

Torrance, California
February 24, 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 24, 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 Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 10, 1942 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held February 17, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting a hook up and shut off valve between the Ball water pump and the Quandt water mains in WALTERIA, to be used only in case of fire.

Mr. Jain reported that Mr. Ball had been willing to hook onto the Quandt line, but that Mr. Quandt had expressed the desire to hook onto the Palos Verdes Line to give more pressure to his lines. Mr. Jain said he had no information regarding action taken. Mr. Jain was instructed to contact Mr. Quandt and determine what decision had been reached and what action taken.

Councilman Powell brought up the question of a cover for the Quandt water storage tank in WALTERIA. Mr. Jain reported he had been informed by Mr. Jewett of the Health Department that Mr. Quandt had been asked a number of times to provide the water storage tank with a cover, but had not done so to date. Mr. Jain said Mr. Jewett had advised that he would again request Mr. Quandt to cover the tank to protect it against contamination.

Councilman Powell suggested that soldiers be requested to guard the tank, but was advised that there are no soldiers available for this purpose.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be instructed to contact Mr. Quandt of the Quandt Pumping Station, WALTERIA, and obtain from him a definite statement as to when he expects to cover the water storage tank in WALTERIA to protect it against possible contamination and sabotage. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Defense Council, signed by Sheriff E. W. Biscailuz and Harold W. Kennedy, urging the attendance of a representative from each of the Local Councils of Defense at a meeting to be held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, at 9:15 A.M., February 27, 1942. It was stated that the subject of discussion will be the clarification as to the exact policy which is to be followed in the allocation of equipment for civilian defense for which Congress recently appropriated \$100,000,000.00.

Mayor McGuire advised that Chief Stroh has been authorized to attend this meeting.

A communication was read from Homer L. Crawford, 301 Cabell Street, Bellflower, California, requesting refund of business license fee in the amount of \$24.00, this amount having been paid for operation of a lunch wagon on the Hollywood Riviera section for selling to soldiers in that vicinity. It was stated that licensee had operated seven days only, at which time the soldiers had left the district.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Homer L. Crawford for refund of \$24.00, license fee paid for operation of a lunch wagon in the Hollywood Riviera section, 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.

NOTE: Cash deposit refunded no license having been issued.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, dated February 10, 1942, and enclosing a letter from Alvin K. Hill requesting his vacation from February 23 to March 9, 1942, with the advice that any deviation from the Rules and Regulations would have to be authorized by the City Council.

A second communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, dated February 24, 1942, in which it was stated that Mr. Hill now wishes to change his vacation period from February 23, to March 9, 1942 to March 2 to March 16, 1942.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of Alvin K. Hill that he be granted his vacation beginning March 2, 1942 and ending March 16, 1942 be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that, at a meeting of the board held February 4, 1942, a resolution was adopted requesting the City Attorney to attend all regular meetings of the Civil Service Board as a part of his official duties. It was advised that regular meetings of the Civil Service Board are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall.

Attorney McCall advised that he would be glad to attend meetings when his services are required. However, he said, as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Selective Service Board, he is often required to attend meetings which may conflict with meeting dates of the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to attend the meetings of the Torrance Civil Service Board when requested by the Board to do so, Attorney McCall to be allowed one or two days advance notice, the Secretary of the Civil Service Board to be notified to this effect. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read by Councilman Powell from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, recommending that the salary of Engineer Ivan Kettering be increased from \$135.00 per month to \$155.00 per month. A brief discussion ensued, Councilman Powell advising that Mr. Kettering was not granted an increase September 1, 1941 as were other City employees. It was stated further that the contract with Mr. Kettering in which his services were employed for \$135.00 per month expired several months ago.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary, Civil Service Board, addressed to John E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, advising that, in reference to the status of Mr. Kettering and his request for a salary increase, it is the opinion of Mr. Roberts, Chairman of the Board, that matters of salary should be decided by the City Council. Also, it was stated that the question of firemen taking vacations at this time is a matter to be decided by the City Council, since the Rules and Regulations adopted December 5, 1941 do not apply to the Fire and Police Departments.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Chief J. E. McMaster that the salary of Engineer Ivan R. Kettering be increased from \$135.00 per month to \$155.00 per month, effective March 1, 1942, 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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$74.73 be made for purchase of 1 Alemite grease gun and 1 Thermoid hose for the bus garage. 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 reported that, in regard to the trees to be planted in the new subdivision, Park Knolls Tract, the Chairman of the Planning Commission had contacted the residents of the Tract, who had expressed the desire that carob and red eucalyptus trees be planted. Councilman Hitchcock advised that both the abovementioned species of trees are available at the City Yard.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Street Department be authorized to proceed with planting carob and red eucalyptus trees in the Park Knolls Tract according to tree locations to be staked by the Engineering Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain reported receipt of a letter from Mr. Bowen of the Lincoln Building and Loan Association, accepting the offer of the City of Torrance to connect Mr. Bowen's property on Cedar Avenue to the County of Los Angeles sewer trunk line free of charge, in return for which the City is to salvage the 4" line placed there two years ago by the Lincoln Building and Loan Association, work to be done at the City's convenience.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to proceed with connecting the property belonging to the Lincoln Building and Loan Association to the County of Los Angeles sewer trunk line, the City to salvage the 4" line which was placed there two years ago by the Association. 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.

Attorney McCall re-read the communication from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board dated January 31, 1942 pertaining to sick leave for City employees, which communication was originally read at the meeting of February 10, 1942. Attorney McCall was requested at that meeting to rule on the legality of making the Rules and Regulations retroactive.

Attorney McCall quoted two briefs from McQuillan on Municipal Law, in which it was stated that a municipal corporation cannot legally pass an ex post facto ordinance, or one retrospective in its operation. Attorney McCall ruled that the ordinance and Rules and Regulations in question cannot be made retroactive.

Regarding the ordinance presented by the Associated Assessment Engineers, with the request that it be adopted as a means of simplifying the procedural ordinance pertaining to sale of tax deeded land, Attorney McCall reported that his contact with the Associated Assessment Engineers had revealed that the purpose of requesting adoption of the ordinance is to save advertising expense by eliminating necessity of advertising three times in the local newspapers. Mr. McCall stated that adoption of the ordinance as presented would authorize the Associated Assessment Engineers to insert a statement at the end of the County of Los Angeles list advising that the property is offered for sale.

Mr. McCall said Mr. Haines and Mr. Gregg of the Associated Assessment Engineers had assured him that the County of Los Angeles will be contacted and consent obtained to use this method of advertising, and that the title company will be contacted and a statement obtained to the effect that title policies will be written for property advertised and sold in this manner.

Regarding the "Permission to Use Land Agreement" presented by the War Department and read at the meeting of February 17, 1942, Mr. McCall said he had recommended that the Park Superintendent inventory all equipment in the Municipal Park and obtain receipts for use of same by the Army.

Attorney McCall reported that several cities are now in the process of endeavoring to reach a decision as to the proper method of compelling persons to clean up sump holes and oil debris resulting from oil operations. He said he hoped to have definite information within the next week.

Attorney McCall reported that he has drawn up a Surety Bond for the City to require persons who desire to move houses into the City to furnish before moving such building, but that the Surety Company has not passed on it as yet. He said this bond will be ready for presentation in the near future.

Councilman Powell asked why the sump hole matter could not be handled as a public nuisance and eliminated by such nuisance process.

Attorney McCall advised that this can possibly be done with certain provisions. He said the matter has not been studied enough yet to allow a conclusion in this respect. He informed that the owners of oil wells which were drilled but which never produced oil can be compelled to clean up the sump holes, inasmuch as the \$5,000.00 bond posted with the State can be enforced. Councilman Powell said he felt it would be an excellent idea to use cases of this kind as examples.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain whether or not the specifications for removing the track and overhead in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way are completed as yet. Engineer Jain advised that he requires more time to draw the specifications up in the proper manner.

Mayor McGuire presented Ordinance No. 334, being the ordinance creating a local Defense Council and prescribing its duties and responsibilities, which ordinance was adopted January 13, 1942, and made appointments of Chairmen of the various committees of the Defense Council as follows:

- (1) Committee on Civil Protection - Chairman, Chief of Police John H. Stroh.
- (2) Committee on Human Resources and Skills - Chairman, LeGrand Barkdull.
- (3) Committee on Health, Welfare and Consumer Interest - Chairman, City Attorney John E. McCall.
- (4) Committee on Transportation, Housing, Works and Facilities, Chairman, City Engineer Glenn M. Jain.
- (5) Committee on Public Information - Chairman, J. W. Post.
- (6) Committee on Industrial Resources and Production - Chairman, Lewis M. Fernley.

Mayor McGuire moved that the persons named above be appointed as Chairmen of the various committees as specified, the Chairmen to be given authority to function in an Advisory capacity in conjunction with the City Council, the Chairmen to be made responsible for performance of the duties of their particular committees. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Crowthers asked if, in accordance with Mr. McCall's ruling that the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Board cannot be made retroactive, vacations for employees will be affected in the same manner as the sick leave question. Councilman Babcock pointed out that there is no question in this respect regarding vacations, inasmuch as employees have had vacations for several years and are automatically entitled to two weeks vacations after a certain period of service.

Mr. Crowthers requested Attorney McCall to attend the meeting of the Civil Service Board scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 1942 at 7:30 P.M.

Mrs. Kent registered a complaint with respect to the bus service of the Municipal Bus Lines. She said there should be some sign placed in Los Angeles to direct persons to the location from which the busses leave. She informed further that there is one driver who is extremely discourteous to the public.

Mayor McGuire requested Mrs. Kent to furnish the Council with the name of the discourteous driver after the meeting. He informed that the City is making every effort to render satisfactory bus service, but due to the fact that the Bus Lines is being operated at a great loss, it had been necessary to curtail expenses by eliminating some of the service.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the complaint registered by Mrs. Kent be referred to the Manager of the Bus Lines with the request that he make a report to the City Council after he has thoroughly investigated the matter. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. B. Brock inquired why the fire insurance rates are so much higher in WALTERIA than they are in Torrance, since WALTERIA is a part of Torrance. He was referred to Chief J. E. McMaster.

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.

Clerk Bartlett announced that the meeting should be adjourned to March 3, 1942, at which time the resolution calling the municipal election will be presented for adoption.

At 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to March 3, 1942 at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance