

Torrance, California
September 29, 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, September 29, 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: Cucci.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 8, 1942, the Regular Adjourned Meeting held September 15 and 18 respectively, and the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 22, 1942, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from Mrs. Lela Gonner of the Perry Mutual Water Company was read advising that a Mr. Val Molt, doing business as Val Molt Water Company, is running water down 182nd Street to the Edison Power Station without the use of an irrigation ditch and is selling water at a lower rate than that charged by Perry Mutual. The writer requested that in the event that such a practice is unlawful that the matter be taken care of before October 7, 1942.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from Mrs. Lela Gonner be referred to the Police Department for action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A statement of two per cent of the gross receipts of the Union Oil Company of California for the year ending June 30, 1942, arising from the use, operation and possession of franchise granted by the County by Ordinance No. 1501 (N.S.) to Pan American Petroleum Company and assigned to said Union Oil Company was read. Clerk Bartlett stated that the total amount due is \$5.87. Matter of record.

A communication from the California Section of the American Water Works Association was read advising that the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting will be held October 28-29-30, 1942, in Oakland, California, and urging that the head of the local Water Department attend said meeting in the interest of water works activities and their place in our National Effort.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Manager of the Water Department be authorized to attend the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the California Section of the American Water Works Association to be held at Oakland, California, from October 28 to October 30, 1942, inclusive, with expenses paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication from Mr. Fred Hansen was read advising that he has paid his City Business License for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1943, and that inasmuch as he discontinued business because of war conditions as of September 17, 1942, he felt that he should be entitled to a refund on the remaining nine months.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from Mr. Fred Hansen be referred to the Council as a whole for action at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance Civil Service Board was read making inquiry regarding the "Classification of Employees" submitted by the Board on August 31, 1942, for approval. The writer stated that the members of the Board were anxious to have the plan adopted in order that they might submit same to the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the Torrance Civil Service Board regarding "Classification of Employees" be referred to the Council as a whole for action at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Associated Assessment Engineers was read enclosing seven copies of the standard agreement with the County of Los Angeles to purchase tax deeds. The letter stated that the properties involved were formerly included in an application to the County and that said properties were presumed to have delinquent taxes but did not have delinquent special assessments. Inasmuch as it was subsequently discovered that certain of the parcels included in the above-mentioned application did, nevertheless, have some County Improvement Bonds, it was necessary to have the prices for the purchase of the tax deeds recalculated. The writer stated that the foregoing necessitated the option agreement enclosed and therefore recommended that authorization be given for the proper signatures.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to sign the Option Agreement with the Associated Assessment Engineers for the purchase by the City of the State's title to certain lands within said City. Attorney McCall stated that said agreement was between the City of Torrance and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles. Councilman Hitchcock amended his motion to that effect. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion as amended, and said motion was carried by the follow-

ing roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell moved that Fred Tiffany be appointed as Assistant Coordinator to the Chief of Police, who is Coordinator of Civilian Defense, and that the balance of his time be given to the direction of the Police Pistol Range, said duties to be compensated for at the rate of \$145.00 per month. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell stated that E. K. Walker, former engineer at the City Fire Department who has recently left to serve his country, has returned for an indefinite period due to the fact that equipment and uniforms are not yet available.

Councilman Powell moved that E. K. Walker who was recently inducted into military service and who has returned for an indefinite period be given temporary employment in the Fire Department until he is recalled into the armed forces, said employment to take effect September 21, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$600.00 be made for the purchase of a 1939 one ton Dodge truck for the Electrical Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hallanger addressed the Council and stated that at the League of California Cities Meeting which he attended recently he discovered that many of the Cities which had adopted a voluntary allotment plan for the purchase of war savings bonds were selling stamps to the employees in the amount of the deductions made from salaries rather than allowing deductions to accumulate in order to purchase bonds. Mr. Hallanger advocated the former method as a safeguard against confusion in the bookkeeping and among the employees which might be caused by delay in the arrival of the bonds. He said that the City could purchase the stamps and keep them on hand for employees wishing to purchase them, and that the employees could turn into the Post Office the sufficient number of stamps necessary to obtain a bond. Clerk Bartlett concurred with the Deputy City Clerk Hallanger.

In answer to an inquiry, Engineer Jain stated that the Railroad Commission had acknowledged the City's petition for a crossing at Abalone and Plaza del Amo, and that said Commission had requested more information which he supplied. Attorney McCall advised that he would see what could be done to expedite matters in the Legal Department.

The intersection at Carson and Madrid was discussed briefly.

Councilman Babcock reported that a tree on the north side of Carson Street shelters the signal from view. Engineer Jain stated that he would look into the matter.

Councilman Hitchcock made inquiry concerning the Santa Fe Railway's proposed plan to improve the Madrid right-of-way. City Engineer Jain stated that he had heard nothing further from them but that he would follow the matter up.

Mr. John E. Mock, Torrance Municipal Bus Driver, reported that many trees in the City with low hanging branches are badly scratching the tops of the busses. Mayor McGuire suggested to Mr. Mock that he and the other drivers make a list of the trees damaging the tops of the busses and give it to Mr. Gascoigne, Superintendent of Streets, Sewers, and Parks.

Mr. Alvin K. Hill, Torrance Municipal Bus Driver, asked the City Engineer if something could be done to fill the hole at Madrid and Torrance Boulevard by reason of the fact that said hole has been the cause of a number of broken springs on the busses. Engineer Jain advised that the hole is merely a $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inch trough for drainage purposes and that it cannot be filled in. The City Engineer said that he and Manager Ward had driven a bus over the spot in question and had discovered that by properly maneuvering the bus, that is by keeping clear to the west, one could avoid getting any noticeable bump.

Chief of Police John H. Stroh, Coordinator of Civilian Defense, stated that the Red Cross' representative had asked him if it would be possible to get the venetian blinds stored in the Control Center for the local Chapter's new location. A discussion relating to the legality of moving City property ensued. Attorney McCall indicated that the transfer would be in order.

Councilman Babcock moved that the venetian blinds originally used in the old Chamber of Commerce building be transferred from storage in the Control Center to the building occupied by the American Red Cross at the corner of Cravens and Post Avenues, said venetian blinds to be returned to the City when the Red Cross moves from said location. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Captain Carl J. Beuhlar, Commanding Officer of the California State Guard stationed at the City Park, addressed the Council and suggested that dedication ceremonies accompany the presentation of the mess hall and barracks as soon as the buildings are completed. He stated that the military body of the State Guard would be happy to participate in the dedication ceremonies. Captain Beuhlar advised that the men occupied the buildings today but that the electric lights had not yet been installed. The Council concurred with Captain Beuhlar's suggestion.

Councilman Babcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

At 8:15 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance