

Torrance, California  
September 11, 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 Thursday, September 11, 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 and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 26, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Pastor, Officers and Trustees of the Full Gospel Church of WALTERIA, advising that, due to destruction of the church building by fire, the church has no building in which to hold services, and requesting use of the WALTERIA Recreation building for said purpose.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted, subject to approval of the WALTERIA Recreation Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. & Mrs. Nourse, 1428 Post Avenue, requesting removal of pepper tree at said address.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Huntington Land and Improvement Company in regard to the street light installation in Hollywood Riviera. It was advised that the letter from City Engineer Jain of August 28, 1941, had been delivered to the Huntington-Redondo Company, inasmuch as the Huntington Land and Improvement Company has no interest in the property in question. A brief outline of the history of the Hollywood Riviera subdivision was submitted, together with the request that the City of Torrance withdraw its request for holding up the installation of the poles and overhead service.

A similar letter was read from the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd., also requesting that the City of Torrance withdraw its request of August 5th to "discontinue construction until further notice."

A short discussion ensued, at which time Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that the property owners had been given every opportunity to contact the land company and ask that wooden poles not be used.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd., and the Huntington-Redondo Company be notified that the City of Torrance withdraws the request of August 5, 1941 to discontinue construction of overhead electrical service in the Hollywood Riviera section until further notice. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles Railway Corporation, advising that on August 13, 1941, effective as of July 10, 1941, said Corporation has acquired title from Asbury Rapid Transit System to that real estate located at 945 South Hill Street, Los Angeles,

California. It was advised that all unpaid rental of property at 945 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, in use by the City in connection with the Municipal Bus Lines of the City of Torrance, falling due since July 10, 1941, is payable to Los Angeles Railway Corporation. Demand was made for all unpaid rental due, or falling due, since July 10, 1941.

A communication was read from the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation, enclosing copy of opinion and Order of the Board, concerning the application of the City of Torrance for Permit authorizing operation of municipally owned bus line in Los Angeles. Conditions of the order were as follows, in part:

(1) That no passengers will be picked up between the intersection of Manchester Avenue and Hoover Street and the northerly terminus of the route (both points inclusive) for discharge within said limits;

(2) That these restrictions are not intended to prevent the carriage of passengers by the motor bus line of the City of Torrance from outside of the restricted area, hereinbefore described, to a point within said restricted area, or of passengers from said restricted area to points outside said restricted area;

(3) That the City of Torrance will also otherwise comply with all existing laws, rules and regulations appertaining to motor bus operation in the City of Los Angeles.

Attorney McCall suggested that, as a matter of courtesy, the order be complied with, although, he said, the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation has no jurisdiction over the City of Torrance Bus Lines. The only other recourse, he said, would be to institute legal proceedings and enjoin the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation from placing the restriction as ordered.

A question arose regarding Section 3 and the paragraph following said Section 3, which Attorney McCall read in full, advising that it had no effect on the Torrance Bus Lines.

No action necessary on the two communications as read, advised Attorney McCall.

The hour of 8:00 P.M. having arrived, Mayor McGuire announced that bidding on tax dedeed property would open.

Mr. Greig listed the various lots offered for sale on the blackboard as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Minimum Price</u>
14	18	Torrance	\$315.00
2,3,4, 5,7,8	71	"	175.00 each
15	88	"	385.00
16	88	"	385.00
17	89	"	350.00
18	89	"	350.00
19	89	"	350.00
7	35	"	340.00
19	73	"	225.00
20	73	"	225.00

Clerk Bartlett opened and read sealed bid as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Bid Offered</u>	<u>Bidder</u>
17	89	Torrance	\$350.00	Robert B. Trezise 1614 Amapola Avenue Torrance, California

Mayor McGuire called three times for oral bids on Lot 17, Block 89, Torrance Tract. No response.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1495

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY BY  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

(Robert B. Trezise)

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1495 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

An oral bid was submitted as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Bid Offered</u>	<u>Bidder</u>
18	89	Torrance	\$350.00	Ellis Earl Clayton 1428 El Prado Torrance, California

Mayor McGuire called three times for bids on Lot 18, Block 89, Torrance Tract. No response.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1496

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY BY  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

(Ellis Earl Clayton)

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1496 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Krekow offered a flat bid of \$600.00 for Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, Block 71, Torrance Tract. Mayor McGuire advised that no lesser amounts than the minimum prices as posted could be considered, these lots being listed at \$175.00 each.

At 8:12 P.M., it appearing that no one else desired to bid on any of the lots listed, bidding closed.

