

Torrance, California  
February 10, 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, February 10, 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 January 27, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from G. O. Gartz, General Building Contractor, 3908 Mission Road, Los Angeles, California, submitting Progress Statement #1 indicating an amount due to date for repairs to the Water Department building at 1511 Cravens Avenue of \$2100.00

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bill of G. O. Gartz in the amount of \$2100.00 be allowed. 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, California, submitting statement for 40% of supervision fee now due in connection with repairs to Water Department building at 1511 Cravens Avenue, being in the amount of \$78.34.

Councilman Babcock moved that the bill of Walker and Eisen in the amount of \$78.34 be allowed. 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 the Central Evangelical Community Church, signed by H. Wesley Roloff, Minister, requesting permission to place a 4 feet by 4 feet and 4 inches sign announcing the name and location of the abovementioned church at a location on the southeast corner of Arlington Avenue and Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Central Evangelical Community Church for permission to place a sign at the southeast corner of Arlington Avenue and Torrance Boulevard be granted.

Engineer Jain advised that a sign ordinance is in existence, prohibiting placing of signs in various areas.

Councilman Hitchcock said he would be agreeable to seconding Councilman Powell's motion, if the motion is amended to read "on approval of the City Engineer," which was done by Councilman Powell, the motion being carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State of California Department of Public Works, attaching a tabulation showing the apportionment of the January 1942 quarterly payment of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent gas tax allocation under Section 194 of the Streets and Highways Code for expenditure on streets of major importance. An apportionment of \$2,548.84 was indicated for the City of Torrance.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Associated Division, advising that, under City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 127, said company derived no receipts or earnings from the use and ownership of said pipe line for the twelve months preceding February 1, 1942. Matter of record.

A communication was read from RD11833-34 Area Technocracy, Inc., requesting permission to operate a Technocracy official public address car on the streets of Torrance on Saturday February 28, 1942 between 2:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. announcing the dance at the Torrance Municipal Auditorium scheduled for February 28, 1942. A discussion ensued regarding a recent ruling of the City Council that no social functions or large gatherings of any description be allowed at the Civic Auditorium at night, due to the fact that the auditorium is the main casualty station in case of air raid or disaster resulting from the war emergency. Chief Stroh advised that he was of the impression that Technocracy, Inc. had made the reservation prior to the declaration of war. Mayor McGuire said he thought the Chief should investigate this matter with the view of cancelling the reservation. Chief Stroh agreed that it would create a dangerous situation to have the building occupied by large numbers in case of a blackout. He recommended that no one be granted use of the auditorium at night.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that RD11833-34 Area Technocracy, Inc. be notified by letter that the Civic Auditorium reservation for February 28, 1942 for the purpose of holding a dance has been cancelled by the City Council, due to the war emergency, since the building is the main casualty station for use in air raids and blackouts; that the request of Technocracy, Inc. for permission to operate a sound truck on the public streets February 28, 1942 for announcing the dance be denied. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor McGuire announced that time had arrived for opening bids for repairs and remodeling Fire Department building at 1523 Cravens Avenue, damaged by earthquake. Clerk Bartlett opened bids as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Ralph E. Homann Co. 4074 Avalon Boulevard Los Angeles, California	\$ 8985.00

A Certified Check in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.

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G. O. Gartz 3908 Mission Road Los Angeles, California	\$ 8880.00
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A Proposal Bond in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.

Blomquist & Runyan  
3370 Randolph Street  
Huntington Park, California

\$9632.00

A Proposal Bond in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.

Edward G. Neess  
1607 Cabrillo Avenue  
Torrance, California

Frank Schoenrock  
624 South LaBrea Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

\$8095.00

A Proposal Bond in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.

Councilman Babcock moved that the bids be referred to the City Council, City Attorney and City Engineer for study and report at the next meeting. 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 American Red Cross, Los Angeles Chapter, 1218 Menlo Avenue, Los Angeles, thanking Mayor McGuire for the pint of blood donated at the Blood Donor Center and thanking all other Torrance residents for the blood donated by them.

A communication was read from Ondus R. Hill, applying for a position as bus driver for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Mr. Hill informed he had previously filed a similar application but that it is not on file in the City Clerk's office. He asked that this application be considered as application No. 2. Clerk Bartlett advised he had turned over to Mr. Gilmeister, former manager of the Bus Lines, all files and data pertaining to the Bus Lines. Mr. Babcock requested that the application be referred to the Civil Service Board.

A recommendation was read from Chief Stroh regarding the request of Rachel Williams, Los Angeles, for permission to operate a palmistry business in the City of Torrance. Chief Stroh advised that he had investigated at the address given and found the house unoccupied. He recommended the letter be filed until Mrs. Williams furnishes the correct address.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh be complied with. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician and Plumbing Inspector, submitting estimates for purchase of an inspection car for the Electrical and Plumbing Departments, the estimates being as follows:

1939 Plymouth Coupe, good condition, good rubber	\$645.00
1938 Plymouth Coupe, fair condition, good rubber	545.00
1938 Chevrolet, fair condition, badly worn free wheeling unit, good rubber	525.00

Mr. Butterfield recommended purchase of the 1939 Plymouth Coupe.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer concurring with Mr. Butterfield's opinion that an inspection car is a necessity at this time and advising that the purchase will be well rewarded by increased efficiency of Mr. Butterfield's Departments.

Councilman Powell moved that the communications be referred to the entire Council for study and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that it had been brought to the attention of members of the Board that certain departments of the City, and especially the Municipal Bus Lines Department, require a set of rules and regulations governing the management of such department. It was stated that the Board has gone on record as recommending that the various department heads prepare rules and regulations where it is thought necessary, for the government of their own department, and submit same to the City Council for approval.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be instructed to meet with the City Council at a time designated by the Mayor for discussion of this matter. Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, to meet with the Council immediately after the Council Meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, referring to the matter of sick leave. It was stated that the members of the Civil Service Board, at a meeting held Friday, January 30, 1942, were unanimous in their opinion that the benefits accruing to City employees under provisions of Section 7, Rule of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations should be retroactive and apply for the entire period of his continuous employment with the City of Torrance, not to exceed thirty days.

Councilman Babcock questioned the legality of making the Rules and Regulations retroactive. Attorney McCall said that, generally speaking, they could not be made retroactive.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to check into this matter and determine whether or not the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Board could be made retroactive to affect a long period before adoption of said Rules and Regulations. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilmen Babcock and Powell expressed the thought that it would be unjust to accept this ruling, since no allowance was made in the budget to cover this item.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, referring the Council to Rule XII of the Rules and Regulations relating to transfers, in connection with the matter of transfer of C. M. Gilbert from the City Street Department to the Municipal Bus Lines Department. It was stated that the Board had never given consent to the transfer of C. M. Gilbert from the Street Department to the Bus Lines Department, and stated said transfer to be null and void under terms of the abovementioned Rule.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the entire Council for report at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. K. Worsham, Star Route, Santa Barbara, California, requesting refund on business license No. 431, issued December 30, 1941 for the business of a honey depot at 1618 Cravens Avenue, which building has been condemned for occupancy, being the building owned by Harvel Guttenfelder and which the Engineering Department has refused to issue said occupancy permit for since the building was damaged in the recent earthquake.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of W. K. Worsham for refund of business license No. 431 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 War Department, Office of the Division Engineer, South Pacific Division, 351 California Street, San Francisco, California regarding the Laguna Dominguez flood control improvement. It was stated that the report rendered regarding this matter indicates an unfavorable interest to participation by the United States in any improvement for flood control measures, in the interest of national defense, for which the War Department is responsible. It was further stated that all interested parties have the privilege of an appeal from this conclusion to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Washington, D. C.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization extending an invitation to the City Council, City Officials, Heads of Departments and their families to attend a pot-luck supper Wednesday, February 11, 1942 at 6:30 P.M. at the Walteria Recreation Center.

A communication was read from the California State Guard, requesting permission to move and place a building owned by Corporal Moffett of Torrance to a site adjacent to the ball diamond at the Municipal Park for use of Company H 2nd Battalion, Corporal Moffett to retain right of removing the building when it is no longer of use to Company H. Appreciation was expressed for cooperation and past favors.

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

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health, advising that the water supply at Walteria served by the Quandt Water Company has been found to meet the United States Treasury Standards as to purity for the past two years, according to records on file in the Department of Health.

Clerk Bartlett said he had been informed by telephone by Mr. Herbert A. Jewett, Chief, Division of Water and Sewage, that the water supply owned by Mr. Ball is unsuitable for drinking purposes, being extremely sulphurous.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a copy of the communication be directed to the Walteria Civic Organization, and that Mr. Graham be contacted again and asked to investigate the matter of covering the tank as a protection for the water supply. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Richard J. Marsden, 100 South Vista Street, Los Angeles, offering Lots 20 and 21 of Tract 5944 for sale to the City of Torrance for \$1500.00, these lots located at the South West corner of Torrance Boulevard and Huber Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Edward F. Saul, F. D. Foley and J. D. Foley, expressing appreciation for the splendid work of the Torrance Police Department in apprehending the thieves who recently stole a hog from their ranch. The efforts of Officers Tom Perkins, Swayne Johnson and Percy Bennett were commended.

Councilman Babcock moved the communication be filed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers recommending that Ordinance No. 327 (setting up a method of procedure for sale of tax delinquent lands) be simplified. Copy of an ordinance was submitted, together with an outline of results to be accomplished by adoption of the ordinance.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney.

Attorney McCall advised he had studied the matter and felt the Associated Assessment Engineers should submit to the City Council the approval of the Board of Supervisors of this ordinance.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded Councilman Powell's motion to refer the matter to the City Attorney, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett requested that a salary of \$100.00 per month be allowed for employment in the City Clerk's office of a Senior Stenographer. He stated he had contacted the Civil Service Board regarding this matter and had received two applications for stenographic positions from the Board, together with a statement from the Board that the two applications furnished are the only ones on file.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be taken under advisement by the entire City Council.

Clerk Bartlett pointed out that, during the past eight years, the personnel of the City Clerk's Office has been increased by only one employee.

Councilman Powell remarked that the treasurer's bookkeeping is done in the City Clerk's Office.

Clerk Bartlett replied that it is customary in all other cities to do the treasurer's bookkeeping in the same manner as is being done in the City of Torrance. He remarked further that only if the treasurer's position is a full time position and compensation paid accordingly does the treasurer perform the bookkeeping duties.

Councilman Babcock seconded Councilman Powell's motion to take under advisement the request of Clerk Bartlett that the Council set a salary of \$100.00 per month for employment of a Senior Stenographer for the City Clerk's Office, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Kail moved that Mr. Howard P. Raymond be re-appointed as a member of the Torrance Civil Service Board for a five year term expiring January 15, 1947. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$84.88 plus tax be made for tires for the Diesel Motor Grader. 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 \$213.66 plus tax be made for tires for the No. 9 truck, Street Department. 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 \$64.34 be made for repairs and parts for the W. M. Loader, Street Department. 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 \$100.00 be made for purchase of miscellaneous items in connection with the Defense Program. 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 Hitchcock moved that the City Council be authorized to attend the Mid-Year meeting of Mayors and Councilmen in Fresno February 14 and 15, 1942, expenses 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$61.80 be made for purchase of 1000 commutation books for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$105.57 be made for rental of tires for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for the months of September, October, November and part of December, 1941, totaling 20,700 miles at \$.0051 per mile, 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 the City Council approve the change of schedule of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, the change effective February 9, 1942. 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.

Attorney McCall reported he had been unable to locate an ordinance pertaining to oil well operations in the matter of requiring owners to clean up sump holes and oil accumulations. He said a state law governs this matter, and that, once a well starts producing, the law does not apply in that respect.

Councilman Powell asked Attorney McCall whether or not the oil accumulation and abandoned sump holes in the South end of the City could be abated as nuisances. Attorney McCall said he had never approached it from that particular angle, but that it might possibly be handled in this manner. Councilman Powell requested Attorney McCall to give the matter further study.

Attorney McCall reported that he has prepared a Surety Bond for presentation to the Council covering moving in of houses from outside the City limits. He reported that this bond will be presented at the next meeting.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch asked what had been done regarding removal of the tracks from the Pacific Electric right of way on Cabrillo Avenue. Mr. Jain reported that, due to the added work created by the Defense Program, it will be impossible to use City crews for the work; that it will be necessary to contract for it.

A representative of the California Overall Cleaning Company addressed the Council at this time, advising that he had been notified that the license fee for overall cleaning firms is \$24.00 per year. He stated that his company does no overall cleaning whatever, but only picks up rags, cleans and returns them for three customers. Chief Stroh substantiated the representative's statements. It was requested by the gentleman from the California Overall Cleaning Company that his business be classed as something other than overall cleaning, at a lower business license rate. It was decided, after a period of discussion, to grant the license under Section 13 of the Business License Ordinance, being a \$12.00 license fee.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the California Overall Cleaning Company be granted a license to transact the business of picking up, cleaning and returning rags for customers in the City of Torrance for \$12.00 per year, based on Section 13 of the Business License Ordinance, reading "for every other business not herein otherwise classified, \$12.00 per year." 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 moved that the City Engineer be authorized to advertise for bids for removal of the tracks and overhead from the Pacific Electric Railway Company right of way on Cabrillo Avenue. 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.

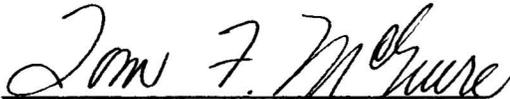
Clerk Bartlett asked Mr. Butterfield to explain a program and entertainment his church had hoped to hold in the Civic Auditorium. Mr. Butterfield announced that the matter would be dismissed insofar as the Auditorium is concerned, it being evident by action taken in the earlier part of the meeting that the Auditorium is not to be granted to anyone for social functions.

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 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned to February 17, 1942 at 4:45 P.M.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance