

Torrance, California  
April 22, 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, April 22, 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 April 8, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held April 10, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held April 15, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Federal Works Agency, Work Projects Administration, Southern California, requesting the City of Torrance to anticipate continuance of regular non-defense work projects administration construction program in preparing public works budget for the 1941-42 fiscal year.

Councilman Hitchcock remarked that the application filed with the Work Projects Administration for improvement of Torrance Boulevard is the only project which has been submitted to the Works Projects Administration to date, which project is programmed for the 1940-41 fiscal year.

Mayor McGuire asked Engineer Jain if he had directed a letter to the Works Progress Administration thanking them for cooperation during construction of sewer in the Vista Highlands district, the reply being in the affirmative.

A communication was read from V. W. Coil, Manager Torrance Coordinating Council dance, advising that, due to small attendance at the dance held April 18, 1941, it would be necessary to omit payment of auditorium rent.

Councilman Babcock moved that the auditorium be granted free of charge to the Coordinating Council for the dance held April 18, 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.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner, urging the City of Torrance to include puncture vine control as part of the street maintenance work this coming season, and offering to help organize an efficient and economical campaign.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and recommendation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire suggested that Engineer Jain notify various companies troubled with puncture vine growth of this campaign, mentioning that an abundant growth of the vine has been noticed at The National Supply Company.

A communication was read from the Department of Employment, California Employment Commission, Torrance Office, commending the Police Department for enforcing the two hour parking limit on Carson Street. It was suggested that proper signs be placed on both sides of all light poles within the block in which the above-mentioned office is located, it being impossible for persons coming from different directions to see the signs which are posted only on the outside of poles at the end of the block.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Police Department for recommendation and action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. S. Dowd, 23731 Ward Street, WALTERIA, advising that he understands, from talking to several interested persons, that the cost of pumping the water from the WALTERIA basin would amount to approximately \$1800.00, and that the City of Torrance would be requested to contribute \$400.00 of this amount.

A petition was also read, bearing 152 signatures, requesting release from damages to health, highways and real estate, caused by the lake of water formed in the Meadow Park tract and adjacent territory, in WALTERIA.

Councilman Powell asked Engineer Jain if there is any reason the water cannot be drained off.

Engineer Jain replied that, provided there is a limit set on the amount to be expended by the City, there is no reason for not doing as requested. He added that the ground where it is proposed to dump the water appears to be porous enough to absorb the water. He said, as long as the property owners consent to the dumping, it is possible to do so, provided the City assumes no liability.

Mr. Dowd said he had also been informed the ground is porous enough to absorb all the water to be dumped on it. When asked where he obtained the estimate of \$1800.00 for the job, he said Mr. Quandt of the Quandt Pumping Station had furnished him with the information. He said Mr. Quandt had advised that the City would be asked to contribute \$400.00 of the amount.

Engineer Jain recommended that a detailed agreement in writing be submitted to the City Council, wherein the interested persons would specify exactly what they will do.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to collect all the data available in connection with this matter and present same at the earliest possible date (April 30, 1941, if possible). Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A petition bearing 17 signatures was read, requesting that Southern California Water Company be granted a franchise to serve said signers with water, residents of the northwest part of the City of Torrance.

A communication from the Railroad Commission of the State of California was also read, in which it was stated that an official of Crown Water Company, which company formerly served the district but is now bankrupt, had advised the Railroad Commission that an offer had been made to turn the water system over to the City of Torrance free of charge. It was stated that the district affected by collapse of Crown Water Company is within the service area of a number of water companies. It was suggested that the City of Torrance secure a connection to one of the nearby water systems, thereby furnishing water for the fifteen consumers affected.

Mr. Jain advised he had contacted a number of water companies, but had not received much encouragement, the water companies stating that it would be necessary to run too much pipe to be profitable to the company. He mentioned the California Water Service and Southern California Water Company. He said Southern California Water Company had advised that the Railroad Commission usually recommends extension of service only if there is one consumer per 100 feet of line, the number of consumers in this case being only about 1/5th of the usual requirement.

He said he had, however, asked the Southern California Water Company to investigate the matter further to see if it is possible to work out an arrangement with the Crown Water Company for servicing the district. He remarked that Mr. Stanger, Manger of the Water Department, had advised that, to his knowledge, there had never been a franchise granted in the district.

Mrs. Lela Gonner, North Torrance, urged that the Southern California Water Company be granted a franchise to lay water line in the affected area, stating that the service could be extended to the El Nido district, thereby raising the number of consumers to approximately one hundred.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Southern California Water Company present their application for a franchise, at which time it will be acted upon by the Council.

After a brief discussion, Engineer Jain was authorized to investigate the matter further and make a report and recommendation at a later date.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Department of County Public Library, enclosing two copies of the 1941-42 contract for library service, requesting execution of same.

Clerk Bartlett advised the contract price is \$488.00 lower than the 1940-41 figure and stated further that the contract had been approved by the Library Board.

Councilman Murray moved that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute agreement between the City of Torrance and the Los Angeles County Public Library for library services for the fiscal year 1941-42. 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 O'Connor Company in reference to proposal submitted by said company for painting and cleaning the high storage tank for the Water Company, and requesting that, due to the fact that The O'Connor Company had been misquoted on the wage scale to be in effect on the job, the award be made to the next low bidder.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bid of Parker Engineering Company for painting and cleaning the high storage tank and tower of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 be accepted, and all other bids 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 the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign contract between the City of Torrance, Municipal Water District No. 1, and the Parker Engineering Company for painting and cleaning the high storage tank. 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 Robert Lessing, rejecting the tendered sum of \$38.67 as payment in full for services as City Judge of the City of Torrance, said check having been tendered April 16, 1941. It was stated that the contract of employment under which he (Robert Lessing) worked and received \$145.00 each month was renewed in April when he was permitted to work from April 1st to April 8th, 1941, inclusive. Mr. Lessing claimed a total sum due him of \$217.50, being one month's salary and two weeks vacation pay, and demanded payment thereof.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to City Attorney McCall for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 324

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHING CERTAIN HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS WITHIN THE SAID CITY, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT THEREOF, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 299 AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 324 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 324 be adopted for first 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.

Councilman Babcock stated that the ordinance was passed on request of the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Councilman Babcock moved that the insurance on the Torrance Municipal Busses be included in the City of Torrance fleet insurance policy. 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 the Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be authorized to make application to the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Utilities and Transportation for a motor bus permit. 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 Babcock announced that first reading of the proposed civil service ordinance will be heard at the Adjourned Meeting to be held April 30, 1941, without fail. He said several of the Councilmen had requested an extension of time for further study of the ordinance.

Councilman Babcock requested the Street Department to investigate the condition of the alley on Plaza del Amo. He said a number of complaints had been received regarding the leaves on the street. Referred to the Street Department.

Mayor McGuire announced that presentation by the American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 to the City of Torrance of an iron lung had been made today, the Council having witnessed a demonstration of the apparatus immediately prior to the meeting. He said the iron lung will remain in the Fire Department, for emergency use of anyone who may have need of it, and that it may be possible to arrange demonstrations in the future for the benefit of anyone interested.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a letter of appreciation be directed to the American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, thanking the Post for the iron lung presented to the City of Torrance for emergency use of anyone having need for same. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. J. A. Lamay, 323 Lathero Street, San Pedro, representing the Townsend Club, announced that the Townsend Club desires to hold weekly dances on Tuesdays in the Civic Auditorium. He asked that the building be granted free of charge for a few dances until the dance begins operating on a profitable basis.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Lamay to contact City Clerk Bartlett and arrange a meeting between the City Council and the Townsend Club Committee for discussion of further details on this matter, which Mr. Lamay agreed to do.

Mayor McGuire appointed a committee to act as an Advisory Board to the Recreation Committee of the City Council, the appointments being as follows:

James W. Loughridge	24038 Neece Avenue, Waleria
Gordon L. Mann	4800 - 171st Street, North Torrance
Robert Llewellen	1307 Madrid Avenue, Torrance

Mayor McGuire advised that two more appointments will be made at a later date.

Councilman Murray moved that the appointees be informed by letter from Clerk Bartlett of their appointments, and notified that they will be contacted at a later date through Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Joe Hagberg, 24241 Neece Avenue, Waleria addressed the Council and assemblage at this time, stating that he had been asked by Councilman Powell, Mr. Gordon Mann and Mr. James Loughridge, when they were running for office during the 1940 Councilmanic campaign, to withdraw from the race. He said the three gentlemen had told him that if he withdrew from the race, "his (Hagberg's) friend would be ousted from office". He said he could not condone such methods. He said he felt the Council should not be allowed to dismiss Robert Lessing from the position of City Judge of the City of Torrance without first giving him a fair trial, and to this end, he suggested that a "peoples tribunal" be formed to try the case of Robert Lessing, and Chief of Police Stroh's case also. He said the peoples jury should give Bob Lessing a fair trial and render an impartial decision, and, he added, if the facts presented warrant dismissal of Robert Lessing, inform the public of the charges made against him. He said if there is any reason other than a political maneuver why Robert Lessing should be dismissed from office of City Judge of the City of Torrance, the public should be enlightened. He said if the peoples tribunal is formed, he would like to serve on it and investigate the matter thoroughly.

Councilman Powell informed Mr. Hagberg that he had never made such a statement or request (referring to Mr. Hagberg's assertion that Mr. Mann, Mr. Loughridge and Councilman Powell had requested him to withdraw from the Councilmanic race). He told Mr. Hagberg that his accusation was a false statement; that he knew of no reason why Mr. Hagberg should make such a statement.

Mr. Hagberg said he had never made a statement he could not "back up", and that, although he had no witnesses to the alleged statement, it was true nevertheless and said "Mr. Powell knows it."

Councilman Powell implied that the statement made by Mr. Hagberg was ridiculous, and certainly not based on truth.

Mrs. Loughridge, defending Mr. Loughridge, who was not present, said her husband would be glad to appear and defend himself in this matter.

Mr. Gordon Mann denied having made the statement abovementioned and remarked that Mr. Hagberg had been no hindrance in the race.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which 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 extended an invitation to everyone so desiring to attend the regular meeting of the City Council scheduled for May 13, 1941.

At 8:32 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to April 30, 1941 at 5:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Low F. McGuire  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

A. H. Barrett  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance