

Torrance, California  
February 25, 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, February 25, 1941 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 February 11, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held February 13, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from C. A. Reagan, 1513 West 47th Street, Los Angeles, requesting permit to operate pool hall at 1214 El Prado, he having purchased equipment from B. F. Ford, former owner of said pool hall.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to Chief of Police Stroh for investigation and report. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Southern California Gas Company, enclosing check in the amount of \$2.00 for pipe line laid in the City of Torrance under County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance No. 463 for the period July 1, 1940 to December 31, 1940 inclusive. Matter of record.

Three Franchise Statements from Southern California Gas Company were presented, amount due under each franchise ordinance as follows: Franchise Ordinance No. 270, \$3.06; Franchise Ordinance No. 463, \$895.18; Franchise Ordinance No. 515, \$7.90. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, requesting permission to sell fireworks at Cabrillo Avenue and Carson Street from July 1 to 4, 1941.

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

A communication was read from C. L. Crawford, 1418 Pattee Court, Compton, enclosing clipping from a Compton newspaper in which it was stated that Torrance is contemplating a publicly owned airport on a certain 300 acre site. Mr. Crawford inquired as to the boundary of said 300 acres.

Mayor McGuire stated that there is nothing definite about the airport plans.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to write to Mr. Crawford and give him information he has available as to status of proposed airport. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, advising that the directorate of said Chamber of Commerce had given favorable consideration to the suggestion of the City that the Chamber Secretary temporarily take over the management, advertising

and promotion of the Torrance City Bus Line. It was suggested that a date be set for a conference on the matter.

It was decided to arrange a meeting date after adjournment of the Council meeting, Clerk Bartlett to notify the Secretary of the Chamber of the date decided upon.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, recommending that action be taken requesting change of name of the proposed airport from Lomita Airport to Torrance Airport. A letter was enclosed from the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission, advising that matter of the name should rest with the legislative body of the particular city in which the airport is to be established.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up a Resolution requesting that such action as is necessary be taken to change the name of the proposed airport from Lomita Airport to Torrance Airport. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, advising that the possible establishment in Torrance of a permanent branch of the State Motor Vehicle Department is being considered and suggesting that the City of Torrance donate acceptable ground and location upon which the State could erect an appropriate building to house this activity and possibly a district branch of the State Highway Patrol.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the matter be discussed with the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at the same time the City Bus Line matter is discussed.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Chamber of Commerce building be used for this activity.

A communication was read from D. F. Naulty, requesting permit to add fifty feet to his present building at 1641 Border Avenue. Engineer Jain pointed out that this particular location is within a certain fire zone, that the type of building is not in accordance with requirements of the zoning ordinance. He said that the zoning restrictions could not, of course, be made retroactive to affect this building, but that he did not feel free to grant a permit to make the building larger, as to do so would be in direct conflict with the zoning ordinance.

Mr. Naulty said he had been informed that planing mills were restricted from certain locations due to dust interfering with surrounding businesses. He said that the business near his planing mill are made up of garages and warehouses. Councilman Murray said he could see no objection to granting the permit.

After a short discussion, Councilman Murray moved that the communication be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation at the meeting of March 3, 1941. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Western States Defense Highways Conference, inviting representatives to attend a conference for discussion of Defense Highways to be held Thursday, February 27, 1941 at 9:30 A.M. in the State Building, Los Angeles. Councilman Murray and Councilman Hitchcock said they would endeavor to be present at the conference.

A communication was read from the California State Chamber of Commerce, inviting representatives to attend a conference Friday, February 28, 1941 at 9:30 A.M. at the Los Angeles Ambassador for discussion of beach erosion, meeting to be sponsored by the Southern California Committee on Natural Resources. No action.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1425

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO CERTAIN CHANGES IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND/OR OPTION TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1425 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1426

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. 1426 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 for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 322

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, GRANTING TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY, A CORPORATION, THE RIGHT, PRIVILEGE AND FRANCHISE TO LAY AND USE PIPES AND APPURTENANCES FOR TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING GAS FOR ANY AND ALL PURPOSES UNDER, ALONG, ACROSS OR UPON THE PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS AND PLACES, AS THE SAME NOW OR MAY HEREAFTER EXIST, WITHIN SAID MUNICIPALITY.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 322 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 322 be adopted for final reading. 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.

Engineer Jain presented a tabulation showing the January 1941 quarterly apportionment of 1/4 cent gas tax allocated under Section 194 of the Streets and Highways Code for expenditure upon streets of major importance within the City of Torrance, the amount being \$2,132.57.

Engineer Jain reported that Mr. Gripper from the State Highway Department had contacted him in reply to Mr. Bartlett's letter asking for a stop sign on Hawthorne Avenue and 101 Highway. Mr. Gripper, Mr. Jain stated, had brought with him a letter from Mr. E. L. Davis, District Traffic Control Engineer of the Division of Highways, in

which Mr. Davis suggested that a semi traffic actuated signal be used, approximate cost to install \$3,850.00.

Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not 1/4 cent gas tax funds could be used for this purpose, Mr. Jain's answer being in the affirmative. Councilman Hitchcock added that, although a large amount has been apportioned for that section, very little of it has been spent. Engineer Jain agreed that an elaborate setup for traffic striping and signals had been made, which amount has accumulated for a period of time.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to contact the State Division of Highways and ascertain whether or not 1/4 cent gas tax funds are available for erection of a traffic sign at Hawthorne Avenue and 101 Highway. 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 Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$50.00 be made for purchase of a generator for the police car. 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 Babcock moved that, in consideration of the draft into the United States Army of C. C. Powell and H. E. Garner, two weeks salary be advanced to both Mr. Powell and Mr. Garner in lieu of vacation period. 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 Babcock moved that the purchase of two (2) Ford transit type busses and special equipment for an amount of \$12,385.00 net be authorized. 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 Murray moved that an appropriation of \$1800.00, plus last half of 1940-41 tax, be made for purchase of Lots 18 and 19, Block 15, Torrance Tract. 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 Murray moved that the City Council be authorized to attend the League of California Cities Mayors' and Councilmen's Conference to be held at Fresno March 7, and 8th, 1941 expenses 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.

Chief Stroh advised that Officer Willard Barnett would soon be leaving as a result of being drafted into the United States Army and asked that a similar action to the one taken regarding C. C. Powell and H. E. Garner be taken in regard to Officer Barnett.

Councilman Babcock moved that, in consideration of the draft into the United States Army of Willard Barnett, two weeks salary be advanced to him in lieu of vacation period.

It was suggested that this motion be withdrawn and a motion made to cover all city employees called for military service.

Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion and moved that any city employee who is drafted into the United States Army be advanced his two weeks salary in lieu of vacation period, which he would be entitled to if he stayed in the employ of the City. 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.

Mr. W. T. Klusman reported the perilous condition of 231st Street and Narbonne Avenue, due to a large accumulation of storm water. He said that traffic entering said 231st Street does so at a great risk and asked that something be done to eliminate the condition. Councilman Hitchcock reported that the Street Department is pumping the water out as rapidly as is possible to do so.

Mr. Winkler, 2031 Gramercy Avenue, voiced a complaint against the City having graded the alley near his house in such a manner as to leave it, he said, low in the middle, allowing water to drain from both ends of the alley onto his property. He said his garage is practically collapsed and his house is wet as a result of the condition above mentioned.

Engineer Jain said he doubted whether there was enough water to flood any property in the locality mentioned. The alley had not, he asserted, been graded in the manner mentioned by Mr. Winkler.

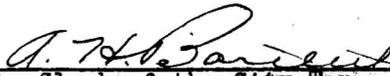
Councilman Powell confirmed Mr. Winkler's statements that his property is flooded.

Street Superintendent Gascoigne said the condition could be alleviated with very little difficulty.

Mr. Gascoigne and Mr. Jain were instructed to investigate the matter and take whatever steps are necessary to relieve the condition.

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 8:45 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned.

  
 City Clerk of the City Torrance

APPROVED:

  
 Mayor of the City of Torrance