

Torrance, California
June 9, 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, June 9, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 26, 1942 be amended to read as follows: parallel parking on Cravens Avenue from Cabrillo Avenue to Torrance Boulevard

(instead of Marcelina Avenue to Gramercy Avenue), and that the minutes of the May 26, 1942 meeting be approved as amended and that the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held May 27, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the General MacArthur Day Committee, extending an invitation to the City Council to participate as a unit in the parade to be held June 13, 1942 in commemoration of General Douglas MacArthur, parade to form in front of the Torrance High School at 5:30 P.M. Clerk Bartlett announced that the intent had been to include the City Council and all other City Officials in this invitation.

A communication was read from the Shell Oil Company, reporting that for the period of twelve months ending December 31, 1941, no gross receipts or direct income of any kind were derived by said company from the use, operation or possession of franchises granted under Ordinances Nos. 116, 121, 174 - 1356 and 1502 (Los Angeles County).

A check in the amount of \$121.05 was enclosed, this amount being determined on the theoretical gross return to grantee at rates so fixed as to net a fair return on the capital invested after payment of operating costs and allowance for depreciation reserve. Matter of record.

A communication was read from F. L. Parks, 1418 Marcelina Avenue, advising that he is building a house on Lot 5, Block 9, Tract 4070, and will connect to sewer at rear of the lot. He advised that he had given the City an easement across this property for sewer, and that it is his understanding one property owner in the locality was given a sewer connection without charge where he had given an easement. He stated that it would seem reasonable to expect an adjustment with regard to payment of the sewer connection fee by persons who have given the City easements across their property for sewer purposes.

General discussion pertaining to this matter followed, Mr. Parks participating, and at which time Mr. Jain reported that the easements had been obtained by the former City Engineer, Mr. Young, and that there is on file no agreement, which, he said, possibly was verbal.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to Engineer Jain to arrange a plan whereby all property owners who have granted easements to the City across their property for sewer purposes will receive equal adjustments in regard to sewer connections they wish to make on property which said easement crosses, either by waiving the \$25.00 sewer connection fee or other equitable means, the plan to be presented to the City Council at the next meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Firestone Auto Supply and Service Stores, requesting permission to keep the Firestone warehouse boarded up for the duration of the war to prevent the theft of tires stored therein.

Engineer Jain recommended that this request be granted.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Firestone Auto Supply and Service Stores to be allowed to keep their warehouse boarded up for the duration of the war to prevent theft of tires stored therein be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Robert W. Kenney, Senator for Los Angeles County, California State Senate, acknowledging communication of June 2, 1942 and pledging his support in efforts to establish insurance protection for volunteer defense workers.

A communication was read from Vincent Thomas, Assembly, California Legislature, acknowledging receipt of communication of June 2, 1942, pledging his support of pending legislation with reference to an over-all system of compensation insurance for defense workers.

A communication was read from William F. Barta, Attorney-At-Law, signed by Dora M. Haney and Bernice W. Antwerp, owners of property now occupied by L. P. Liston, L. I. Liston and H. T. Bernhard, co-partners doing business as the Coast Brick Company, offering to dedicate or convey, in fee, to the City of Torrance, certain portions of the property described in the communication upon termination of lease agreement with said Brick Company and final cessation of work thereon by said Company. This offer was made on the assumption of continued excavation by said Brick Company on Lot 8 and with the provision that, in the event the Brick Company does not continue to excavate on Lot 8 from whatever cause whatsoever, the offer to be deemed withdrawn and to have no legal effect.

It was suggested that the premises offered to be dedicated would afford the City a future means of garbage disposal.

A short discussion followed, Mr. Barta and his client participating.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from William F. Barta offering to dedicate or convey, in fee, to the City of Torrance, certain portions of property in North Torrance now occupied by the Coast Brick Company be referred to the entire City Council for further study, a meeting to be held with Mr. Barta, his clients, and interested North Torrance residents for complete understanding of the offer. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Barta requested that this matter be disposed of at the earliest possible date, inasmuch as the brick making season is present.

A communication was read from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, acknowledging receipt of City of Torrance Resolution No. 1529 and expressing appreciation of the Board of Directors for endorsement by the City of Torrance of the established practice of the District regarding furnishing by the District of water to areas not annexing to the District.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting that Attorney McCall be authorized to draw up a Resolution to prohibit parking of motor vehicles in the red bus stop zones.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draw up a Resolution to prohibit the parking of motor vehicles in the red bus stop zones in compliance with Mr. Ward's request. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 signed by Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager, requesting that, in compliance with the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, Mr. O'Brien O'Drale be appointed as watchman at the Pumping Plant for an additional ninety days, commencing June 16, 1942 and ending September 16, 1942, or for a period of time until his services can be dispensed with.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Stanger's request for re-appointment of Mr. O'Brien O'Drale as watchman at the pumping plant be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Office of Dale Riley, Recreation Department, signed by Robert L. Lewellen, Chairman of the Torrance Advisory Recreation Commission, recommending that the action of July 8, 1941 wherein an amount of \$7500.00 was authorized

for recreational improvements be rescinded, it being stated that, due to unforeseen emergencies, it appears there were insufficient funds to carry out the recreational program at the present time.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication signed by Robert L. Lewellen, Chairman of the Torrance Advisory Recreation Commission, be embodied in the minutes as a matter of record. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from L. B. Kelsey, submitting his resignation from the Tire Rationing Board, effective May 26, 1942.

