

Torrance, California  
January 28, 1941

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, January 28, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the minutes of January 14, 1941 be amended as follows: Page 5, change appropriation of \$137.50 made for installation of 19 meters and connections for Vista Highlands Sewer Project to \$250.00. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of January 14, 1941 be approved as amended. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1420

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING A PLAN  
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT  
IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

Councilman Babcock gave a brief outline of the contents of the resolution.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1420 be dispensed with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1420 be adopted. 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.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles County Auditor, enclosing a revised form of agreement between the City of Torrance and County of Los Angeles for assessment and collection of taxes, and requesting that same be executed and returned.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the revised agreement between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles for assessment and collection of taxes. 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.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to E. Raymond Cato, Chief, California Highway Patrol, requesting that a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard, and requesting the City of Torrance to direct a letter to Chief Cato with the same request.

Chief Stroh advised that he favored placing a stop sign at the above mentioned intersection, but that the California Highway Patrol had repeatedly refused to comply with the request.

Mr. Loughridge of WALTERIA said that the Dicalite Company and also a freight delivery company are sending similar letters to Chief Cato requesting the sign.

Councilman Powell moved that the City of Torrance direct a letter to the California Highway Commission, urging erection of a boulevard stop sign at the intersection of Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard, copies of said letter to be forwarded to the WALTERIA Civic Organization, the Dicalite Company and one to Chief Cato of the California Highway Patrol. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting the City of Torrance to furnish a sign reading "WALTERIA" to be placed at the intersection of Highway 101 and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilman Murray moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was suggested by Councilman Hitchcock that a regular Southern California Automobile Club sign be installed.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, stating that unfairness in enforcement of the dog tax ordinance has been called to the attention of the WALTERIA Civic Organization, and requesting that the enforcement be made more uniform.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the South Bay Humane Society. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, expressing appreciation for past favors and extending best wishes for the coming year.

A communication bearing nine signatures was read, requesting removal of five acacia trees now growing in the parkway in the 2300 block on Maricopa Place.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Council as a whole for investigation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Public Library, enclosing bill in the amount of \$3600.00 for the six months' period of July 1 to December 31, 1940. A tentative budget for the year beginning July 1, 1941 was also enclosed, and advised that the County Librarian is required to file with the County Auditor by February 15 an estimate of probable revenue and a statement of whether or not the City of Torrance desires to be served by the County Library for the year beginning July 1, 1941.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bill in the amount of \$3600.00 be authorized for payment. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Benton M. Ford, requesting a license to operate a pool room at 1214 El Prado Street.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to the Chief of Police for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Chief Stroh advised that he had already investigated the matter, having contacted the Pasadena Police Department, where Mr. Ford formerly operated a pool room. Chief Stroh said the report of the Pasadena Police Department had been very favorable.

Councilman Powell withdrew his motion and Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his second.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Star Brick and Tile Company, (as a follow-up to their letter of December 24, 1940 requesting permission to operate a dump on property between 174th and 178th Streets), outlining the manner of operating said dump.

Engineer Jain advised that reliable information had been furnished to the effect that Western Avenue will eventually be made into a 100 foot highway, in which event, he said, the dump will be only three feet from the boundary line of Western Avenue.

Mayor McGuire commented that it is practically impossible to erect a fence which will entirely conceal the dump from traffic on Western Avenue. He said a number of residents of North Torrance had voiced disapproval of a dump being operated as requested by Star Brick and Tile Company. He said it had been suggested by one resident that the Star Brick and Tile Company contact property owners within one-half mile in all directions from the proposed dump and get their views in the matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Star Brick and Tile Company to be notified that their request has been referred to the Planning Commission.

A communication was read from The Peace Officers' Association, enclosing a copy of a resolution recommending a minimum salary scale for police officers in cities with a population of less than 50,000, which resolution was adopted by the Association at a recent convention.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication and resolution be placed on file for further reference and consideration. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Direct Delivery System, Ltd., requesting that either stop signs or warning devices be placed at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Highway 101.

A communication was read from Mrs. Mary Whiting, 1719 Arlington Avenue, Torrance, advising that a ride on the municipally operated bus January 31, 1940 had resulted in sickness, damaged heart, upset system and finally partial paralysis which has confined her to bed since October, 1940.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain reported the Vista Highlands Sewer Project near completion.

Attorney McCall said notice had been received that the trial in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way matter has been set for March 5, 1941.

Councilman Hitchcock read a newspaper clipping in which it was stated that the Pacific Electric Railway Company plans to remove the poles and trolley wires in Redondo Beach and that a private contractor will take up the rails and restore the street to good condition without cost to the tax payers. He asked if something might be done to save some of the expense of removing the poles, trolley wires and tracks on Cabrillo Avenue in Torrance.

A brief discussion ensued, it being stated that the Pacific Electric Railway Company probably does not own the right of way in Redondo Beach, as it does in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way in Torrance.

Attorney McCall pointed out that conditions have changed enormously since the agreement was entered into between the City of Torrance and the Pacific Electric Railway Company in which agreement the City agreed to pay a certain amount for the right of way and a certain amount for removing rails, trolley wires, etc. Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to contact the City Attorney of Redondo Beach and also the Pacific Electric Railway Company and ascertain whether or not the cost of removing the rails in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way might be reduced. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Neal Whitney, Engineer of the Fire Department, be appointed as a regular Engineer of the Fire Department, having served his six months' probationary period, with an increase in salary from \$135.00 to \$145.00, effective January 1, 1941. 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 F. J. Schumacher and E. M. Ashton be appointed as Captains of the Police Department, having served their six months' probationary periods as Captains. 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 P. G. Bennett, G. S. Evans and W. H. Haslam be appointed as Sergeants of the Police Department, having served their six months' probationary period as Sergeants. 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 a transfer of \$525.00 be made from the Fire Department Equipment account to the Police Department Equipment account for the purpose of purchasing an automobile 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 an appropriation of not to exceed \$525.00 be made for purchase of a 1941 Model Pontiac Sedan for the Police Department, to replace Mercury sedan with a trade-in allowance of \$607.89 for Mercury. 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 again called attention to the fact that the safety traffic sign on Prairie Avenue at 190th Street is down and asked that it be placed in position.

Chief Stroh advised that the sign had disappeared altogether, but that another one had been ordered from the Southern California Automobile Club, which is expected at any time.

Councilman Powell called attention to the slippery condition of the wet pavement on Arlington Avenue, mentioning the portion near Sepulveda Boulevard, and suggested that "Slippery when wet" signs be painted on the street. Chief Stroh advised that such signs had been authorized at the last meeting, and had been ordered from the Southern California Automobile Club, but have not been delivered to date.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that the Engineer is working on a plan for widening the corner at Arlington Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard, suggesting that the engineering Department be contacted before erecting the signs to allow for the widening without having to re-set the sign.

Councilman Powell inquired who is responsible for cleaning the busses and bus windows. He said a number of complaints had been received about dirty condition of the busses.

Mayor McGuire advised that Asbury Rapid Transit System, from whom the City rents said busses, is responsible for cleaning the vehicles. Mayor McGuire asked the Clerk to telephone Asbury Rapid Transit System and advise of the complaints received.

Councilman Powell said it had been called to his attention that bus schedules are not furnished the bus drivers for distribution to passengers. He was advised that the City has deferred printing large quantities of schedules until the transportation problem has been definitely settled and permanent time tables compiled.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to see to it that bus schedules are furnished for distribution on the busses.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$86.00 be made for installing master clutch assembly on loader for the Street Department. 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 the Los Angeles County Librarian be advised that the City of Torrance desired to be served by the Los Angeles County Library for the year beginning July 1, 1941. (Fiscal year 1941-42). Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock reported that the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd. is making a survey of the Hollywood Riviera section to determine what system of lighting will best serve the community, a report to be rendered in the near future.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain what progress had been made regarding the City's request to have Madrid Avenue improved. Mr. Jain said he had consulted with several officials of the Santa Fe Railway Company and had drawn up a plan outlining what the City desires in the way of improvements. He gave a brief resume of improvements desired, with suggestions as to what the City could do economically and what portion they would probably have to share with the Santa Fe Railway Company.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Planning Commission meet with the City Council to study the plan and offer suggestions before said plan is mailed to the Santa Fe Railway Company. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Clerk was authorized to arrange a meeting between the City Council and the Planning Commission for this purpose. Wednesday, January 29, 1941 at 4:45 P.M. was agreed upon as a suitable date.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for two (2) busses of 25 to 27 passenger capacity, transit type, bids to be opened at a Regular Meeting February 11, 1941 at 8:00 P.M. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock asked what had developed in connection with the application of Southern California Gas Company for a franchise pursuant to provisions of Franchise Act of 1937. Attorney McCall advised that February 11, 1941 had been designated as the time for hearing any and all protests.

Councilman McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$257.50 be made for 25 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, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Regarding the letter submitted by Real Estate Management Company and suggesting that the City purchase the two lots adjoining the City Hall for a reasonable price, it was decided to defer taking action of any kind until the next meeting.

No action was taken on the bill from Quandt Pumping Station for putting in certain water lines in Walteria to serve the park.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Richard Stanfried, representative of Theatre Specialty, Inc., requested that he be granted permission to conduct a certain advertising enterprise to be carried on in connection with the theatres. He read a letter from Mr. Toagland, Manager of the Torrance Theatre, expressing approval of the plan and asking that Theatre Specialty, Inc. be allowed to conduct the business as outlined. According to a brief summary given by Mr. Stanfried, local merchants would be contacted and asked to participate in the plan, for which they would receive advertising through maps printed and distributed at the theatres; at the same time, tickets to be given each merchant participating for distribution to customers, said tickets to be a "chance" on merchandise prizes sponsored by the merchants.

The City Attorney was instructed to render an opinion as to whether or not the proposition outlined by Mr. Stanfried would be classed as soliciting (soliciting advertising), and, if so, whether or not a business license fee should be collected from Theatre Specialty Inc.

Mr. Stanfried was advised to attend the adjourned meeting scheduled for January 29, 1941, at which time the opinion would be rendered.

In connection with Resolution No. 1420 adopted at this meeting, Mr. Edwin Bird, Commander of the American Legion Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, gave a brief outline of the program of emergency disaster relief, going into detail in explaining how different committees would be called into action and how they would function in case of emergency. He offered the organization of the American Legion Post No. 170 in the event of emergency disaster.

Mr. Greig of the Associated Assessment Engineers presented and read title to:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1421

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DETERMINING THE POLICY OF THE CITY WITH REGARD TO THE ADVERTISING OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3897a AND SECTION 3897.3 OF THE POLITICAL CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1421 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.

Mr. Greig presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1422

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DETERMINING THE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES INSOFAR AS THEY CONCERN PROPERTIES ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 3897.6 AND 3897.3 OF THE POLITICAL CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1422 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.

Mr. Greig presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1423

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA CONSENTING TO AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CHANGES IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND HERETOFORE AGREED TO BE PURCHASED FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

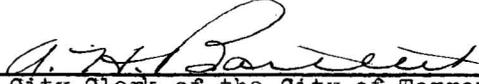
Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1423 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The question was brought up as to how long it would be before the tax deeded property is put up for public auction. Mr. Greig said it depends on how many it will be necessary to acquire title to. He said his company has approximately ten quit claim deeds to date.

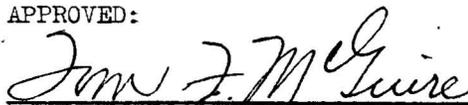
Engineer Jain reported that, inasmuch as his office has prepared a subdivision ordinance and it is now in the City Attorney's possession, his suggestion would be that the City Council authorize the Planning Commission to make a thorough study of it at the next regular Planning Commission meeting, scheduled for February 2, 1941. Councilman Babcock suggested referring the matter to the City Attorney to see whether or not a Resolution would be sufficient in the matter.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. 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.

At 9:35 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned to January 29, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance