

Torrance, California
July 15, 1941

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Ad-
journed Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance,
California, on Tuesday, July 15, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

At 4:49 P.M., Councilman Murray moved that the meeting recess
for ten minutes to await arrival of Councilman Hitchcock. Council-
man Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock arrived at 4:50 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 4:53 P.M.

Being an Adjourned Meeting, the regular order of business was
dispensed with.

A communication was read from H. F. Smith, Route 1, Box 586,
Lomita, residing in South Torrance, requesting that some action be
taken toward building roads in the South end of the City.

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

A communication was read from the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, enclosing copy of a Resolution passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors having to do with the Laguna Dominguez flood control problem.

It was requested that the City adopt a similar resolution and forward same to Army Engineer at Washington, D. C., attention of Major Miles Reiber, Room 3001, New War Department Building, 21st and Virginia Streets.

Clerk Bartlett read the resolution as submitted in full. Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the request be complied with, title of the resolution being as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 1482

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES ARMY ENGINEERS BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FURTHER STUDY WITH RELATION TO IMPORTANCE FROM A NATIONAL DEFENSE STANDPOINT OF LAGUNA DOMINGUEZ FLOOD CONTROL PROBLEM.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1482 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.

A communication was read from the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, also having to do with the Laguna Dominguez (Nigger Slough) flood control problem, advising that an application is being submitted to the Federal government for a sum equal to \$1,900,000 to be used in carrying out provisions as set forth in the comprehensive program aimed at the elimination of hazards arising from flood conditions directly attributable to Nigger Slough, or Laguna Dominguez, during the winter season. It was urged that the City forward communications to Wright L. Felt, special representative of Public Works Administrator, and M. E. Gilmore, Commissioner of Public Works, Washington D. C., urging their favorable consideration and concurrence in the program as outlined by the County of Los Angeles.

Councilman Babcock moved that copies of Resolution No. 1482 be forwarded to Wright L. Felt, 408 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, and M. E. Gilmore, Washington, D. C., together with a letter urging favorable consideration and concurrence in the program as outlined by the County of Los Angeles. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Jack Tucker, City Employee, expressing appreciation for action taken at the meeting of July 8, 1941 in granting to Mrs. Tucker a pass on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for the duration of his confinement in the hospital.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, recommending that the house located at 1518½ Crenshaw Boulevard be condemned as unfit for habitation. A report on the condition of the house was submitted by Engineer Jain, wherein it was stated that, from the standpoint of safety and sanitation, the building should be condemned.

Engineer Jain was asked whether or not the owner had indicated willingness to improve the building to the extent that it would comply with the Building Code, Electrical Code and Plumbing ordinance. He advised that the house had been practically destroyed by fire July 12, 1941, and could not possibly be rehabilitated.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the building at 1518¹/₂ Crenshaw Boulevard be condemned as unfit for habitation in accordance with recommendations of Fire Chief McMaster and Engineer Jain.

Councilman Powell asked what had been done about the complaint received regarding condition of houses south of the Municipal Park. Engineer Jain reported the houses to be in practically the same run-down condition as the one on Crenshaw Boulevard. He said he had written letters, which have not been mailed yet, to condemn the houses and requesting that action be taken regarding them.

Clerk Bartlett reported that Mrs. Davis, owner of the house at 1518¹/₂ Crenshaw Boulevard, had called at his home and discussed the matter, requesting that he speak to the Council for her, as she felt that the proposed condemnation would cut off part of her means of livelihood.

Councilman Hitchcock offered to withdraw his motion if it was felt that the Council as a whole should inspect the building before taking action. Councilman Murray said he felt the recommendations of the Fire Chief and the City Engineer should be accepted and complied with, whereupon he seconded the motion of Councilman Hitchcock to condemn the house per recommendations, which motion was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Applications for jobs were read as follows:

(1) Chester Dodson, 1728 Abalone Avenue, Torrance, for work with the Street Department.

(2) Robert Ernst, 1023 Madrid Avenue, Torrance, for work with the Street Department.

Councilman Babcock moved that the two applications submitted be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 329

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 7 OF CIVIL SERVICE ORDINANCE NO. 326.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 329 be dispensed with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 329 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.

Clerk Bartlett read the following statement: "It has been brought to my attention by friends of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Young that I am accused of having fostered Resolution No. 1474, which takes away the right of Mr. Young to resume his duties as City Engineer if and when his health permits. This is not true, as I had no knowledge of Resolution No. 1474 until it was introduced at the meeting of the Council held June 26, 1941. Inasmuch as work performed in the City Clerk's Department and the purchasing for the City are closely related, and in view of the fact that the Engineering Department is considerably undermanned, it is felt that the regular work of the Engineering Department will be seriously hampered if additional duties are imposed on it and the expense would be much increased. Therefore, in the interest of economy and sound government, I suggest that Resolution No. 1474 be rescinded." A. H. Bartlett.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain asked for a decision on whether or not persons should be granted temporary permits to live in trailers until such time as they can build their homes. He mentioned one application in particular, a Mrs. Beatty from Walteria, stating she had contacted him a number of times and desires a definite answer.

A short discussion ensued, at which time it was decided that the ordinance pertaining to trailers and trailer camps would necessarily have to be complied with. A suggestion was made that the ordinance be amended to meet present conditions. Mr. Jain remarked that a number of cities are faced with the trailer problem, especially cities where defense program work is being carried out. Mr. Jain added that, although the one request mentioned is the only one upon which a definite decision has been demanded, he felt that others are awaiting decision on the one before presenting their requests.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the applicant appear before the Council and discuss the matter in detail.

Councilman Powell presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1483

In recognition of Mr. Leonard Young's position as City Engineer when he was stricken with illness, now be it resolved that the City Council go on record that when Mr. Young has recovered from his present illness sufficiently to perform any duties in the Engineering Department or any other department of the City that he be reestablished in such a position as his physical condition would justify.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1483 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion.

At this time, Mrs. Leonard J. Young intervened, requesting that she be allowed to say a few words before vote on the above motion. She inquired whether or not Mr. Leonard J. Young had been blanketed in under civil service under Ordinance No. 326.

Attorney McCall advised that A. Beldon Gilbert, Secretary of the Peace Officers' Association, had called him a few days ago, informing Mr. McCall that it was his (Mr. Gilbert's) opinion that Mr. Young was blanketed in when Ordinance No. 326 was adopted.

Mrs. Young asked how, then, he could be summarily dismissed from his office.

Mayor McGuire instructed Attorney McCall to prepare a written opinion for presentation at the next meeting (July 22, 1941) on the question of whether or not Mr. Leonard J. Young was blanketed in as a civil service employee under Ordinance No. 326.

Mrs. Young presented and Clerk Bartlett read a communication from A. Beldon Gilbert, in which Mr. Gilbert ruled that, inasmuch as Mr. Young meets all requirements of Ordinance No. 326, he is automatically blanketed in under said Ordinance No. 326. He stated that a temporary appointment can be made to fill the vacancy of the office during a period of illness.

Mr. James J. O'Toole addressed the Council in behalf of Mr. Young. He requested that the Resolution which took away Mr. Young's title of City Engineer and bestowed it upon another person be rescinded. He said that, in a former case, he recalled that Mr. Leonard, Engineer preceding Mr. Young, had been paid his regular salary until the time of his death. Also, he pointed out, no appointment had been made during Mr. Leonard's illness to fill his office. He asked how Mr. Young could be dismissed from his office, if Mr. Young is blanketed in under civil service, without first consulting the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Murray said he wished to assure Mrs. Young that the City Council had certainly had no intention to do any wrong to Mr. Young. He said that it was understood Mr. Young is still connected with the City of Torrance, inasmuch as he has never resigned or been discharged from his position. He said Mrs. Young had contacted him regarding the matter. He remarked that, so far as Mr. Leonard and Mr. Stevens receiving salaries until the time of their deaths, he had no knowledge of what had been done in either case. He said that Resolution No. 1483 had been presented with the intention of assuring Mr. Young the return to the employ of the City in whatever capacity his physical condition would permit. He said this had been done in accordance with Mrs. Young's request that some action be taken to assure Mr. Young he could return to the employ of the City whenever he is able to resume his duties.

Mrs. Young said Resolution 1483 does not answer her question of whether or not Mr. Young was blanketed in as a civil service employee under Ordinance No. 326. She said she had asked for some document which would signify what Mr. Young's status as an employee of the City of Torrance is, and particularly, as to whether or not he became a civil service employee with the adoption of Ordinance No. 326. She said Resolution No. 1483 does not in any manner satisfy her request. She added she had been informed by Mr. A. Beldon Gilbert that Mr. Young had been blanketed in and that the position could only be filled temporarily for a six months period, at the end of which time the person filling the vacancy would be required to qualify himself for the job; and that if Mr. Young were dismissed, he would be entitled to two years' salary.

Councilman Murray withdrew his second to the motion to adopt Resolution No. 1483.

Councilman Powell asked Mrs. Young whether he understood her to say that there had been some question about checks received by Mr. Young after he became ill. He said he understood the last check had carried the notation "Final payment" or similar words.

Mrs. Young said something to this effect had been written on the reverse side of the check. Councilman Powell said he had no recollection of any authorization by the Council to make such notation on the check.

Councilman Murray read a portion of the minutes of August 13, 1940, being the motion made by Councilman Hitchcock and seconded by Councilman Murray to appoint Assistant Engineer Jain as Acting City Engineer during the absence of City Engineer Young. He added that this motion would indicate that there had been no intention to be unjust to Mr. Young.

Engineer Jain assured Mrs. Young that he is in favor of any consideration which can be given Mr. Young. He added that he has no preference as to title, so long as he is compensated for his services.

Mrs. Young assured Mr. Jain that there is no intent to cast reflection on him.

Councilman Powell remarked that the City Council is vested with the power to promote employees as they see fit, and asked Mayor McGuire to substantiate his statement, which was done.

Councilman Hitchcock said he felt the matter should be given careful study and that the decision of the City Attorney should be awaited before taking action.

Councilman Powell said Resolution No. 1483 designates what the Council proposes to do in case Mr. Young is able to return to work, whereupon Councilman Hitchcock said he could see no reason for the resolution if Mr. Young is still considered an employee of the City.

Mayor McGuire agreed with Councilman Hitchcock, adding that, if the City Attorney rules that Mr. Young is a civil service employee, the City cannot offer him any other type of work than that of City Engineer.

Councilman Powell again brought up the question of pay for sick leave for employees. He asked Councilman Hitchcock if he recalled a discussion at which time he (Councilman Powell) had been asked by Councilman Hitchcock whether or not he would be agreeable to pay Mr. Young half pay during his illness. Councilman Hitchcock answered that he recalled that the matter of pay had been discussed, and that he thought it is a matter of record as to what decision was reached.

Councilman Powell stated that he had further asked Councilman Hitchcock during the abovementioned discussion whether or not it is customary to pay employees half pay during illness, to which question, he said, Councilman Hitchcock had answered that it is not. Councilman Powell said he had stated at the time that no exceptions should be made, that every employee is entitled to the same consideration. He said he favors paying employees whatever can be afforded, so long as the courtesy is extended to every employee alike.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that the question of pay for sick leave had been discussed a number of times, especially with regard to Fire Department employees, and that investigation had disclosed that action had been taken a number of years ago to allow two weeks vacation pay and two weeks additional pay at the option of the Council. He said the minutes whereby this was done had been referred to when the discussion regarding Mr. Young arose.

Councilman Babcock inquired of Mr. Bartlett whether or not Mr. Leonard, former City Engineer, had been paid his salary up to the time of his death.

Clerk Bartlett answered that he could not remember that he received any benefits he was not entitled to.

Councilman Murray asked Attorney McCall if he would submit an opinion on the legality of paying employees during illness after a certain period. He mentioned again the cases of Mr. Leonard and Mr. Stevens, deceased, stating that he had no knowledge of whether or not they were paid to the time of their deaths.

Mrs. Young remonstrated at this point, stating that she is not so particularly concerned about the matter of pay as she is about the status of Mr. Leonard J. Young as an employee of the City since adoption of Civil Service Ordinance No. 326.

Councilman Powell withdrew his motion to adopt Resolution No. 1483.

Councilman Babcock asked the City Clerk to check the records and ascertain whether or not Mr. Leonard and Mr. Stevens were paid their salaries up to the time of their deaths. He said he would like to know for how long a period after they became ill they received their salaries. He suggested that the cancelled checks be referred to.

Mr. O'Toole stated that the question of importance is not concerning pay, but concerning the title of Mr. Young.

Councilman Babcock pointed out that someone evidently mentioned something about pay.

Mrs. Young replied that she had mentioned it during the discussion on the matter, inasmuch as the last check had been in the form of a final check, but that she had mentioned it only because she felt it might have some bearing on his status under civil service in the matter of being blanketed in when the ordinance was adopted.

Mr. O'Toole pointed out that Mr. Leonard had retained his title until the time of his death, without benefit of civil service.

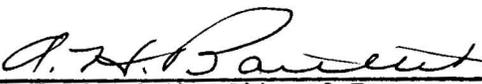
Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the ruling of the City Attorney on the matter be awaited before further action is contemplated, which suggestion was apparently met with approval, as the discussion concluded.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$122.53, including tax, be made for purchase of 2 spare tires and wheels complete for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. 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.

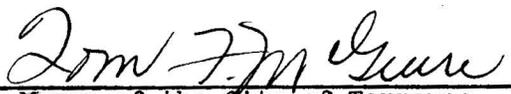
Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$246.26, including tax, be made for various janitor supplies for use throughout the city buildings. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman 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 5:52 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


 Mayor of the City of Torrance

Torrance, California

it: