

Torrance, California
September 28, 1943

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 28, 1943, 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 Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 14, 1943; and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held September 17, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. H. C. Callihan, Secretary, Torrance Rodeo Committee, requesting permission to use the Municipal Park for the purpose of staging a Rodeo, on October 17, 1943; explaining that this show was being put on under the name of the "Torrance First Annual Rodeo", hoping to make this an annual event for the benefit and entertainment of the residents of Torrance, and also to stimulate the sale of War Bonds; assurance being given that arrangements had been made with a reputable insurance company to furnish Public Liability Insurance.

After some discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the Torrance Rodeo Committee for use of the Municipal Park on October 17, 1943, be granted, with the stipulation that the Park be returned to its present condition, and the expense for Liability Insurance will be met by the Rodeo Committee. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Francis P. Bartley, requesting permission to park a trailer on the premises of a relative, at 2215 1/2 Andreo Avenue, explaining that they had recently arrived from the East in this house trailer, in which they had invested \$2200.00, and were now having difficulty in either finding a suitable location to park their trailer or to find housing accommodations of any kind.

Councilman Powell said he believed that under the present war emergency conditions they should be given permission to move the trailer in, for a period of ninety days, or until such time as they can find a home, and provided sanitary facilities are available to them; whereupon he moved that the request of Mrs. Frances P. Bartley be granted under the conditions he had outlined.

Mayor McGuire called attention to the fact that a previous request to park a trailer alongside a gasoline station at Cravens Avenue and Torrance Blvd. had been turned down three times; and if one trailer is allowed in Torrance we would have to allow them all.

Engineer Jain said that numerous requests had been received for this same privilege and they had all been told we have no authority to issue a permit of that kind; adding however, that he did feel that some remedy should be given.

Councilman Hitchcock stated he believed an Ordinance had been adopted by the City covering the establishment of trailer camps, and inquired why no one had taken advantage of this.

Engineer Jain replied that an effort had been made to interest someone in establishing a trailer camp, but that it represented a considerable investment, as necessary sanitary facilities had to be constructed. He further stated that there are three or four buildings in the City where families are living in store rooms under very unsanitary conditions; far worse than trailers would be.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that limited permits might be granted, and when they can find a house to rent they should take advantage of it.

Councilman Cucci questioned whether such an authorization would be legal in view of the present Ordinance regulating trailers.

Mayor McGuire inquired of the City Attorney as to what procedure could be taken against anyone parking a trailer in Torrance in violation of the terms of the present Ordinance.

Attorney McCall replied that someone would have to file a complaint against them; or the Council could authorize the Chief of Police to cite them into Court.

After some further discussion, Mayor McGuire asked if there was a second to Councilman Powell's motion. As no second was offered, the motion failed to carry.

Councilman Hitchcock then moved that the request of Mrs. Francis P. Bartley be referred to the Council as a whole for further consideration and report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Lloyd Aldrich, City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles, advising that the firm of Jones & Gilbert, Engineers for the subdivider of certain property in Los Angeles, in the immediate vicinity of Western Avenue and 203rd Street, had requested his office to negotiate with the City of Torrance relative to the disposal of about 0.25 of a second foot of sewage from their said property into an existing 24 inch sanitary sewer constructed by the Defense Plant Corporation, the connection to be made within the City of Torrance approximately 80 feet from the boundary line of the two cities.

Councilman Babcock inquired if this letter referred to the same subdivision, which was discussed and acted upon at the last meeting of the Council.

Engineer Jain replied that apparently it did, and that he had already addressed a letter to the Board of Public Works, of the City of Los Angeles, setting forth the conditions agreed upon by the Council at their last meeting; and stated that evidently this letter had not been received, and they are asking for the same information.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Engineer be instructed to forward Mr. Lloyd Aldrich, City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles a copy of the letter he had written to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, setting forth the terms and conditions agreed upon by the City Council for use of the sanitary sewer at 203rd Street. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. D. L. Bundy, Vice-President, Public Works Officer's Dept., League of California Cities, urging that the City Engineer be authorized to attend the 45th Annual Conference of The League of California Cities, to be held in Sacramento, October 19-20-21, in view of the fact that the entire conference is to be devoted to Post-War Planning.

Mayor McGuire asked Engineer Jain if he would rather attend the Conference of The League of California Cities, or the Conference of the Pacific Coast Building Officials, to be held in San Francisco October 5th and 6th, which had been authorized at the last Council meeting.

Following some discussion it was agreed that Engineer Jain should attend the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference in San Francisco, and Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer's expenses for attending this Conference, on October 5th and 6th, be paid, in an amount not to exceed \$100.00. 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 presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1609

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1609 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.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Ernest Z. Lopp be employed as a temporary Fireman, to fill the vacancy caused by the illness of Engineer Parry, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective as of September 27, 1943. 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 Cucci presented a draft of a proposed ordinance, creating a fund for capital outlays, which he requested Clerk Bartlett to read. He explained that he wished to bring this up for discussion in order to get the views of the Council concerning this matter.

Clerk Bartlett thereupon read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 348

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CREATING A FUND FOR CAPITAL OUTLAYS.

After some discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 348 be adopted for first reading. 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 Cucci stated he had an inquiry from the City Engineer regarding the proper License fee to charge heating contractors; stating that at the present time they had been treated as plumbing contractors and charged the fee of \$50.00, established by the Plumbing Ordinance; but he believed heating contractors should come under the group of "Unclassified" business and only charged a fee of \$12.00.

After considerable discussion, Mayor McGuire suggested that the City Engineer take this matter up at the Building Officials Conference in San Francisco, and find out how other cities are handling this matter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$350.00, plus tax, be made for a new motor block and clutch parts for the three-ton Fordson Roller. 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 stated that Engineer Jain had requested information regarding the terms of the contract with Mr. Green for the collection of garbage, as same applied to the new houses which are completed each month.

Engineer Jain explained that it is not clear whether this charge is to be fifty cents per month for each new building, or for each new residential unit; and in the case of courts and apartment houses would be computed on the basis of the number of apartments contained therein.

Clerk Bartlett advised that Mr. Green had said he would only charge fifty cents per residence or building, and apartment houses would be considered as one building.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$168.06, be authorized for the purchase of parts from the Crown Body & Coach Corporation for the repair of transmission on Bus No. 102. Councilmen 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 an appropriation of \$51.92 be made for the purchase of parts to repair motor on Bus 102, from the Crown Body & Coach Corporation. 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 an appropriation of \$77.15 be made for the purchase of parts to repair differential on Bus No. 101, from Jumbo Equipment Company. 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 an appropriation of \$51.25 be made for the purchase of commutation books for the Bus 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 Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$994.59 be authorized for reconditioning motor, transmission and differential units on Bus No. 104 by The White Motor Company. 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 an appropriation of \$994.89 be authorized for reconditioning chassis, wheels, axels, steering apparatus and wiring on Bus No. 104 by the White Motor Company. 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 Claude Kuhn be employed as bus driver, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective September 22, 1943. 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.

Mayor McGuire brought up the matter of traffic stripe painting which had been referred to the Council for designation of streets

on which the "beaded" type of paint shall be applied.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an expenditure of not to exceed \$1000.00 be made for traffic stripe painting; and that the City Engineer be authorized to designate the streets to be stiped with the "beaded" type of paint. 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 \$250.00 be authorized for the purchase of one Bench Lathe 12" x 54" complete with stand, motor, chuck, face plate, centers and tool holders with tools, for the Water 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.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$150.00 be authorized for the purchase of one floor model industrial type drill press, complete with motor and chuck, for the Water 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Stroh advised that he had submitted a request for authorization to employ Harry Thompson as a Patrolman, and inquired if this had been overlooked.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Harry Thompson be employed as a Patrolman, as a war emergency employee, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective September 22, 1943. 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.

Chief Stroh stated that the Federal Housing Commission wanted to know what the War Service Department of the Torrance Civilian Defense was doing in regard to housing conditions in Torrance; also whether we had taken any action in regard to securing additional help for Mr. MacDonneil's office; stating that the State would pay one-half of the expense for a clerk or stenographer. The Chief stated Mr. MacDonneil needed help in his office to handle the many calls for housing accommodations, and suggested the Civilian Defense Committee hold a meeting as soon as possible.

Mayor McGuire advised that he would call a meeting of the Defense Council.

Chief Stroh also brought up the matter of providing sleeping accommodations for service men, and advised that the State would furnish fifty percent of the cost of that service; the City to pay the balance. He stated that hardly a night passes but some service man requests permission to sleep in the City Jail, and he thought some place should be provided for them, and that probably half a dozen cots would be sufficient.

Mr. Grover Whyte, Editor of the Torrance Herald, stated it was his understanding, in regard to the war housing office, that half of the expenses, aside from the rent, which is paid by the Chamber of Commerce, are now paid by a fund which is raised by the aircraft and ship-building industries, and because of that fact they are insisting that their employees get a chance at the houses in Torrance; and Mr. Whyte thought someone should contact the local industries to contribute to this fund.

Engineer Jain asked the Council what should be done about the over-crowded conditions in the store rooms; stating that he had reported the matter to the County Health authorities, and they come to us, asking what we want them to do, and that it is apparently up to the City to take some action. He stated that the owners of these stores are charging from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per month for these vacant storerooms, with no sanitary conditions, except the bare minimum.

Following a discussion of this matter, Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to investigate this condition and make a recommendation to the City Engineer as soon as possible, as to the necessary procedure to follow to combat this condition. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire instructed Clerk Bartlett to arrange for a meeting with the Associated Assessment Engineers on Thursday, September 30th, at 5:00 o'clock P.M.; and for a meeting with the Defense Council at 8:00 P.M., the same day.

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 9:20 P.M., on motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance