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Torrance, California
October 13, 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, October 13, 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.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 29, 1942, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles was read advising that an enclosed resolution adopted by said Board authorized an appropriation of \$840.06 from the Motor Vehicle Fund for the improvement of Plaza del Amo within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication from The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company addressed to the City Engineer was read assuring the City that the delay in cleaning up the right-of-way between Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard and in repairing the crossings over their tracks within the city limits was due to extreme pressure in handling other work in connection with their military movements.

Clerk Bartlett stated that he had two communications from Mrs. Jura Davis, 1522 Crenshaw Boulevard, dated October 3 and 9 respectively and read the latter. Mrs. Davis requested that two eucalyptus trees on the northeast corner of Sonoma and Crenshaw be topped.

Councilman Cucci moved that the communication from Mrs. Jura Davis be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance Labor Temple, Inc., was read requesting they be permitted to continue using the chairs loaned them by the City instead of returning them as requested as it is impossible to purchase suitable chairs at the present time.

Mayor McGuire stated that sometime ago he permitted Mr. Walter Smith, Secretary Treasurer of the Torrance Labor Temple, to borrow 180 chairs from the City; and that it now appears that Mr. Smith is of the opinion that the chairs might be used all the time. The Mayor said that he does not wish to be responsible for this loan in that it involves property which will be exceedingly difficult to replace after the war.

James Brodie, City Custodian, stated that the City of Torrance owns 500 steel chairs and 540 wooden chairs, and that 400 steel chairs have been loaned out.

After some discussion Councilman Hitchcock moved that all organizations who have borrowed chairs from the City be allowed to use them until needed by the City; that said chairs be returned when needed; and that said organizations address a letter to the

City of Torrance stating the number of chairs in their possession. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire requested that all organizations concerned be notified.

City Engineer Jain reported that a Mr. J. J. Koshak, 2334 236th Street, Lomita, has made inquiry concerning a business license for a wood yard at the above-mentioned location. According to Mr. Jain, Mr. Koshak was not selling wood when he first contacted the City Engineer but was merely hauling it to the acre at 236th Street. The Fire Chief and the Chief of Police then investigated the matter. Neither had any objections to Koshak's actions; the neighbors did object however. Mr. Jain also said that according to the zoning ordinance the location in question is in an agricultural district, and that said ordinance contains a provision which states that only those things which are produced on the property may be sold.

Mayor McGuire instructed City Engineer Jain to inform Mr. Koshak that he will have to file a petition for a variance of the zoning ordinance at the next public hearing.

A communication from the City of Redondo Beach, signed by A. Lowell Hopkins, Chairman of South Bay Coordinators, was read urging immediate adoption of an enclosed model resolution requesting consideration of the State Railroad Commission of the State of California in the matter of rates for phones at control centers.

Coordinator of Civilian Defense John H. Stroh recommended the adoption of the resolution by reason of the possible resultant saving to the City.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1553

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING CONSIDERATION OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN THE MATTER OF RATES FOR PHONES AT CONTROL CENTERS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1553 be adopted. 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.

A communication from the League of California Cities was read recommending the adoption of an ordinance providing local authority for local enforcement of Western Defense Command and Fourth Army Proclamation No. 10 (Dim-Out Proclamation) as amended by Proclamation No. 12.

A discussion relating to local enforcement of dim-out and speed regulations ensued.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 339

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RELATING TO RESTRICTED LIGHTING.

Councilman Babcock moved that the further reading of Ordinance No. 339 be dispensed with. 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 339 be adopted for first reading. 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.

A communication from The Dicalite Company was read requesting repairs to Madison Street from their plant to the intersection of Newton Street, a distance of some 1500 feet. The writer stated that the poor condition of this road is hampering the transportation of vital war materials from said Dicalite Company to warehouses in Torrance and the harbor area.

City Engineer Jain stated that it would cost approximately \$1500.00 (labor and materials) to repair the half-mile long street and therefore suggested that the City share expenses with the Dicalite Company inasmuch as the street in question is used exclusively by said company which is not located in the City of Torrance but rather on the boundary line in the County of Los Angeles. The City Engineer called attention to the fact that the company is engaged in 90 per cent defense work.

Councilman Hitchcock recommended that The Dicalite Company be given some assistance but not to the extent of \$1500.00.

Councilman Cucci moved that the matter be tabled until the priorities on road oil are lifted; that City Engineer Jain be authorized to contact The Dicalite Company Engineer in order to work out a satisfactory settlement with reference to repairing a specific portion of Madison Street; and that recommendations be made to the City Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Jack Bosoken was read applying for a permit and license to collect "junk" in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Police Department for investigation and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell referred to a communication from Mr. Fred Hansen requesting a refund on his City Business License, which communication was read at the last regular meeting.

Councilman Powell moved that Fred Hansen who has paid for his City Business License for the year ending June 30, 1943, and who discontinued business as of September 17, 1942, be granted a refund based on the unused portion of said license. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that \$196.50, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of one emergency war tear gas kit for the Police Department. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that \$26.00, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of a radio for the Police Department. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that \$135.00 be appropriated for repairs to the one ton Dodge truck used by the Electrical Department. 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.

Councilman Cucci announced that an investigation of the pin-ball machine situation in Torrance revealed that some fifty machines are operating without paying revenue to the City. Councilman Cucci, advocated licensing as the only practical method of control.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draw up an ordinance governing the licensing of pin-ball machines within the City of Torrance, said license to be set at \$15.00 per month per machine, to be collected annually.

Mayor McGuire suggested that an annual fee of \$180.00 be collected.

Councilman Cucci amended his motion to that effect. Councilman Powell seconded the motion as amended which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci suggested that the ordinance specify that an individual may own or rent his machine in order to curb potential monopolies.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that \$64.00, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of a rebuilt Ford V-8 motor for Street Department No. 8 Truck. 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 \$475.00, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of crushed rock for the Street Department stock pile at the City Yard. 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 \$65.00, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of bitumuls for the stock pile at the City Yard. 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 not to exceed \$100.00 be appropriated for oiling shoulders and gutters on Date Avenue and Elm Avenue, between Eldorado and Torrance Boulevard. 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 not to exceed \$225.00 be appropriated for rock and oil for shoulders on the south side of Torrance Boulevard, between Crenshaw Boulevard and Elm Avenue. 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 Babcock moved that the Torrance Municipal Bus Line schedule be changed effective October 18, 1942, to comply with the new speed regulations which designate a 35 mile an hour limit and in order to give increased service to commuters employed in the City of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that \$105.00, plus tax, be appropriated for the purchase of one fare box for the Municipal Bus Lines. 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Classification of Employees submitted by the Torrance Civil Service Board be adopted. 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.

Mayor McGuire moved that \$40,000.00 be transferred from the General Fund of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 to the General Fund of the City of Torrance, effective October 15, 1942. 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 the fleet insurance with the Travelers Insurance Company covering City motor vehicles be renewed as of October 13, 1942, for the ensuing year. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

In the matter of the Val Mott Water Company Chief Stroh stated that he had investigated and found that the company was running water down 182nd St. from a swimming pool or reservoir. He warned them to discontinue this practice. They disregarded the warning and were served with a citation for violation of Section 588 of the Penal Code.

The Chief of Police requested that the City Attorney be authorized to prosecute Val Mott on behalf of the City of Torrance in the City Court on October 17, 1942.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to prosecute the defendant, Mr. Val Mott, on behalf of the plaintiff, City of Torrance, to the fullest extent on the date and place above-mentioned. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, be authorized to attend the Police Officers' Association Convention from October 22 to 24, inclusive, at the Clark Hotel in Los Angeles, expenses 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.

A communication from Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, was read recommending that Mrs. Florence Hall be authorized to substitute for Mrs. Cora Bohrer who left on her vacation September 16, 1942.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mrs. Florence Hall be authorized to replace Mrs. Cora Bohrer who left on her vacation on September 16, 1942, said replacement to be effective for a two-week period. 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.

Lieutenant Robert L. Llewellyn, representing Company H of the California State Guard, addressed the Council at this time in order to thank the Council and the City of Torrance for the fine buildings which have been erected to house active units of the California State Guard stationed at the City Park. He also made inquiry concerning the proposed dedication ceremonies. Mayor McGuire assured Lieutenant Llewellyn that the matter would be discussed with the State Guard within the next few days.

Chief of Police Stroh discussed at length the circumstances surrounding the shooting of 21 street lights in the City by two sixteen-year old sharpshooters.

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

At 8:55 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