

Torrance, California
January 13, 1942

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, January 13, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 23, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 30, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held January 6, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

All persons present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, expressing appreciation for the appropriation granted for the annual Christmas party at WALTERIA. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California, advising that no pipe lines or conduits were placed or constructed by said company under Franchise Ordinances Nos. 1010 N.S. and 1501 N.S. for the period ending December 31, 1941, within that portion now included in the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of the County Public Library, enclosing two copies of bill for County Library service to the City of Torrance for the six months' period July 1 to December 31, 1941. It was requested that the County Librarian be notified if a renewal of the City of Torrance library contract is desired.

Councilman Babcock moved that the County of Los Angeles Librarian be notified that it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Torrance to renew the contract for library service for the fiscal year 1942-1943 (beginning July 1, 1942 and ending

June 30, 1943). Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John A. Shidler, City Judge, requesting leave of absence from his duties from February 9 to February 20, 1942, inclusive.

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

A communication was read from S. J. Katz and J. H. Pine, requesting information as to when the paving on Plaza del Amo, Lincoln Avenue and the alleys in the Park Knolls Tract will be completed.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the City Engineer and Street Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that S. J. Katz and J. H. Pine be advised by communication that the paving of certain streets in the Park Knolls Tract as specified in the communication from S. J. Katz and J. H. Pine will be completed at the earliest possible date by the City of Torrance. Councilman Babcock withdrew his original motion and seconded the motion of Councilman Hitchcock, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Charles E. Hires Company, informing that Mr. J. A. Papoff who recently purchased a business license from the City of Torrance for the business of distribution of Hires Root Beer is no longer an independent distributor, but is working directly for the Hires Company as a driver-salesman. It was informed that the Hires Company has also purchased a business license for distribution of Root Beer in the City of Torrance and requested a refund of the unused portion of his license to Mr. Papoff in an amount of approximately \$9.00.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Papoff be notified that it is not the policy of the City Council of the City of Torrance to make refunds on business licenses. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

A communication was read from Minori Sueda, 1840 West El Segundo Boulevard, Los Angeles, advising that on November 12, 1941, a business license had been purchased by the writer for conducting the business of a garage at 1548 El Prado in the City of Torrance. It was advised that the writer had volunteered for Army Service and ordered to report January 9, 1942. A refund of all or a portion of the unused business license was requested.

A short discussion ensued, it appearing to be the opinion of the City Council that some consideration should be given the request of persons who enter the Military Service when large portions of their business licenses are unused at the time they are ordered to enter the service.

Clerk Bartlett advised that there have been instances in the past when denials were made and other instances when the requests for refunds were granted.

Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his second to the motion to notify Mr. Papoff that it is not the policy of the Council to grant refunds on business licenses. Councilman Powell withdrew his motion.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to check the minutes of the City Council and determine what action has been taken in the past regarding requests for refunds on business licenses, Clerk Bartlett to report his findings at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication directed to the attention of Councilman Hitchcock was read from the Lincoln Building and Loan Association, advising that it is felt the City should reimburse the Association in the amount of \$49.22 for use of the Association's 115 feet of sewer line which the City used and uses when the City continued the sewer line to the intersection of Eldorado and Cedar Streets, tapping the north end of the Association's line and hooking on three or four properties, the Association's line as referred to being the line laid in December 1939 by said Association south from 1635 Cedar Street to the City manhole at the intersection of the alley north of Carson at Cedar Street.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that Mr. Bowen had contacted him several times regarding this matter. He said he had suggested that Mr. Bowen submit the matter to the City Council.

Engineer Jain advised that the City has a main trunk line immediately below the Association's line, which line was constructed by the County of Los Angeles (known as the Vista Highlands Sewer Project), which construction was made after the Lincoln Building and Loan Association installed their line. He said he has always been of the opinion that the Association should be reimbursed for use of the line, as several properties had hooked onto the line after it was in use. Mr. Jain advised that connections for the same houses which are now hooked onto the Association's line were left in the Vista Highlands sewer line and suggested that the connections be made to the Vista Highlands trunk line without charge for those properties which are members of the Association, which would take care of two or three \$25.00 permit fees. He said the City could salvage the 4" pipe, but would be required to furnish connections to fit the Y's on the new line and all necessary labor.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to contact Mr. Bowen of the Lincoln Building and Loan Association and determine whether or not a satisfactory disposition of the matter could be made by hooking onto the Vista Highlands trunk line without charge, those properties whose owners are members of the Association, the City to furnish all labor and incidental materials and to salvage the 4" pipe. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Walker and Eisen, Architects, 405 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, submitting bill in the amount of \$293.79 for architectural fees in connection with repairs and rehabilitation to the Municipal Water District building.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$293.79 be made for payment to Walker and Eisen for architectural services rendered in connection with repairs and rehabilitation to the Municipal Water District building. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Walker and Eisen, Architects, 405 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, submitting bill in the amount of \$378.00 for architectural fees in connection with repairs and rehabilitation to the Fire Station.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$378.00 be made for payment to Walker and Eisen for architectural services rendered in connection with repairs and rehabilitation to the Fire Station. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that Swayne Johnson, who has served his probationary period as patrolman of the Torrance Police Department, be appointed as a permanent patrolman and granted an increase in salary accordingly, effective January 11, 1942.

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

A request for license to operate an agency for selling and servicing Air Way vacuums at 1437 Marcelina Avenue was presented.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Kail seconded the motion.

Councilman Powell requested that the matter be investigated and action deferred for a week or more. Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his motion, and Councilman Kail withdrew his second to the motion.

A petition bearing thirteen signatures was read, requesting that immediate action be taken to have Block A, Tract 10691 cleaned up, as it is a serious fire hazard because of the debris and oil accumulation.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the petition be referred to the Chief of Police for action.

Councilman Powell stated that this matter has been brought to the attention of the Council before; that it was referred to the City Attorney with instructions to obtain names of owners of the property in question and request them to clean up the property. He said he felt an ordinance should be enacted to require owners to clean up abandoned sump holes and oil accumulations resulting from oil operations. Judge Shidler, acting for Attorney McCall during the latter's absence, stated that it is definitely within the police power of the City to pass such an ordinance.

Mr. Stanger mentioned that a lot cleaning ordinance is already in force. Chief Stroh advised that this ordinance does not sufficiently cover the matter in question. He said he and Fire Chief McMaster had obtained names and addresses of owners of property in the oil district, which names had been referred to the City Attorney several months ago.

Judge Shidler was instructed to study the ordinances now in force and determine whether or not there is one in existence which requires owners to clean up sump holes and oil accumulations resulting from oil operations, and, if it is determined that no such ordinance exists, to offer recommendations for cleaning up the oil field and eliminating the fire hazard complained of in the petition.

A communication was read from the City Council of the City of Los Angeles, City Hall, submitting a report dealing with the problem of disposal of non-combustible rubbish by groups of the smaller cities in Los Angeles County. It was advised that the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities had requested that the report be mailed to City Councils.

Councilman Powell remarked that he had advocated this method of disposing of garbage several years ago. Mayor McGuire advised that the above report pertains to disposal of non-combustible matter only. Councilman Powell said he felt steps should be taken to take care of garbage disposal also.

A communication was read from Charles Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that C. M. Gilbert be transferred from the City Street Department to a full time

position as driver to fill the vacancy created by resignation of one of the drivers of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Mr. Ward recommended further that Mr. Gilbert's rate of pay be established at \$170.00 per month, the regular rate of pay for drivers who have served their six months probationary period.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of Mr. Ward be complied with regarding transfer from the City Street Department to a full time position with the Municipal Bus Lines of C. M. Gilbert; that the recommendation that Mr. Gilbert's rate of pay be established at \$170.00 per month be referred to the Civil Service Board. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from The County Counsel of Los Angeles County, enclosing duplicate originals of agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance providing that payments for library service furnished by the County to the City shall be deducted by the County Auditor from sums due and payable the City by reason of the levy of a tax for library purposes on property in the City.

