1940.

No action.

A communication was read from R. E. Moffitt and J. L. Saunders requesting permit to operate a Riding Academy in the rear of the McHenry Place at 23124 Narbonne, Torrance, to be known as Torrance-Lomita Stables.

Councilman Hitchcock moved the request be referred to the Police Commission for investigation and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Union Oil Company of California enclosing check for \$57.67 in payment of franchise earnings under Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1010.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Road Department, informing the City of Torrance that its share of 1940-41 County Budget appropriation for "Aid to Cities" (gasoline tax), is \$9,095.14; unallocated brought forward from 1939-40 and/or prior is \$26,507.24, making a total of \$35,602.38, available for allocation to the City of Torrance during the fiscal year 1940-41.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1397

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY FOR, AND RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND USE, A SANITARY SEWER AND APPURTENANT STRUCTURES IN AND ACROSS CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1397 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1398

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

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1398 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Acting Engineer Jain reported that the residents of a private non-through street located between Emerald and Spencer Streets have requested that it be given a name, particularly to avoid mix-ups in the delivery of mail, which at present is delivered on either Emerald or Spencer Streets.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request for a street name be referred to the City Attorney and Acting City Engineer for investigation and report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A report was read from City Electrician O. D. Butterfield describing his attendance at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Section International Association of Electrical Inspectors held August 26, 27 and 28, 1940 at Santa Barbara and advising he had been elected Second Vice-President of the Southwestern Section of the I.A.E.I.

Attorney McCall read a communication from the Southwest District Highways Association urging that as many people as possible be present at a meeting to be held at Mines Field, Thursday evening August 29, 1940 - discussion Highway Legislation.

In answer to Attorney John A. Shidler's request for an opinion from the City Attorney on (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, City Attorney McCall stated as follows: (1) Under Ordinance No. 249 the Civil Service Commission can set age limits for applicants (2) The City Council has the authority under Ordinance No. 249 to designate the position of a member of the Fire Department, that is whether he be classified as a hoseman, ladderman, engineer, etc., but the Council is not required to fill all positions mentioned in said ordinance.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$165.78, plus sales tax, be made for the purchase of a 4" x 5" Speed Graphic Camera complete with leather case for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Crill Crawford, 2107 Lomita Boulevard, Lomita, to operate billiard room at 1650 Cabrillo Avenue be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Grinnell Company of the Pacific be awarded contract for Pipe Fittings and Materials in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 1 only, in amount of \$552.54, less 2%, and all other bids under Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 1 only be rejected. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bids in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 2 only, be rejected. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Clayton Manufacturing Company be awarded contract for Pressure Regulating Valves in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 3 only, in amount of \$803.40, less 2%, and all other bids under Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 3 only be rejected. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that R. W. Sparling be awarded contract for 1 - 16" Main Line Meter Complete in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 4 only, in amount of \$653.20, less 1%, and all other bids under Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 4 only, be rejected. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock asked Acting Engineer Jain if he had heard from the State Department of Housing and Immigration with reference to a State ruling on trailer camps. Engineer Jain replied in the negative.

Councilman Babcock asked Attorney McCall for his opinion on (1) a plan for removing hazardous open sump holes and (2) building regulations of five feet fences beyond the building set back line on property line.

Attorney McCall discussed at length the provisions of the laws of the State of California on the abandonment of oil wells, one of the requirements being the posting of a \$5000.00 bond guaranteeing completion or proper abandonment of oil wells. He stated that most cities have an ordinance which is more complete than the state law and offered to draw up one for the city which would adequately cover the abandonment of oil wells.

With reference to building regulations of five feet fences beyond the building set back line on property line, Attorney McCall stated there is nothing in the general law on this subject and that most cities desiring such building regulation must cover it by ordinance.

After considerable discussion on the subject of sump holes, Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to contact the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. #2 and 3 requesting information on the condition of oil wells in their districts, and the City Attorney be authorized to serve a demand on the owners and surety companies to abandon hazardous oil wells. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Fire Chief, together with the Police Chief, be authorized to investigate all hazardous open sump holes and condition of derricks and to contact the owners to determine what steps they propose to take to eliminate such hazards, and report their findings at the next Council Meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Acting Engineer Jain reported that in a recent conversation with Mr. J. F. Johnson, Area Engineer for the W.P.A. Vista Highlands Project, he was informed that the Government has ruled Federal Funds could not be used in areas which show definite real estate subdivision or lack of individual home ownerships, and as a result of

this ruling it was proposed to abandon certain sewer installations. This ruling was vigorously protested by the City Council, Engineer Jain and the Chamber of Commerce, whereupon Mr. Johnson asked that maps be submitted showing the individual ownerships of property affected by the sewer line route, and if the city could prove said ownerships, he would approve the installation of sewer lines on Date, Elm, Fern and Greenwood Streets south of Carson as well as Hickory and Greenwood north of Sonoma. Mr. Johnson added, however, that sewer lines could not be laid in the C.C.M.O. tract area to Crenshaw south of Carson as this property is used mostly by oil companies, but if at a later date the C.C.M.O. tract were subdivided and used for housing purposes, the sewer lines could be installed, provided the contract on the Vista Highlands project had not expired.

Mayor McGuire advised that an engineer was working on plans for the Torrance Boulevard improvement and there would be something definite to submit to the Council and Planning Commission within a short time.

Mayor McGuire said Mr. Johnson had informed him that the W.P.A. was also in the paving business and would be glad to participate in the paving bids for Torrance Boulevard and Cabrillo Boulevard and they would guarantee the job to be just as good as the County or any private company could produce.

Attorney McCall reported that the attorney for the Pacific Electric Railway Company is now on vacation but that on his return would contact him and then inform the council on the Cabrillo Avenue complaint.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, requested that authorization be granted for the purchase of valves on the open market, for which bids, in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 2 only, were rejected.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to purchase valves on the open market for the Water Department, in accordance with Specifications, Water Department Materials, Section 2 only, for which bids were rejected on August 26, 1940.

Councilman Powell inquired as to the purchase price. Mr. Stanger informed him it would be approximately \$995.00. Councilman Powell then asked Attorney McCall as to the legality of such procedure. He was advised it was in order.

Councilman Babcock seconded Councilman Hitchcock's motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. L. Price, 1919 Andreo, complained about the deplorable condition of the alleys, particular reference being made to the alleys on Andreo south of Carson and on 218th Street between Andreo and Gramercy, and asked that something be done to remedy this condition.

Manuel Alvarez asked the City Council for permission to use the Civic Auditorium for a benefit dance for the purpose of raising funds for the Torrance Bears. He also asked that the leveling of the Baseball Field in Pueblo be completed.

Councilman Murray informed Manuel Alvarez that the City Council could not grant him permission to use the Civic Auditorium for a benefit dance, but to see him after the meeting with reference to the baseball field in Pueblo.

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, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:35 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned to September 3, 1940 at 5:00 P.M.

A. H. B. Bantam
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

Tom. F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance