

Torrance, California
June 15, 1943

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 Ad-
journed Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance,
California, on Tuesday, June 15, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being
Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent:
Councilmen: Cucci.

Being an Adjourned Regular Meeting, the regular order of busi-
ness was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mrs. Helen Miller, Chairman of
Home Service, American Red Cross, Torrance Branch, requesting per-
mission for the Red Cross to use the City Ambulance; to be used
only for the wives of service men, who, together with their new
babies must leave the Hospital in five days, and need an ambulance.
She explained that the granting of this concession would not only
help the family of the service men, but would save the Red Cross a

considerable sum of money and worry.

Mayor McGuire asked Police Chief Stroh if he had anything further to report on this matter.

Chief Stroh replied that Mrs. Sears, Chairman of the Red Cross Motor Corps, came in and looked the ambulance over. He explained that the Torrance ambulance is the only one under civilian defense control; that the area they would cover would include San Pedro and a part of Long Beach; and that the ambulance would be used possibly two or three times a week.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired if the Red Cross would pay for the maintenance and repairs to the ambulance, to which Chief Stroh replied in the negative.

Councilman Hitchcock then inquired if the City could legally spend money on it if it was used outside the City.

Attorney McCall replied that it was very doubtful if they could legally do that.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Red Cross for the use of the City Ambulance be referred to the City Attorney for report and recommendation at the next regular meeting of the Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, recommending the installation of traffic islands at the intersection of Cabrillo Avenue, Carson Street and Cravens Avenue; the cost of which was estimated at \$505.00.

Mayor McGuire asked Chief Stroh if he approved of the installation of these traffic islands.

Chief Stroh replied that he did; that motorists paid very little attention to the painted lines, which resulted in a lot of confusion and many minor traffic accidents; and that the installation of these traffic islands would be a big help in regulating traffic at this intersection.

Councilman Hitchcock questioned if it would be advisable to spend that much money on the traffic islands when it was needed for the improvement of the street crossings on Cabrillo Avenue.

Mayor McGuire asked Engineer Jain if he had anything to report in regard to the proposed improvement of the crossings; to which Mr. Jain replied that the estimates he had received on this work were, in his opinion too high.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the City Engineer and of the Chief of Police, for the installation of traffic islands at the intersection of Cabrillo Avenue, Carson Street and Cravens Avenue, be held up for further consideration. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, recommending the rerouting of the future extension of Los Angeles Street, along 203rd Street through the Pueblo District; and the acquisition of a 25 ft. widening strip on each side of 203rd Street, from Western Avenue to Arlington Avenue; a 50 ft. widening strip on the southerly side of 203rd Street from Arlington Avenue to a point approximately 800 ft. westerly therefrom; a 50 ft. widening strip on the northerly side of 203rd Street, from the point above-mentioned to Crenshaw Blvd.; and a 100 ft. widening strip from Crenshaw Blvd. to connect with Huntington Street on the west. Also recommending that in the event this alignment is definitely decided upon, that the City Engineer be authorized to prepare a set-back ordinance along 203rd Street which would prevent further building within the limits of said proposed boundary lines, in order to protect the City against excessive costs for right-of-way acquisition in the future.

Engineer Jain was asked if this proposed rerouting of Los Angeles Street would interfere with the proposed housing project on 203rd Street, in Tract 9901. Mr. Jain replied that in the deeds that were being prepared for the California National Builders, the County had withheld a forty foot strip along the northerly side of these lots for this proposed Street; that under this new plan, that reservation would be cancelled and a fifty foot strip withheld on the southerly side of these lots.

After a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the City Engineer for the rerouting of the future extension of Los Angeles Street be referred to the Council as a whole for further consideration. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1584

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE ERECTION OF "NO PARKING" SIGNS ALONG PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, BETWEEN MADISON STREET AND THE EASTERLY CITY BOUNDARY; AND ON HAWTHORNE AVENUE, BETWEEN 238th STREET AND A POINT 1500 FT. NORTHERLY THEREFROM.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1584 be adopted. 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 was read from the County of Los Angeles Health Department, submitting new contracts for enforcement of local ordinances, for the fiscal year 1943-44; and providing for compensation to the County for time spent in the enforcement of local ordinances by inspectors, in the amount of \$1.06 per inspection or visit, with a minimum of \$1.00 per month.

Councilman Babcock moved that the contract with the County Health Department be renewed for the fiscal year 1943-44, at the cost of \$1.06 per inspection. 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read a Lease between the City of Torrance and the Los Angeles City School District of Los Angeles County, of a portion of the Torrance Municipal Park, together with two frame buildings formerly used by the State National Guard, for use as a Child Care Center. The term of said lease to be from June 15, 1943, and ending June 14, 1944; with an option to re-lease the entire premises for another period of one year, ending June 14, 1945. Said lease also provides, among other things, for a rental of \$42.00 for the first month, and \$20.00 per month thereafter.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired if sufficient children had been enrolled to insure the opening of the school.

Mr. Burns, a representative of the School Board, replied that about twenty children had been enrolled, and he felt sure that after the school was opened there would be others enrolled.

After some discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Lease with the Los Angeles City School District of Los Angeles County for the use of the former State Guard buildings in the City Park for a Child Care Center, effective June 15, 1943.

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

Mayor McGuire inquired about the comprehensive liability insurance policy for the protection of the City, and asked the City Attorney if he had checked on the Company, as to its reputation and rating. Attorney McCall replied that he had, and that it was a good company.

Clerk Bartlett said that this policy, as written by the United

Pacific Insurance Company protected the City from any possible liability claims; and that the annual premium of \$3816.39 is an increase of approximately \$50.00 over the amount now being paid for liability insurance.

After a short discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with the United Pacific Insurance Company for liability insurance covering all the property and equipment of the entire City; the premium for the fiscal year 1943-44 being \$3014.39.

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 he had a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, requesting that Mr. Bergeron, the Fireman at the Walteria Station be allowed to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and to be paid therefor in addition to his regular salary.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Bergeron be permitted to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that he be paid for his vacation period at the rate of \$145.00 per month, his regular rate of pay as provided in his contract with the City.

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.

Councilman Powell stated he had a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, advising that Mr. Bergeron has been employed as a Fireman at the Walteria Station, under a contract with the City, for the past three years, and in order to keep him it will be necessary to enter into a new contract providing for a monthly salary of \$175.00.

Councilman Powell moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Bergeron for a period of one year, effective July 1, 1943, at a rate of \$175.00 per month; in all other respects this contract to be a duplicate of the contract now in effect. 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 he had a recommendation from Fire Chief McMaster that George Strong be given a \$5.00 increase in salary, effective July 1, 1943; explaining that Mr. Strong is a temporary employee for the duration of the war.

Councilman Powell moved that George Strong, recently appointed as a temporary Fireman, for the duration of the war, receive a raise in salary from \$155.00 to \$160.00, effective July 1, 1943. 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 at the last regular meeting of the Council the matter of paying "Call-men" in the Fire Department \$2.00 for each drill, instead of \$1.00 as is done at present, had been referred to the Council as a whole for consideration; and that he now moved that the "Call-men" be paid \$2.00, instead of the present allowance of \$1.00 for each drill, effective July 1, 1943. 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.

Councilman Powell stated he had a recommendation from Fire Chief McMaster that Engineers Russell Parry and Walter Silence receive an increase in salary from \$185.00 to \$195.00 per month; it being the

contention of the men that they should have the same rate as the Sergeants in the Police Department.

Councilman Powell moved that the salaries of Engineers Russell Parry and Walter Silence be increased from \$185.00 to \$195.00 per month, effective July 1, 1943.

Councilman Babcock asked if there were not more than two engineers in the Fire Department. Chief McMaster replied that there were only two engineers under Civil Service at the present time.

There was a short discussion; the motion failing to pass for want of a second.

Councilman Powell stated he had a recommendation from Police Chief Stroh to employ Mrs. Myrtle Schumacher as Desk Sergeant, and moved that Chief Stroh be authorized to employ Mrs. Schumacher, at a salary of \$125.00 per month.

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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be made for road materials for the surfacing of Cabrillo Avenue, south of 222nd Street, for a distance of approximately 260 ft., or that portion fronting on the Katz and Pine properties.

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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Charles Magee, Senior Sewer Maintenance man, in the Street Department, receive an increase in salary from \$155.00 to \$165.00 per month, effective June 1, 1943. Councilman Powell 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 inquired if any action was to be taken regarding the request of Ollie Dodson, which was presented at the last Council meeting, for two weeks vacation with pay.

Councilman Powell said he saw no reason why he should not be entitled to his vacation privileges.

Engineer Jain said he had submitted a letter concurring in that opinion, and he felt Mr. Dodson was entitled to a vacation with pay.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Ollie Dodson be allowed two weeks vacation at his regular monthly salary of \$145.00. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: McGuire. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$435.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one Ediphone complete. 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.

Mayor McGuire stated that there had been some changes made in the personnel in the City Hall, due to the resignation of Mrs. Valeria Worsham; that the work had been split up among the other employees, and that he wished to recommend salary increases for these employees.

Mayor McGuire thereupon moved that the following salary increases be made, effective May 1, 1943: the salary of I. J. Hallanger to be increased from \$200.00 to \$225.00; the salary of Mrs. Dorothy Christie to be increased from \$135.00 to \$145.00; the salary of Miss June Whitt to be increased from \$110.00 to \$125.00; the salary of Mrs. Ruth Finney to be increased from \$100.00 to \$115.00; the salary of

W. C. Bradford to be increased from \$150.00 to \$175.00; the salary of Mrs. Lucille Lewellen to be increased from \$100.00 to \$115.00. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. O. A. Gierlich, City Engineer for the City of Manhattan Beach stated that various officials of the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and of various cities in the so-called West Basin of Los Angeles County, had formed a committee known as the "West Basin Water Survey Committee" to make a geological survey of the underground water resources of the basin.

Mr. Gierlich explained that there has been a considerable overdraft of the underground water supply in this basin, and as a result some areas were being contaminated by infiltration of not only salt water, but possibly from ground water and industrial waste, and this contamination has become quite serious, especially in the Santa Monica area where they have had to depend entirely on imported water from other sources.

The cost of such a survey, Mr. Gierlich said, would be approximately \$25,000.00 and would take three or four years to complete. The United States Government has agreed to stand one-half of the cost of such a survey; the County of Los Angeles one-fourth of the cost, and the remaining one-fourth to be pro-rated among the various cities participating in the survey. He estimated the total cost to the City of Torrance, should it decide to participate, would be approximately \$470.00; and \$115.00 to be paid in the first year.

Following a short discussion, the Mayor advised Mr. Gierlich that since the City of Torrance was a member of the Metropolitan Water District the Council did not feel that this expense was necessary or justified, and thanked Mr. Gierlich for coming over and presenting the matter to the Council.

Mr. J. H. Pine, of the firm of Katz and Pine asked the City Engineer if he thought the expenditure of \$150.00 by the City for street work would satisfy the F.H.A. Engineer Jain replied that this was for material only, and that approximately \$350.00 would be spent for labor.

Mr. Pine then asked when the City would finish their work in the Park Knolls Tract, on Border Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. He said they were ready to put in ten houses on Border Avenue, and every mortgage company had turned them down on the financing because of the proximity of the oil derrick and the fact that the street was not paved.

Mayor McGuire asked Engineer Jain about this street work, to which Mr. Jain replied that he couldn't get material for the paving of Lincoln Avenue, but said he believed it would be possible to pave Border Avenue, and estimated that the cost would run around \$400.00 or \$500.00 for labor and material. Mr. Jain added that this improvement was a part of the original project.

Mr. Hitchcock asked Mr. Pine if he would start building right away if the street was improved. Mr. Pine said he would.

Councilman Hitchcock then asked Engineer Jain if he had an estimate on the cost of the material. Mr. Jain replied that the cost of the material would be approximately \$300.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation be made of not to exceed \$300.00 for materials for the completion of the surfacing of Border Avenue, in the Park Knolls Tract. 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.

Mr. F. H. Clark, of the Torrance Brass Foundry, 1825 - 213th

Street, said he wanted to get some information regarding some property which the City had purchased a short time ago at a tax-deed sale. He explained that the property he had reference to was the lot in the rear of his property, and the lot adjoining his property on the west; the legal description being Lot 13, Block 113, and the East 50 ft. of lot 14, Block 113, Tract 2807.

Mr. Clark explained that his Foundry was engaged in defense work for the Merchant Marine and that he needed the two lots mentioned for expansion purposes; and offered to pay the City whatever they had in the property.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council take Mr. Clark's offer under consideration and make a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Clark stated that whatever action was taken by the Council it should be done as soon as possible as the Navy contracts are piling up and he didn't have room enough in the shop to do it.

Mayor McGuire advised Mr. Clark that this was the first time he had contacted the Council in regard to the purchase of the property, and requested Mr. Clark to submit a written offer stating the amount he would be willing to pay for the lots.

Mr. Clark inquired if it would not be possible to obtain a reply from the Council before their next regular meeting, and asked if they would consider an oral bid.

Mayor McGuire replied that his offer should be in writing, stating what he wanted to use the property for, and the amount he would be willing to pay for it.

Some further discussion followed, after which Councilman Hitchcock asked Mr. Clark if Friday afternoon, June 18, would be soon enough for the Council to give their decision; with the suggestion that the Council hold an adjourned meeting at 4:45 P.M. on Friday.

Mr. Clark replied that this would be satisfactory.

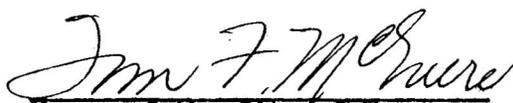
Mr. C. A. Snyder, of 3821 Via Palomino, addressed the Council, stating that he attended a meeting of the Palos Verdes City Council a few nights ago, at which meeting they discussed one of the streets in the Hollywood Riviera section of the City of Torrance, which is being used to a great extent by the Army; stating that about half a mile of this street is in very bad shape and full of holes; that the Palos Verdes City Council had requested him to appear before the Torrance City Council and see if they wouldn't fix this street.

After a short discussion, Mayor McGuire referred the matter to Engineer Jain, requesting that he make an estimate of the cost of repairing this street and submit a report at the next meeting of the Council.

At 9:30 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Friday, June 18, at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance