

Torrance, California
January 27, 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 Thesday, January 27, 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, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Kail.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 13, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the General Petroleum Corporation of California, advising that no pipe line was laid for the period ending December 31, 1941 under Franchise Ordinance No. 781 N.S. of the County of Los Angeles. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place by Richfield Oil Corporation under County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance Nos. 1358 N.S. and 1361 N.S. for the period from July 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941 inclusive. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that said corporation laid 18 feet of 4-inch oil pipe line under Franchise Ordinance No. 92 and enclosed check in the amount of \$2.00 in payment for same. It was advised that no other pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place under said franchise during the period from July 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941.

A communication was read from the Torrance American Red Cross, signed by Mrs. R. R. Smith, Branch Chairman, requesting the City of Torrance to purchase a \$50.00 supply of materials to be made up by Red Cross workers for use in case of disasters.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. NO VOTE: COUNCILMEN: Kail, who arrived at 8:50 P.M. during reading of the above communication.

A communication was read from Diesel and Natural Gas Engines, 7401 LaSalle Avenue, Los Angeles, California, offering to furnish specifications and information pertaining to new and dependable used diesel and natural gas engines from 30 to 200 H.P. and diesel and natural gas generator sets from 3 Kva to 400 Kva for use in insuring uninterrupted water supply and electric current during the present emergency.

A communication was read from the De Luxe Box Lunch and Catering Company, 5625 Avalon Boulevard, Los Angeles, applying for a six months' permit to operate a lunch route in the City of Torrance. Clerk Bartlett stated that this company had operated such business in the City during 1940.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted. 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 Rachel Williams, 1155½ West 30th Street, Los Angeles, applying for a license to practice palmistry in the City of Torrance at 1325 Sartori Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department for investigation and report at the next meeting. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that the term of office of Howard P. Raymond as a member of the Civil Service Board expired on January 15, 1942.

Mayor McGuire instructed Councilman Kail to investigate the matter and make the appointment at the next meeting. He was advised that he could either appoint Mr. Raymond to fill another term or anyone else qualified for the office.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, being a copy of application received from James F. Cook, 1843 Arlington Avenue, for employment.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from O. D. Butterfield, Electrical and Plumbing Inspector, requesting that the Inspection Department be furnished an inspection car equipped with the necessary light tools to facilitate the increased work which has arisen as a result of the earthquake and the National Emergency.

Mr. Butterfield was instructed to obtain estimates of the cost of a used automobile for use in the Inspection Department, these estimates to be submitted at the next regular meeting.

A communication was read from Charles T. Rippy, Attorney-at-Law, Torrance, requesting information in connection with operation of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Mr. Rippy requested that he be furnished with information as follows:

- (1) Number of passengers from Torrance to Los Angeles.
- (2) Number of passengers from Torrance to WALTERIA.
- (3) Number of passengers from WALTERIA to Torrance.
- (4) Number of passengers picked up in the City of Los Angeles.
- (5) Number of passengers from Los Angeles to Torrance.

Mr. Rippy requested that this information be based upon operations for a period of six months or one year if possible.

A second communication was read from Mr. Rippy, requesting copies of the budgets and the reports of disbursements of the City of Torrance for the years 1936 to 1941 inclusive.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read a report of estimated disbursements and revenue for the City of Torrance and Municipal Bus Lines for the 1941-42 fiscal year as follows:

Estimated Expense, City of Torrance accounts, for the fiscal year 1941-42	\$290,127.44
Advance to Bus Lines	<u>26,010.52</u>
	316,137.96
Estimated Expense, Municipal Bus Lines, for fiscal year 1941-42	<u>31,116.36</u>
Total Estimated Expense, Bus Lines and City	347,254.32
Estimated Revenue, City of Torrance, for the fiscal year 1941-42	292,285.00
Estimated Revenue, Municipal Bus Lines, for the fiscal year 1941-42	<u>22,175.00</u>
Total Estimated Revenue, City and Bus Lines	314,460.00
Deficit for fiscal year 1941-42	\$ 32,794.00
Plus Depreciation on busses (not included in the above)	<u>4,500.00</u>
Approximate Deficit for fiscal year 1941-42	37,294.00

Prior to reading the above report, Clerk Bartlett stated that the estimates as read are based on actual figures taken from the budget reports of the City of Torrance and the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines over a given period of time. Clerk Bartlett then read a report of the number of passengers carried by the Bus Lines between certain points and number of passengers picked up in certain localities.