Councilman Babcock moved that the resignation of L. B. Kelsey from the Tire Rationing Board, effective May 26, 1942, be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mrs. J. O. Bishop be appointed to the Tire Rationing Board as successor to L. B. Kelsey, resigned, Mrs. Bishop's appointment effective May 26, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Marie B. Kendall, 2395 Lime Avenue, Long Beach, requesting that the fire hazard in the form of dry weeds be eliminated at the earliest possible date in the Hollywood Riviera section, stating that her home is at 279 Linda Vista, Hollywood Riviera.

Chief McMaster reported that a definite fire hazard exists in this vicinity due to growth of weeds. He said the Huntington Land Company and the Clifford F. Reid Company have heretofore attended to making fire breaks in the vicinity.

Mr. Gascoigne, Street Superintendent, stated that Mr. Reid had advised that the Reid Company has tractor, disc and operator for cutting the fire breaks and eliminating the fire hazard.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that this matter be immediately investigated again, and if it is determined that the Reid Company does not contemplate cutting the fire breaks, that the City proceed to do it.

Councilman Powell stated that dry weeds present a serious fire hazard and that he felt it to be the duty of the City to eliminate the hazard. However, he said, he felt that, if possible, property owners should be required to pay for this service, or clear the property of weeds themselves.

Mrs. Wiethase from Hollywood Riviera pointed out that in places where there are many acres of dry weeds, such as the Hollywood Riviera section, a fire during an air raid would provide illumination for enemy aircraft.

Engineer Jain was instructed to immediately investigate this condition and offer recommendation for eliminating the fire hazard existing in the form of dry weeds.

A communication bearing seventeen signatures was read, requesting that Eldorado Street be resurfaced and refinished properly instead of the usual patching with rock and oil.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for consideration in drawing up the 1942-43 budget. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Kryne Van den Akker, Attorney-At-Law, submitting his resignation as of May 27, 1942, Mr. Van den Akker having been retained by the City pursuant to a resolution dated May 13, 1941 to file quiet title actions on certain parcels of real property.

Mr. Van den Akker stated that he will follow through on the two actions already filed by him, which titles should be cleared in a short time, he added.

Mr. Van den Akker presented two statements for fees and expenses for quieting title to the lots described in Judgments which

were also attached. A quit claim deed to Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Block 12 of Tract No. 4070, formerly owned by Albert D. Harder, Mr. Van den Akker advising that a resolution of acceptance and ordering recording of the deed should be passed.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1535

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM
DEED FROM ALBERT D. HARDER, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD SAME IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1535 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Van den Akker advised in his communication that, in reference to the abovementioned lots, an extra hazard fee of \$25.00 to insure title will be required, in addition to the regular fee for title payable to Title Insurance and Trust Company, inasmuch as one old owner of the lots now resides somewhere in Russia, and because of an old oil lease.

Mr. Van den Akker's two statements, totaling \$232.22, covering quieting title to the abovementioned nine lots, and Lots 5 and 6, Block 90, Torrance Tract, together with miscellaneous and service fees, were read in full. A short discussion followed, the opinion being expressed that Mr. Van den Akker, according to the agreement, was to have been compensated for his services by the Associated Assessment Engineers from the amounts collected by said company as Engineer's fees.

Mr. McCall stated that, so far as he could recall, Mr. Van den Akker should be paid from the Engineer's fees except in cases where the City exercises its option to purchase certain parcels from the County of Los Angeles.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the statements of Kryne Van den Akker in the amount of \$232.22 be referred to City Attorney McCall for thorough checking and reconciliation with the agreement between the City and Mr. Van den Akker. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1536

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON
CERTAIN STREETS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1536 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett announced that the Municipal Band had anticipated the expenditure for appearance of the Band in the General MacArthur Day celebration June 13, 1942 at \$85.00.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Torrance Municipal Band be authorized to participate in General MacArthur Day June 13, 1942 at a cost of not to exceed \$85.00. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett reported that the insurance carriers had informed him that persons transported on the Municipal Bus Lines for participation in the General MacArthur Day parade will be protected by the public liability insurance carried by the City for the Bus Lines.

Clerk Bartlett announced that, the official recount of the ballots cast at the Municipal Election held April 14, 1942 for the office of City Clerk, which recount was held May 4, 1942 in the Superior Court in Los Angeles, had resulted in an additional seventeen (17) ballots for the Incumbent, A. H. Bartlett.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$175.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of cartridges for the Police Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$57.52, plus tax, be made for repairs to the Caterpillar Loader for the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock asked for a report on the request of Mrs. Matilda Winters that the two-hour parking restriction on El Prado to Border Avenue, in the vicinity of the Murray Hotel, be lifted to accommodate guests of the hotel.

Chief Stroh advised that a difficult problem would arise if this request is complied with, inasmuch as guests will park their automobiles all day and use all available parking space, thereby making it impossible for customers of the business houses to find parking space.

Chief Stroh was requested to contact the businessmen in the vicinity who might possibly be affected if the request is complied with and get their views, a report to be made to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Judge John A. Shidler be authorized to go to Sacramento and contact the Governor of the State and other authorities, urging that State Guards be detailed to guard the water pumping plant and other civic buildings, expenses of Judge Shidler to be paid by the City. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell stated the Council should go on record as again urging industrial firms to contact authorities and stress the need for State Guards in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be requested to give a written opinion on the status of employees of the City who voluntarily enlist in any branch of the United States Military service regarding their privileges upon return from service; as to whether or not enlisted persons are entitled to return to their positions in the same manner as persons inducted or who were on the reserve at the time war was declared, that copies of the opinion be posted on all bulletin boards of the City in order that employees may have a complete understanding of their privileges.

Councilman Powell suggested that a notice be drawn up outlining the procedure to be followed by employees desiring to leave the City employ as required by the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, it being necessary, Councilman Powell stated, to apply for a leave of absence.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made for blackout of the Torrance Woman's Club building for a Casualty Center. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$99.89 be made for Air Raid Warden's Reports. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$99.45 be made for renewal for a five year period of the fire insurance on the Fire House. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$48.60 be made for renewal for a five year period of the fire insurance on contents of the Auditorium. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$51.60 be made for renewal for a five year period of the fire insurance on contents of the City Hall. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that Howard P. Raymond be appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. O. Bishop, resigned, on the Fire and Police Civil Service Board, term expiring December 31, 1945. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Charles Elman, 318 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, urged that additional transportation facilities be provided for persons desiring to use the Municipal Bus Lines. He also urged that steps be taken toward furnishing additional housing facilities in the vicinity.

Mr. John J. Dunlop, 2511 Apple Avenue, requested that lower water rates be provided for persons interested in growing produce for their own use, these gardens now popularly referred to as "Victory Gardens."

Mr. Crowthers of WALTERIA inquired whether or not permission has been granted the Weston Ranch in WALTERIA to dump refuse into the old Graham gravel pit, located on the Weston Ranch. He advised that it appears acid residue, or an acid substance is being dumped into the pit. He pointed out that this condition if allowed to exist represents a hazard, inasmuch as anyone coming into contact with the acid would receive acid burns.

Mayor McGuire instructed Engineer Jain and Attorney McCall to investigate this matter thoroughly to determine whether or not acid is being dumped into the Graham gravel pit located on the Weston Ranch and, if so, to determine proper procedure for prohibiting this practice.

Councilman Powell reopened the subject of reduced water rates for Victory Gardens, stating that he felt persons who desire to raise gardens of substantial size should be allowed lower rates for this purpose. He pointed out also that cultivated land will be another means of decreasing the fire hazard present in the form of dry weeds growing on vacant lots. Councilman Babcock said he understood other cities are allowing lowered water rates for persons desiring to raise Victory Gardens.

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Company, reported that none of the other cities are allowing use of domestic service for irrigation purposes. He said it would be necessary to install water meters on vacant lots for irrigation of the gardens. He said approximately 1700 persons have applied for Victory Garden rates.

*Approved
June 12, 1942*

Mr. Stanger was instructed to write to several cities and determine what action is being taken regarding requests for reduced water rates by persons desiring to raise Victory Gardens.

Mr. C. E. McMoran, 232 Paseo de Gracia, Hollywood Riviera, said he could see no reason for installing meters on vacant lots for irrigating the gardens. He said a garden hose would furnish ample irrigation, and could be attached to the residence service, the reduced rate for Victory Gardens to be applied to excessive consumption of water.

Mr. Stanger requested a few days to obtain information from other Cities in this matter, Friday, June 12, 1942, 4:45 P.M. being agreed upon as a suitable time for informal meeting with the Council for report and discussion of the subject.

Chief Stroh brought up the subject of parking on Eldorado Street, which subject was introduced at the May 26, 1942 meeting, and at which time Chief Stroh was instructed to determine which side of the street should be restricted against parking, his recommendation to be presented at this meeting.

Chief Stroh recommended that parking on the South side of Eldorado from Engracia to Cota Avenues be prohibited, due to the fact that the street is too narrow to allow passage of vehicles when automobiles are parked on both sides of the street. This, he pointed out, is an emergency measure, as a serious problem would be present if necessary for an ambulance or fire apparatus to use the street during a blackout. He said he had contacted all the residents, except one, who would be affected by prohibiting parking on the South side of Eldorado and had encountered no opposition.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred over for further study and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gladys Wiethase from Hollywood Riviera again urged that steps be taken toward eliminating the fire hazard in the form of many acres of dry weeds in the Hollywood Riviera section. She was advised by the Mayor that Mr. Jain will investigate the matter immediately.

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: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:10 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Babcock
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Jim F. M. Gunn
Mayor of the City of Torrance