It was requested that the agreement be executed and returned if same meets with the approval of the City Council.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Council as a whole for study and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer and Building Inspector, enclosing copies of letters written to known violators of Building Ordinance No. 312 and Emergency Building Ordinance No. 331. Names of persons to whom letters were directed are as follows: (1) Frank E. Dalton, D & M Machine Works (2) Harvel Guttenfelder, building at 1618 Cravens Avenue and (3) George Beidler, brick store building, Post and Cravens Avenue. Copies of the letters were read in full. A communication from George Beidler in answer to Mr. Jain's letter to him, was read, in which Mr. Beidler assured the Engineering Department of his willingness to cooperate with the Department.

Councilman Babcock asked whether or not the City Engineer is vested with authority to enforce the provisions of the ordinances mentioned. Mayor McGuire answered in the affirmative.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to enforce the provisions of Ordinances Nos. 312 and 331 of the City of Torrance in connection with Case No. 1,, Frank E. Dalton, and Case No. 2, Harvel Guttenfelder, known violators of the two ordinances. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 334

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A LOCAL DEFENSE COUNCIL AND PRESCRIBING ITS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that further reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 334 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Emergency Ordinance No. 334 be adopted for first and final reading, to go into effect immediately. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, urgently requesting the presence of Chief of Police Stroh at a meeting to be held January 16, 1942 at Sacramento, the objective of which will be the effective execution of emergency programs pertaining to traffic control during black-outs, air raids, disasters and civilian evacuations.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Chief of Police and Mayor be authorized to attend the meeting at Sacramento scheduled for January 16, 1942 as above stated. Councilman Powell seconded the motion. Upon the declaration of Mayor McGuire that he will be unable to attend the meeting, Councilman Hitchcock amended his motion to read "that the Chief of Police and Police Commissioner be authorized to attend the meeting at Sacramento scheduled for January 16, 1942," which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Office of Production Management, Washington, D. C. regarding priority ratings. It was mentioned that much time and expense can be saved by refraining from making requests for steel lockers, files and furniture cabinets, the short supply of steel at the present time preventing the Office of Production Management from approving requests for steel lockers or furniture of any kind.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Manager of the Water Department and the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Jain. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett requested that action be taken in connection with the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. He announced that funds are low and asked that the accounts either be transferred in order that disbursements can be made from the General Fund of the City to take care of Bus Lines obligations, or that sufficient funds be transferred from the General Fund of the City to the Operating Fund of the Bus Lines to take care of Bus Lines obligations.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the accounts of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be transferred to allow payment of obligations of the Bus Lines from the General Fund of the City of Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that signs be erected at the corner of Carson Street and Manuel Avenue, directing traffic from Manuel Avenue back to Carson Street. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. Mayor McGuire suggested that a white traffic line be painted on the street also.

Councilman Powell brought up the matter of the water tank in WALTERIA being left open. He said he felt something should be done toward protecting consumers of the water against possible sabotage and polluting of the water, either by requiring that a top be placed on the tank or by properly guarding the tank.

Mr. Carruthers from WALTERIA stated that Mr. Quandt, owner of the Water system, had been directed by health authorities to cover the tank with a new roof but had not done so to date. He said that if the roof is provided as requested by the Health authorities, and a fence placed around the tank, the water will be reasonably protected.

Mayor McGuire suggested that Mr. Graham of the County Health Department be contacted regarding this matter.

Councilman Powell moved that the Health Department be requested to make an investigation and report of the health conditions in connection with the Quandt Pumping Station in WALTERIA, and that the owner, Mr. Quandt, be contacted and requested to take necessary steps to protect the water supply from pollution and sabotage. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00 be made for payment of contract with H. Ganey, Jr. for traffic striping, City to furnish paint. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$50.00 be made for traffic paint. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock asked what the requirements are for moving houses into the City of Torrance from outside the City limits. Engineer Jain advised that no ordinance is in effect governing this matter, but that the Building Code does require that a moved in house must be brought up to the standard requirements of the Uniform Building Code. He said the Building Department has been strict in its enforcement of this part of the Code. He said the whole matter has been left to the discretion of the Building Inspector, who makes an effort to inspect all houses before permits are issued for moving them into the City to determine whether or not they can be brought up to the standard requirements. If they cannot, Mr. Jain added, it has been the practice to refuse to allow them to be moved in. Mr. Jain pointed out that the Building Department is concerned only with the structural condition, and not with size or appearance of the house, the Department having no authority to rule on the size and appearance.

Councilman Babcock pointed out that his question is purely for the purpose of obtaining information, and is not meant to direct criticism at the Engineering Department. He inquired whether or not it would be advisable to take action of some kind to require that the Planning Commission or the City Council approve or deny applications for permission to move houses into the City before they are moved in. Mayor McGuire pointed out that, in the final analysis, the Building Inspector would be the one to inspect the building and offer his recommendation regarding it.

Engineer Jain stated that the City of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach require that a bond be posted in the amount estimated by the City Engineer which will be required to bring the building up to the standards of the Uniform Building Code.

Councilman Babcock asked what would be done if the house is not brought up to standard requirements after it is moved in. Mr. Jain answered that the building is treated the same as a new house in that the Engineering Department would not allow occupancy of the building until requirements are met. Also, he pointed out, the utility companies will not make connections until the building has been inspected and passed by the Building Inspector.

Councilman Babcock asked whether or not occupancy could be granted before completion of the building. Mr. Jain replied that the same leniency as is extended to new houses would be given, the requirement being that it be structurally sound and fit for habitation from a health and sanitation standpoint.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Jain for a report regarding the inquiry from A. P. Sutcliff of Altadena as to whether or not the City is in a position to furnish water to 17548 Prairie Avenue. Mr. Jain said that, although the location is within reach of the new North Torrance water system, he has taken no action in the matter pending a decision on what is to be done about the new water system. The old water system has not been dissolved as yet and there is no company or corporation with whom the City can transact business as yet.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Jain for an estimate on cost of constructing a double door at the Civic Auditorium to confine light within the building during blackouts. Mr. Jain said it has been decided that the building can be blacked out by using a certain type of screen on the one front door and by placing a strip of black paper around the windows and closing the drapes. Veneer board will be used to black out the Chamber of Commerce building, he said.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Jain for an estimate of cost of removing sidewalk at the corner of Post and Cravens Avenues and installing new sidewalk flush with the existing sidewalks and flush with existing curb line as recommended by the Great American Indemnity Company as a safety precaution. Mr. Jain asked for an extension of time on this matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to draw up an amendment to the Building Code whereby it will be necessary that persons who desire to move houses into the City of Torrance from outside must furnish a bond in the amount estimated by the City Engineer or Building Inspector to be necessary to bring the building up to standard requirements of the Uniform Building Code. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Carruthers from WALTERIA asked that the City Engineer be requested to contact Mr. Ball of the Ball Gravel Pit in WALTERIA and ask him to make water connection with the water lines of the Quandt Pumping Station so that residents of WALTERIA may have the second source of water supply in case of emergency which might impair or cut off the supply from the Quandt Pumping Station.

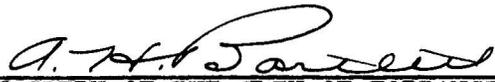
He also asked that something be done regarding the two tanks above ground at the St. Helens Oil Station in WALTERIA. He said these tanks should be removed. Engineer Jain was instructed to contact Mr. Ball regarding both matters to which Mr. Carruthers referred.

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, agreed that water tanks should be covered. He said municipally owned water systems are compelled to cover their tanks, while mutual companies are permitted to leave their tanks open.

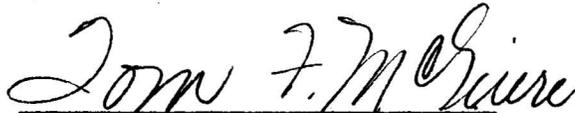
Chief Stroh reported that one of the crossing guards is ill and asked permission to hire another to replace her. He was advised to hire crossing guards whenever, in his opinion, they should be hired, without waiting for Council action in the matter.

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, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:10 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance