

Torrance, California
February 17, 1942

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

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, February 17, 1942 at 4:50 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: Councilman: None.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

Clerk Bartlett reported that a request had been received from Technocracy, Incorporated that the City Council rescind action taken at the February 10, 1942 meeting in cancelling the Civic Auditorium reservation of February 28, 1942, the building having been reserved by Technocracy, Inc. for the purpose of holding a dance.

The Secretary of Technocracy, Inc. addressed the Council at this time, stating that the reservation had been made in June, 1941, and that she had verified the reservation early in February of this year. Upon being informed that the building would be available, she said tickets had been ordered printed and sold and extensive advertising of the dance had been resorted to.

Councilman Hitchcock asked when the policy of not allowing auditorium reservations had been adopted by the Council. Clerk Bartlett read a communication dated January 16, 1942 pertaining to this matter and advised that all organizations who had made reservations for the building had received copies of it.

Chief Stroh advised that, inasmuch as the reservation had been made quite some time in advance of the declaration of war and since the Technocracy, Inc. had advertised the dance extensively and expended funds in having tickets printed and sold, he would be agreeable to allow the dance to be held with the provision that the building will be vacated immediately an air raid signal is received by the Police Department. The Secretary of Technocracy, Inc. said this would be an entirely satisfactory arrangement.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the action taken by the City Council at a Regular Meeting held February 10, 1942 in cancelling the Civic Auditorium reservation of February 28, 1942, reserved by Technocracy, Inc. for the purpose of holding a dance, be rescinded, and that Technocracy, Inc. be granted use of the building February 28, 1942 with the understanding that the building will be vacated immediately upon orders from the Chief of Police in case an air raid signal is received. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$65.66 plus sales tax, be made for 2" pipe and fittings for Plaza Del Amo Parkway water line. 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 \$82.30 plus sales tax, be made for parts for Diesel Patrol Grader 2M 310. 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 Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$30.00 plus sales tax, be made for additional materials for construction of the Fire Department Red Cross Trailer Unit. 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 moved that a transfer of \$57,572.94 be made from the General Fund of the City of Torrance to the General Fund of the Municipal Improvement District No. 1 to adjust transfer made from Municipal Improvement District No. 1 General Fund to City of Torrance General Fund. 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 presented a Trespass Agreement from Headquarters Southern California Sector, addressed to the Commanding Officer, 214th Coast Artillery, 741 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, California, together with four copies of Permission to Use Land Agreement and four copies of Record of Survey, with the request that the Permission to Use Land Agreement be executed immediately by the land owner of the premises at Arlington Avenue, Santa Fe Streets, Torrance, California, the land owner being the City of Torrance. It was requested also that the Record of Survey be executed and returned with the Use Agreement. The land referred to was designated in the Permission to Use Land Agreement as Municipal Park, including Baseball Stadium and Picnic tables and Bandstand.

Councilman Babcock said he objected to allowing army trucks to drive into the Baseball Stadium. Councilman Hitchcock requested that Mr. Dale Riley and Mr. Fred Blake be instructed to read the agreement and acquaint themselves with its contents.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute in quadruplicate the Permission to Use Land Agreement and the Record of Survey granting permission for the United States, its troops and their animals, vehicles and equipment, at any and all times during the present emergency, to enter, maneuver upon, pass over, and bivouac or camp upon the Municipal Park, including Baseball Stadium and Picnic tables and Bandstand, and to use the improvements thereon and the water therein or thereon for drinking, cooking and cleaning purposes, the Mayor to execute the agreement and survey after it has been thoroughly checked by City Attorney McCall and approved by him. 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.

Mayor McGuire reported that he and Councilman Powell had attended the League of California Cities Convention in Fresno February 14th and 15th, 1942, at which time many subjects pertaining to civilian defense had been discussed. He said the subject of rationing had received considerable attention. Councilman Powell reported that the subject of disbursements by cities for defense had been discussed, it being reported that there is no hope for reimbursement, that cities must bear the total expense. He said also that much attention had been directed to discussion of incendiary bomb raids.

Organization of the Control Center has been discussed to great length, Mayor McGuire said. Councilman Powell added that much emphasis had been given to the necessity of selecting a place for the Control Center which would be as safe as possible. Mayor McGuire said air raid warning signals had been discussed also.

A discussion ensued regarding air raid signals which are being arranged for use in the City of Torrance. Chief Stroh said that he felt the County of Los Angeles should aid the City of Torrance in this matter, inasmuch as several sections of the County will benefit by the air raid signal system used in the City of Torrance. Also, regarding expense of installing the air raid whistles, Councilman Hitchcock said he felt the City should bear the entire cost of this; that industrial firms who are installing the whistles should not be asked to share the expense.

Mayor McGuire asked Chief Stroh's opinion regarding distribution of pamphlets informing residents of the signals agreed upon when the decision is definitely reached. Chief Stroh agreed that residents should be advised in some manner of the signals agreed upon.

Engineer Jain said that he had, upon request of Dr. Harrison, obtained estimates of the cost of installing drapes in the auditorium to divide the building in such manner as to separate the portion to be used for treating female and male patients in case of emergency. Mr. Jain said Menard and Tabery, Inc., Decorators, had submitted an estimate of \$425.00, which would include a blackout door. A question arose as to whether or not this figure represents sale price or rental rate. Engineer Jain was instructed to obtain more definite detail as to whether or not the materials will belong to the City of Torrance for the price mentioned.

Engineer Jain reported he had contacted the City of Los Angeles regarding the Western Avenue drainage problem but had received little encouragement.

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Municipal Improvement District No. 1, said the Water Company can well afford to pay rental for the Chamber of Commerce building, owned by the City, which the Water department has occupied since the earthquake. Also, he said the Water Department is agreeable to paying for janitor service. He requested that the City bill the Water Department for these items, it appearing that the City budget will be strained to the utmost to provide necessary defense supplies and equipment.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City of Torrance bill the Municipal Improvement District No. 1 for rental of the Chamber of Commerce building for the period from November 16, 1941 to the date the Water Company vacates the building at the rate of \$150.00 per month, and that no extra charge be made for janitor services. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh recommended that the windows in the control center be sandbagged as a safety measure.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Control Center be located in the basement of the Post Office building. Chief Stroh reported that the City of Redondo Beach had used the Post Office building as a Control Center, but had been compelled to vacate said building. He said he doubted the possibility of obtaining this location for the Control Center. A question arose regarding advisability of sandbagging the windows, inasmuch as the sacks deteriorate rapidly. It was suggested that ply board be used. Chief Stroh was instructed to determine the best method of protecting the control room from broken windows during bombings.

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

At 5:40 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