Clerk Bartlett referred again to the report of estimated disbursements and revenue for the City of Torrance and the Municipal Bus Lines for the fiscal year 1941-42. In view of the fact, he stated, that the City is operating the busses at a great loss, and in view of the fact that it appears there will be a large deficit at the end of the fiscal year, suggestions had been made for curtailment of Bus Line expenses. He said it had been suggested that, in the interest of rubber conservation, and to cooperate with Government Officials by keeping as much civilian traffic off the highways as possible to facilitate military transportation, one bus be operated to connect with the Figueroa Street Bus Line at Manchester Avenue and that one bus be used as an alternate. It was further suggested that the remaining four busses be offered for sale to the United States Government for use in the Defense Program, he continued.

Mayor McGuire asked Clerk Bartlett who had made the suggestions. Clerk Bartlett answered that the suggestions had been received from several sources. Mayor McGuire insisted on a statement as to who made the suggestions. Clerk Bartlett advised that it might have been Mr. Bowen or Mr. Rippy who made the suggestions. Mayor McGuire asked who else had offered the suggestions, at which time Clerk Bartlett replied that he considered the suggestions worthwhile also, to which statement Mayor McGuire replied, "Oh, I see -- that's different." Mayor McGuire did not invite comment or discussion from other members of the City Council at this time. Clerk Bartlett was ordered by Mayor McGuire to read the next communication.

Clerk Bartlett presented a request of the Sons of the Legion for use of a portion of the El Prado Park for conducting a paper drive, 50% of the proceeds to go to National Defense, 25% to go to the American Legion for repairing the Legion building damaged by earthquake, and 25% to be used for Red Cross purposes. It was requested that a portion of the park be roped off for this purpose.

Councilman Babcock seconded Councilman Powell's motion for adoption of Resolution No. 1517, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A second communication from Judge John A. Shidler addressed to the City Council and pertaining to this same matter in connection with status of Judge Shidler and Court Clerk Marcella Crook, in which Mr. Shidler suggested adoption of an ordinance in compliance with the abovementioned section of the Rules and Regulations, was read. Also, Mr. Shidler requested that Miss Crook be granted a 10% increase in salary due to the fact that she has completed her probationary period.

Councilman Babcock advised that the recommendation regarding salary increase must come through the Civil Service Commission and suggested that the communication be referred to said Commission. Councilman Powell agreed to referring the request for salary increase for Marcella Crook, Court Clerk, to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$69.00 be made for one 2-speed sander and polisher for the garage at the City Yard. 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 presented requests of Mr. North of 1550 Marcelina and Mr. J. D. Thomsen of 1609 Acacia for removal of trees at the abovementioned locations.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the two requests for removal of trees be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried un-animously.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made for digging a cesspool for the picnic area at the Municipal Park. 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$81.14 be made for motor regrind and bearings on #101 Ford bus. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be instructed to supply the Personnel Clerk of the Civil Service Board with a complete list of names of all City employees, together with all information pertaining to their employment, such as date of employment and other pertinent data. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the Civil Service Board has already been furnished with a list of names of City employees.

Mayor McGuire asked City Engineer Jain for a report regarding the discussion which arose at the January 13, 1942 meeting pertaining to moving houses into the City. The opinion was expressed at that meeting that an ordinance should be drawn up requiring persons who desire to move houses into the City of Torrance to post a bond to guarantee that the structure will be repaired to bring it up to requirements of the Uniform Building Code. Engineer Jain said he had contacted several nearby cities and had been informed that they have no such requirements. Engineer Jain read a sample bond form which is used by the City of Los Angeles.

A long discussion ensued regarding rates for bonds, types of bonds, whether or not it would be practicable to require posting of a bond, etc. Attorney McCall stated that requiring posting of a bond is not the solution to the problem, but offered no recommendation. Councilman Babcock asked whether or not his understanding that houses of any type can be moved into any locality under the present rules is correct. Engineer Jain advised that such is the case, so long as the owner repairs the building to the extent that it meets the standard requirements of the Uniform Building Code.

After prolonged discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to contact the Attorney for the League of California Cities and determine what method, or procedure, is being followed in other cities in connection with regulating and controlling moving in of houses from outside the City limits, and particularly in regard to how moving into certain localities can be governed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain asked that a decision be rendered regarding moving in of houses between the present time and the time any information is received from the Attorney for the League of California Cities.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that, upon receipt of applications by the Engineering Department for permits to move houses into the City, and upon investigation by the Building Inspector, if any doubt exists as to the practicability of allowing the house to be moved in, the City Engineer immediately contact all members of the City Council and obtain opinions from each of them before allowing the house to be moved in. Engineer Jain asked Councilman Hitchcock if this suggestion could be changed to a motion, which Councilman Hitchcock agreed to do. At this point, before a second to the motion could be made, Mr. Sam Levy interjected a few statements, suggesting that the Emergency Building Ordinance be applied to moved in houses. He said a set of plans should be submitted to the Engineering Department for approval before the building permit is issued. Mr. Jain pointed out that, under the Uniform Building Code, it is left to the discretion of the Building Inspector as to whether or not a set of plans should be submitted in applications for building permits to repair minor buildings. In structural buildings, he said, naturally a set of plans is required in all instances. No second was received to Councilman Hitchcock's motion, but it appeared that failure to second the motion was an oversight, since the consensus of opinion among members of the Council favored the suggestion.

Mayor McGuire asked Attorney McCall whether Judge Shidler, who substituted for Attorney McCall at the January 13, 1942 meeting, had discussed with Attorney McCall the instruction he received to check into the ordinances and determine whether or not there is one in existence requiring owners to clean up sump holes and oil accumulations resulting from oil operations, and, if no such ordinance is in effect, to draw up such an ordinance. Attorney McCall advised that Judge Shidler had not brought this matter to his attention. Attorney McCall was instructed to investigate the matter and report at the next meeting.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the County of Los Angeles be notified that the City of Torrance desires to continue payment of the amounts due the County for library services in the same manner as has been followed in the past, being a payment semi-annually upon receipt of proper invoices from the County of Los Angeles public Library; that the City of Torrance does not desire the Auditor to make the deduction for said services from the amounts collected by the County as taxes for the City of Torrance. 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.

Mayor McGuire asked for a report regarding the application for a license to operate an agency for servicing and selling Air Way Vacuums, which application was read at the January 13, 1942 meeting. Chief Stroh advised that the firm is a reputable one.

Councilman Powell moved that the request for a license to operate an agency for servicing and selling Air Way Vacuums be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell inquired what had been done regarding the water supply matter in WALTERIA. Clerk Bartlett stated he had been informed by the Health Department that the matter has been investigated and attended to. Clerk Bartlett was instructed to obtain a written report from the Health Department regarding this matter.

Clerk Bartlett read excerpts from the minutes of the City Council pertaining to action taken in regard to requests for refunds on business licenses. Excerpts as read were dated from December 12, 1939 to September 23, 1941. The minutes disclosed that refunds had been granted in some cases and denied in others. A short discussion ensued, it being the opinion of the Council that some definite policy should be adopted in regard to refunds on business licenses. Clerk Bartlett re-read the requests of Minor Sueda and the Hires Root Beer Company for refunds on licenses.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be held in abeyance for further discussion. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. O. D. Butterfield, Electrical Inspector, be authorized to attend the Electrical Inspectors meeting at Compton January 29, 1942, expenses paid. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Harvel Guttenfelder, 1618 Cravens Avenue, brought up the matter of his building at 1618 Cravens Avenue which was damaged by earthquake. He stated he had been discriminated against, inasmuch as the damage to his building is slight and requires very little repair. According to the Emergency Ordinance, he said, he is required to employ a registered architect or structural engineer to draw the plans for repair of the building, which fee, he said, will be far in excess of the cost of repairing the building. He protested this ordinance and asked that it be amended. He presented and read a business license which, he said, was issued by the City Clerk's office to a person to conduct the business of a honey depot in the building in question, date of issuance of said license being December 30, 1941. He stated that the license bears the signature of the City Clerk and Mayor. Mr. Guttenfelder stated that the licensee is entitled to a refund of the \$12.00 he paid for operation of the business at the address mentioned above. He remarked that the City should be returned to the people instead of giving it over to a "little dictator".

Mayor McGuire asked Clerk Bartlett whether or not he issued the abovementioned business license. Clerk Bartlett answered that he was not certain, although, he said, it could have been issued by one of the clerks in his office. He advised that he does not inspect every business license which is issued. Mayor McGuire remarked that he should personally issue all business licenses. Someone remarked that the business license also bears the signature of the Mayor. Mayor McGuire answered that the

signature is affixed with a rubber stamp. Mayor McGuire advised Mr. Guttenfelder that he will personally see that the person who paid the license fee for operation of a business at 1618 Cravens Avenue is refunded the amount paid.

Mr. Guttenfelder inquired whether or not he would be allowed to rent his building. Mayor McGuire advised that the Council relies on the recommendation of the Building Inspector entirely, and that the matter is in the hands of Mr. Jain, City Engineer and Building Inspector.

Mr. Guttenfelder stated that the Council had discriminated against him at the January 13, 1942 meeting when Mr. Jain was instructed to start action against him in enforcing the Emergency Building Ordinance by issuing a complaint against him (Mr. Guttenfelder) for not complying with the requirement of the Ordinance in employing a structural engineer or architect to draw plans for repair of his building at 1618 Cravens Avenue. He said Mr. Jain had been lenient enough with him, inasmuch as he had threatened him for the past two weeks but as yet had started no actual proceedings against him.

Councilman Powell remarked that the action of the Council of January 13, 1942 had not been directed at Mr. Guttenfelder, but had been intended to give Mr. Jain the authority to enforce the penalty clauses of the ordinance.

Mr. Guttenfelder said that if he is not granted an occupancy permit, all other property owners who have allowed tenants to move into their buildings which have been declared unsafe for occupancy should be forced to eject their tenants. He said this should extend to tenancy changes also.

Mayor McGuire instructed Mr. Guttenfelder to furnish the Engineering Department a list of names of all the persons whom he (Mr. Guttenfelder) considers to be violators of the Emergency Building Ordinance in respect to the occupancy restriction.

Councilman Hitchcock asked what had been done regarding the discussion about Appeal Board for hearing cases of this nature. Mr. Jain advised that, inasmuch as members of such a board must have 10 years experience as structural engineers or architects, it would be necessary to employ outside men, an expensive process.

Chief Stroh reported that he had received a large number of requests from citizens of the City for use of vacant lots to be used for depositing scrap material, such as aluminum, steel, iron and other scrap materials vital to National Defense. He asked for the opinion of the Council regarding this matter.

Mayor McGuire reported that the League of California Cities had put into operation a plan whereby every citizen of the City is issued a card, which is placed in the window of the home when there is material to be picked up, which material is placed in the back yard of the house, and is picked up by Salvation Army Trucks.

Chief Stroh said the Salvation Army has been picking up certain scrap materials, but has turned down the offers of paper.

Chief Stroh was instructed to contact Mrs. R. R. Smith of the Torrance Red Cross Branch, the Sons of the American Legion and Mr. Gascoigne, City Street Superintendent, and endeavor to work out a plan whereby each of the various groups could pick up scrap materials one day each week.

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

At 9:26 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

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

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance