

Torrance, California
March 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, March 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, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Kail.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 24, 1942 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held March 3, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Quandt Pumping Station, enclosing correspondence of February 9, 1942 from Herbert A. Jewett, Chief, Division of Water and Sewerage, referring to work started on the Walteria 98,000 gallon water tank. It was advised that covering of the tank has been completed. It was further reported that emergency water connections have been made with the Dominguez Water Company and plans formulated for connecting the Quandt lines with the Palos Verdes Water Lines.

Councilman Kail arrived at 7:49 P.M.

A communication was read from Rogers and King, signed by Virgil H. Rogers, applying for license to operate a taxi business in the City of Torrance, using one taxi to stand on Sartori Avenue in front of Roberts Liquor Store. A check in the amount of \$12.00 was enclosed to cover the license fee.

Councilman Babcock moved that Rogers and King be granted a license to operate a taxi business in the City of Torrance, the stand to be located immediately north and adjacent to the crosswalk on the northerly side of the intersection of Sartori Avenue and El Prado Avenue, and on the westerly side of Sartori Avenue. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board regarding status of Harold C. Callihan and Lloyd L. Crowther, bus drivers for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, who were employed after the effective date of Civil Service Ordinance No. 326. It was advised that Mr. Callihan had informed the Board that Mr. Gilmeister, Manager of the Bus Lines at that time, had represented that the examinations conducted by the National Drivers' Analysis Bureau of Los Angeles, and in which examinations both Mr. Callihan and Mr. Crowther participated, would be regarded as Civil Service examinations. Copy of a letter from Mr. Gilmeister to Mr. Callihan, showing the ratings of both Mr. Callihan and Mr. Crowther in the examinations, was read. In view of the facts above stated, the Board recommended that the examination be regarded as meeting the Civil Service requirements and that Messrs. Callihan and Crowther be given the status of permanent employees.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board that Mr. Harold C. Callihan and Mr. Lloyd L. Crowther, Bus Drivers for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be given the status of permanent employees, be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, recommending that Mr. James Tucker, an employee of the Street Department as truck driver, and who has been off on sick leave for some time, be given employment as night watchman with the understanding that when he is physically able to resume his duties as truck driver he will be returned to his former duties.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board that Mr. James Tucker, an employee of the Street Department as truck driver, be given employment as night watchman with the understanding that when he is physically able to resume his duties as truck driver he will be returned to his former duties, be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire reported that Mr. Tucker has been off for some time on disability compensation, and not on sick leave as stated in the communication.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board pertaining to the subject of overtime. It was stated that the consensus of opinion of the Board is that employees should be given the choice of either taking time off equal to the amount of overtime they have put in, or to be paid for overtime at the regular hourly rate.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the Civil Service Board pertaining to the subject of overtime be held over until the next meeting to allow time for further thought on the matter. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Walker and Eisen, Architects, 405 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, enclosing three copies each of Extra Orders #1 and #2 for the Water Department Building for Mr. G. O. Gartz. Order #1 provided for installation of a new roof at a cost of \$189.00 and Order #2 provided for additional cost of hardware over allowance in the amount of \$9.16. Approval of the Extra Orders was requested.

Councilman Babcock moved that Extra Order #1 and Extra Order #2 for the Water Department Building be approved. 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 addressed to the City Engineer was read from the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, in response to Mr. Jain's letter of February 24, 1942 in which the request was made that the Board of Education set up funds in the 1942-43 budget for the construction of sidewalks and curbs on Elm Avenue and Torrance Boulevard, adjacent to the Fern Avenue school site. It was stated that the Board is being requested to comply with this request, but that the actual construction will be contingent upon the willingness of the City of Torrance to surface the streets adjacent to the proposed improvements in order to preclude the washing out of this work.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to assure the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles that the City of Torrance agrees to surface the streets adjacent to proposed improvements on Elm Avenue and Torrance Boulevard, adjacent to the Fern Avenue School site, the proposed improvement

being construction of sidewalks and curbs. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State of California, Division of Highways, enclosing a letter from the WALTERIA Civic Organization which was addressed to the Los Angeles City Traffic Tribunal and forwarded by the Tribunal to the Division of Highways.

The communication from the WALTERIA Civic Organization called attention to the traffic problem and hazard existing at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard in WALTERIA. An appeal for a traffic signal was made as a means of protecting school children and residents of the community, as well as drivers on the two highways. A brief summary was given of the numerous appeals made in the past for a traffic signal at this location.

The communication from the Division of Highways advised that no funds are available in the Highway Department of installation of this signal, in addition to the fact that materials are increasingly difficult to secure for traffic signals.

Councilman Powell suggested that the signals be moved from less important intersections to the intersection above mentioned if no materials are available for additional signals.

Councilman Powell suggested that the City Council go on record as urging the Division of Highways to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard, WALTERIA.

Councilman Hitchcock mentioned that this had been done a number of times by the City Council.

At the request of Councilman Powell, Chief Stroh gave an accident report for the year 1941 of casualties at the intersection above mentioned. He reported that, of a total of nineteen accidents, twenty-one persons had been injured. He advised further that the Highway Department receives monthly reports of accidents on all first and secondary highways.

Mr. Jain reported that he had written to the Highway Department several times regarding this matter. He said he had recently talked with Mr. Griffith of the Highway Department, who had practically assured him that the signal would be installed. He pointed out that other signals are being installed, with apparently no great difficulty in securing necessary materials.

Mr. Jain was instructed to communicate with the Division of Highways again, stressing the need for this signal, and mentioning the fact that other signals are being installed at various locations. Mr. Babcock suggested that the letter from the WALTERIA Civic Organization and the letter from the Division of Highways transmitting the WALTERIA Civic Organization letter to the City Council be mentioned by Mr. Jain in his letter to the Division of Highways.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, requesting the Council to authorize the employment of Mr. Obrien Drale to replace Mr. Leonard Wilhelmy who has been employed as night watchman at the pumping plant for the past ninety days. It was advised that Mr. Drale has been a resident for 12 years, his address being 4422 Redondo Beach Boulevard. It was requested that he be employed from March 16, 1942 to June 16, 1942. It was further reported that the change was requested by the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Babcock inquired whether or not it is necessary, in emergencies, to comply with the terms of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations with regard to the rule that temporary employees can serve for a period of three months only.

Councilman Powell asked whether or not Mr. Drale is on the eligible list.

Mr. Stanger advised that the Civil Service Board has never conducted examinations for this or any other position. Therefore, he pointed out, no eligible list exists.

Councilman Powell asked whether or not Mr. Drale has filed his application for employment with the Civil Service Board.

Mr. Stanger advised that he had selected Mr. Drale upon the recommendation of the Police Department. He reported that Mr. Drale's application has been filed.

Councilman Powell said he felt the man who is selected for the position should be from the list of applicants on file.

Councilman Babcock questioned the advisability of hiring a different man every three months for such an important duty as guarding the City's water supply.

Attorney McCall stated that the entire matter revolves around the word "emergency." He said that, if the employee could be replaced, no emergency would be in existence, but that, in cases where an employee is indispensable, an emergency would exist, in which event the provision pertaining to temporary employment would not apply.

Mr. Stanger informed that he understood the Civil Service Board intends to conduct examinations for the abovementioned position, but that, in the meantime, to comply with provisions of the ordinance, it is necessary to change as requested.

Councilman Hitchcock said it seemed unusual to be compelled to dispense with the services of an employee after ninety days of employment, especially if the employee is satisfactory in every respect.

Councilman Powell said he felt the Civil Service Rules and Regulations should be complied with, and that a man be selected from the list of applicants if one is available to fill the position.

Mr. Stanger advised that Mr. Wilhelmy has not lived in the City of Torrance the required time to be eligible for permanent employment.

Councilman Powell said he questioned whether Chief Stroh had given any thought to the fact that applications are on file for positions when he made his recommendation to hire Mr. Wilhelmy.

Mayor McGuire asked whether or not the Civil Service Board had recommended Mr. Drale. Mr. Stanger answered that he had again received the recommendation from the Police Department regarding a satisfactory man to guard the water tank.

Chief Stroh advised that he had been asked by Mr. Stanger if he knew of a satisfactory man to guard the water tank, at which time he had mentioned Mr. Drale. He said he had paid no particular attention to the routine or requirements, but had only furnished Mr. Stanger with the name of a man whom he felt to be qualified for the position. He said it was not his intention or desire to violate any of the rules or regulations under which the Water Department operates.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Obrien Drale be employed to replace Mr. Leonard Wilhelmy as night watchman at the pumping plant of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, Mr. Drale's period of employment to be from March 16, 1942 to June 16, 1942. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, requesting the Council to go on record by resolution, authorizing the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 to purchase ten one thousand dollar series G. Defense Bonds.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1519RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING TORRANCE MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 TO PURCHASE TEN ONE
THOUSAND DOLLAR SERIES G DEFENSE BONDS.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1519 be adopted. 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 City of Palos Verdes Estates, expressing appreciation for repairs and center striping done by the City of Torrance on Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway.

A communication was read from Jack R. Stephens, a Street Department employee, requesting a raise in salary. He stated he had been promised a raise, but had never received same. A payroll was obtained at this time, an examination of which disclosed that Mr. Stephens' rate of pay is identical to that of other employees of corresponding classification. It was established that Mr. Stephens received the same pay increase September 1, 1941 as other employees were granted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from Jack R. Stephens be held over for clarification of its meaning by Mr. Stephens. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Sampson Advertising Company, enclosing copy of the agreement signed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce on December 23, 1940, and relating to outdoor advertising displays. The agreement called for a monthly payment of \$10.00 to the Sampson Advertising Company for painting and maintaining twelve outdoor advertising displays at various locations.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be held in abeyance until it is determined how many months were paid by the Chamber of Commerce in accordance with terms of the agreement. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Assistance, requesting the City to install a 4" meter, cost of installation to be billed the County of Los Angeles, for furnishing water to the twenty-five acre garden project to be opened soon on property belonging to the Columbia Steel Company. It was advised that hand labor will be furnished by the Works Progress Administration.

Mr. Stanger reported that no 4" meter is on hand at the present, but that he felt a 3" meter would be sufficient for this purpose. A question arose about necessity for installation of a meter, it being the opinion of several members of the Council that the water is furnished free. Mr. Stanger advised that the Water Department has never furnished free water to the Garden Projects, a charge of 20¢ per 1000 cubic feet having been charged.

Councilman Powell moved that action on this matter be withheld for a short time to allow further study and investigation by the entire City Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Stanger be requested to determine whether or not a 3" water meter can be used for the purpose of furnishing water to the proposed garden project to be established in the City of Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Donald Findley, Counselor-At-Law, Torrance, California, enclosing the Order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California approving and ratifying the transfer of the property formerly owned by the Crown Water Company to the City of Torrance. Mr. Findley stated that his personal opinion is that it would be to the interest of the City to retain this property, since it was deeded to the City without any consideration, and will undoubtedly be of value to new residents in the area which it serves.

Councilman Babcock moved that a meeting be arranged at the convenience of all persons concerned, including the City Attorney, Attorney Findley, the fifteen consumers, and the City Council, for the purpose of discussing the matter at length and determining whether the City should retain the property or conform to the original plan of being reimbursed for the amount expended in repairing the water system. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt of \$4100.73 from the Southern California Gas Company, being the amount due for the period January 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941, inclusive, under Franchise Ordinance No. 322.

Clerk Bartlett presented a request for installation of a telephone at the Hollywood Riviera Red Cross station, monthly service charge, \$3.00 and installation charge, \$3.50.

Councilman Babcock moved that the installation of a telephone at the Hollywood Riviera Red Cross station be authorized. 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 asked whether or not the telephone company has been approached and asked to stand the expense of the service charge on telephones installed for defense purposes, particularly in the Control Center.

