

Torrance, California
March 3, 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 March 3, 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: Councilmen: None.

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing certified copy of an order adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 17, 1942, whereby the Board went on record as being willing to modify option agreements with cities and districts for sale of tax-deeded lands which included prices computed prior to the Board's order of October 14, 1941.

Clerk Bartlett read the order in full.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the Board of Supervisors be referred to the Associated Assessment Engineers. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, reporting results of his investigation of the complaint made at the February 24, 1942 meeting by a Mrs. Kent. Mr. Ward enclosed a written report from Alvan K. Hill, driver, in which report Mr. Hill gave his version of the incident reported by Mrs. Kent.

Mr. Ward suggested that complaints be made to the Bus Lines Department as a means of relieving the Council of undue annoyance and wasted time.

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

A communication was read from Carl L. Hyde, Hualapai Lodge, Boulder City, Nevada, requesting refund of \$12.50 on business license.

Councilman Hitchcock moved the request be granted. 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 the Pomona Pump Company, requesting payment of their invoice in the amount of \$274.65, covering repairs to pump serial G 7602. It was advised that payment of the bill had been delayed pending approval of the job by the Engineering Department.

Engineer Jain reported that he had succeeded last week after a great many communications and telephone conversations, in getting the representative of the Pomona Pump Company to go over the job with him. Mr. Jain recommended payment of the bill, less sales tax.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the invoice referred to by the Pomona Pump Company in the amount of \$274.65 be paid, less sales tax. 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 petition bearing one hundred thirteen signatures of employees of the Hydril Corporation of Torrance was read, requesting that repairs to Lomita Boulevard from Pennsylvania Avenue to Hawthorne Avenue be made.

Councilman Hitchcock reported that this street is in an extremely bad condition, advising that Mr. Jain, City Engineer, has today begun repairs to the Street. Mr. Jain was instructed to notify the Hydril Corporation to this effect.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt of \$1270.29 from the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd., being franchise earnings due the City for the period January 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941, inclusive, arising from the use, operation or possession of Franchise Ordinance No. 204 of the City of Torrance, Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1518

RESOLUTION FIXING PRECINCTS, POLLING
PLACES AND HOURS POLLS WILL BE OPENED
AND APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICERS FOR
REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION APRIL 14, 1942.

A question arose regarding hours for keeping the polling places open and also regarding pay for election officers. It was decided to open the polls at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. and to pay election officers \$5.00 each. This information was incorporated in Resolution No. 1518.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1518 be adopted. 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 three eucalyptus trees on Watson Street be removed and replaced with deodar trees. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that, inasmuch as a reduction in expenses is imperative at this time, it is felt the personnel of the Engineering Department can be decreased by terminating the services of the extra employees who were engaged several months ago. He said it had first been felt that their services could be terminated as of March 15, 1942, but, as requested by Mr. Jain, City Engineer, the time had been extended to April 1, 1942.

Mr. Hitchcock moved that Mr. Frank R. Gannon, Structural Engineer, and Mr. Rudolph Meier, Inspector, be notified that their services will be terminated, effective April 1, 1942, and that the City Council go on record expressing appreciation to the abovementioned gentlemen for the efficient manner in which they have handled an extremely difficult job. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

Mr. Jain made an appeal at this time for the privilege of continuing the services of the Inspector. He said the earthquake repair jobs are at the point now where it is imperative to keep an inspector on the jobs at all times. In regard to the services of the structural engineer, he requested the privilege of engaging

said services by the hour. He said that most of the plans being submitted for approval at this time are for the more difficult jobs, as persons who had minor repairs to make made them some time ago. He said there are several contractors on the various jobs whose work must be under constant surveillance.

Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not Ralph Perkins and E. G. Brady could attend to all or a part of this work. Mr. Jain advised that neither of these men are building men. He said that the Department could function more efficiently by letting some of the regular employees go if a lay-off is imperative, and keeping the special employees.

Councilman Powell stated that he would not be agreeable to cutting down the personnel of any particular department. He said the cutting down should extend to all departments, and should all be done at once.

Mr. Jain said he felt a serious step will be taken if the Inspector's job is vacated at this time, adding that the whole earthquake repair program will be destroyed by such a step. He said he would rather see some of the other jobs which have been planned delayed rather than stop the earthquake repair program at this point.

Mr. Hitchcock stated that, if necessary, the emergency ordinance could be amended to allow someone to make inspections who is available for the job. Mr. Jain said this would be unfair to those persons who have been compelled to comply with the terms of the ordinance prior to this time. Mr. Jain stated that he would refuse responsibility for the manner in which the buildings are constructed if the Inspector is let go at this time.

Mr. Hitchcock amended his motion to read as follows:

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Frank R. Cannon, Structural Engineer, be notified that his services will be terminated, effective April 1, 1942, and that the City Council go on record expressing appreciation to Mr. Cannon for the efficient manner in which he has handled an extremely difficult job; that Mr. Rudolph Meier, be retained in the capacity of Inspector. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell reiterated his statements to the effect that he would not agree to cut down the personnel in any particular department, but would prefer, if a lay-off is necessary, to extend it to all departments. Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that other employees are regular employees, coming under the Civil Service classification.

At 5:22 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