A communication was read from Carmen Rodriguez, 1100 Lemon Street, Anaheim, California, enclosing City of Torrance Business License No. 43, issued July 17, 1941 for the business of cafe at Hawthorne and Riverside Boulevard, Torrance. Mrs. Rodriguez advised that she had never used the license, as the building she rented for the cafe business on a month to month business had been leased to another party before she began transacting business under License No. 43. A refund was requested.

Clerk Bartlett corroborated Mrs. Rodriguez's statement that she had never used the license.

Councilman Babcock moved that the \$12.00 fee paid by Carmen Rodriguez for City of Torrance License No. 43 be refunded. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting repairs at Ward and Newton Streets in WALTERIA.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, and J. E. McMaster, Chief of Fire Department, which referred to the resolution adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors August 12, 1941, requesting various cities of the County of Los Angeles to cooperate during disasters. Chiefs Stroh and McMaster expressed the opinion that the heads of the Fire and Police Departments should be given standing authorization to give assistance to other cities during times of disaster without further orders from the City Council.

Attorney McCall advised that a new law passed recently by the State Legislature relative to this matter will take effect September 13, 1941.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify Chief J. E. McMaster of the Fire Department and Chief John H. Stroh of the Police Department to comply with the terms of the new law referred to by Attorney McCall relative to assisting other cities during times of disaster and to advise the two Chiefs that the City Council is in full accord with the Resolution adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Pacific Coast Plumbing Inspectors Association, advising of a meeting to be held October 9, 10, and 11, 1941 at Santa Barbara and inviting the attendance of the plumbing inspector. Action deferred until next meeting.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that the request of Lola Adams, 761 Kohler Street, Los Angeles, for a palmistry license in the City of Torrance be denied and that she be notified to this effect. Councilman Hitchcock moved that Chief Stroh's recommendation be complied with. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Phebe R. Barnes, 1221 El Prado, inquiring as to the cost of purchasing eucalyptus logs from the City of Torrance for the purpose of building a log cabin.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Phebe R. Barnes be advised that the standard price of eucalyptus wood is \$12.00 per cord, and that the logs can be purchased for the same price. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, recommending appointment of Ivan Kettering as Engineer for the City of Torrance Fire Department for a six months probationary period.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of Chief McMaster be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of the Police Department and J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, submitting list of sump holes which were designated by the Chiefs as dangerous.

A short discussion ensued, as to what method of eliminating the hazardous sump holes should be used.

Attorney McCall advised that drillers are required to furnish bonds in the amount of \$5,000.00 before beginning drilling operations. He said the bond is to guarantee either bringing in oil or abandoning the well as required by law. The question, he pointed out, is what can be done after the oil is brought in. The sump holes, he continued, could be declared nuisances.

Mayor McGuire instructed Attorney McCall to determine who should bear the cost of eliminating the sump holes.

Attorney McCall suggested that Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 1 and Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 2 could possibly furnish the addresses of the various companies who had conducted drilling operations, a majority of the wells being located in South Torrance, which district is served by the two abovementioned Water Companies.

Regarding the petition received requesting action to prevent persons from residing in the house at 1518½ Crenshaw Boulevard, Attorney McCall advised he had received a copy of the new law which provides means of demolishing condemned buildings, but had no opportunity to study it. He said a report will be made at the next meeting regarding this matter.

Attorney McCall advised that he would meet with the entire Council for discussion of the loading and unloading ordinance (No. 275). He said an amendment had been suggested to allow merchants to unload merchandise over the sidewalk under certain conditions.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Pomona Pump Company be authorized to install necessary electrical equipment to complete the water well hook-up in North Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Electrician be authorized to issue the necessary permit to the Pomona Pump Company to do the work of installing necessary electrical equipment to complete the water well hook-up in North Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Electrician be authorized to install a 1000 Lumen Gooseneck Street Light at the North end of Neece Avenue in Walteria at \$1.54 per month. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that rental of an 8-ton roller at \$15.00 per day for approximately ten days, for use by the Street Department, be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$40.00 be made for purchase of two sets corner forms. (Note: Council minutes of July 22, 1941, authorized expenditure of \$205.00. Above \$40.00 represents price increase of material). Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$190.81 be made for #53 pressure relief valve for the Water Department.

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

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$412.00 be made for 40 5/8" water meters for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$137.75 be made for repairs to Pontiac Police car. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications.

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

At 8:35 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, September 16, 1941 at 7:45 P.M. for the purpose of canvassing the returns of the Special Election held September 10, 1941.

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

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire  
Mayor of the City of Torrance