Mr. Jain said information had been furnished to the effect that the telephone company will not bear this cost. He said the telephone company has expended several millions of dollars throughout the country in connection with the defense program. Mr. Jain pointed out that the service charge is a monthly payment on the installation cost.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer and Mayor be authorized to contact the officials of the telephone company and determine whether or not the service charge can either be furnished free by the telephone company, or a reduction in the rate given, the City to pay all installation charges. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire inquired regarding the control system for air raid alarms throughout the various industrial plants. Chief Stroh advised that the telephones are on order and that a number of them have been installed. A short discussion ensued regarding cost to each plant for installation and service charge for telephones connecting the control system. Chief Stroh said he felt the fairest method of distributing the cost would be to divide it equally among all the plants connected to the control system.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, advising that cattle, horses and goats are being staked around trees on Ocean Avenue and Los Codona Street in Walteria. It was requested that a thorough investigation be made and steps taken to remedy the situation, and that the damaged trees be replaced.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department for investigation and to the Street Department for replacing the damaged trees. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the Street Department be authorized to repair the two abovementioned streets to accommodate the Police Department in the investigation. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett requested to be allowed \$100.00 per month for three months for employment of a stenographer or clerk in the City Clerk's office.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the City Clerk for \$100.00 per month for three months for employment of a stenographer or clerk be granted. Councilman Kail 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 presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1520

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING FIRE
MANUAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
GOVERNMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1520 be adopted. 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 a fire hydrant be installed at the corner of Via LaSalva and Via Monte D'Oro in the Hollywood Riviera section, water to be furnished by the California Water Service Company at the rate of \$2.50 per hydrant, per month. 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, upon recommendation of Chief McMaster of the Fire Department, Ivan R. Kettering be appointed as a regular engineer of the Fire Department, effective March 1, 1942. 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 \$50.40 be made for fertilizer for the city parks. 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.

Engineer Jain announced that specifications are complete for removal of tracks and overhead in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way, formerly owned by the Pacific Electric Railway Company.

Mr. Jain advised that the notice to bidders can be ready for publication in the March 12, 1942 edition of the Torrance Herald. He suggested further that a notice be inserted in the Southwest Builders publication to reach a wider range. He offered to obtain prices from Southwest Builders for insertion of a notice to bidders, and was authorized to do so.

Attorney McCall requested a motion authorizing him to request the assistance of the Division of Oil and Gas of the State of California in the matter of ordering oil wells and sump holes within the City of Torrance to be abandoned and cleaned up.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to request the assistance of the Division of Oil and Gas of the State of California in the matter of ordering oil wells and sump holes within the City of Torrance to be abandoned and cleaned up; the Attorney to authorize the enforcement of whatever bonds have been posted with the State by owners or operators of oil wells to insure proper abandonment and cleaning up of sump holes. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A short discussion ensued regarding time for opening bids for the removal of tracks and overhead in the Cabrillo Avenue right of way. It was unanimously decided to open bids at 5:00 P.M. April 7, 1942 at an adjourned meeting, the meeting to convene at 4:45 P.M. April 7, 1942.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Shidler suggested that copies of communications from the Walteria Civic Organization and from the Highway Department pertaining to the request for a traffic signal at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard be forwarded to the State Assemblyman for this district.

Judge Shidler suggested that the city charge license fees for operation of pin ball games in the City of Torrance. He mentioned that this would be a good source of revenue for the next fiscal year.

Judge Shidler inquired whether or not employees of the Municipal Water District No. 1 are considered as Civil Service employees under Civil Service Ordinance No. 326, inasmuch as the Water Company is a separate enterprise entirely. Councilman Babcock said it had been the intention of the Council to include the Water Company. Councilman Powell mentioned that, although the Water Company is a separate enterprise, it is managed by the same governing body as the City of Torrance.

Mayor McGuire advised that several questions have arisen with regard to status of various employees under Civil Service. He said a question had arisen as to whether or not employees of the City Clerk's office are under Civil Service, inasmuch as the City Clerk has full authority to appoint his deputies, the Council retaining the privilege of setting salaries for the City Clerk's deputies.

Mrs. Renee Bartlett, 2325 Sonoma Street, inquired whether or not plans have been formulated for constructing air raid shelters in the City of Torrance. Mayor McGuire advised that the basement of the post office building is the only public air raid shelter in Torrance. He said the First Christian Church had offered the basement of the Church building for this purpose. However, Mayor McGuire said, latest reports from London, England, indicate that air raid shelters are practically out of use, since a greater part of the damage is caused by fires started by incendiary bombs. He said citizens are more inclined to remain in their homes and protect the home against fire by extinguishing incendiary bombs.

