

Torrance, California
October 26, 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, October 26, 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 October 13, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the City of Roseville, California, requesting a copy of the Torrance Curfew Ordinance, for their guidance in preparing a similar ordinance.

A communication was read from the California Federation of Women's Clubs, commending the Torrance City Council for their action in enforcing the Curfew Law, stating it was their belief that this law will materially help in curbing juvenile delinquency.

A communication was read from William R. Staats Company, offering to sell the City \$2,000 Torrance Municipal Improvement District No. 1 - 6% Bonds, due July 1, 1954, at a price of \$2,597.20, plus accrued interest of four months at 6%, amounting to \$40.00; or a total of \$2,637.20; this offer being made subject to prior sale and confirmation by said Company. Clerk Bartlett stated that the purchase of these Bonds was recommended by Mr. Stanger, Mgr. of the Water Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Manager of the Water Department be authorized to purchase the Bonds of the Torrance Municipal Water District, which has been offered by the William R. Staats Co., at a price of \$2,637.20. 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 was read, in the form of a petition, signed by five individuals, and the representatives of six organizations, including the American Legion and Chamber of Commerce; requesting that the Civic Auditorium be reopened to Civilian use for the purpose of holding dances, exhibiting plays, etc.; this request and petition being submitted under the name of the Torrance Service Men's Foundation.

Mayor McGuire expressed some doubt as to the advisability of relaxing our Civilian Defense efforts to the extent of reopening the Civic Auditorium, and requested Chief Stroh's opinion about this.

The Chief of Police stated that in his opinion there was too much relaxation in Civilian Defense already, and said that he had recently been warned by the military authorities not to give up the Civilian Defense in this area; and stated that he personally did not believe we should open up the Auditorium at this time.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the Council call a meeting of the Defense Council and all the people who had signed the petition presented here tonight.

After discussion, Mayor McGuire requested Clerk Bartlett to notify the signers of the petition, and the members of the Defense Council that a meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 1943, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, at 8:00 o'clock P.M. to discuss the advisability of reopening the Civic Auditorium for the holding of public dances, plays, etc.

Clerk Bartlett presented an itemized statement from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, dated September 22, 1943, for costs incurred by the Railway Company in connection with the abandonment and removal of tracks on Cabrillo Avenue, amounting to \$2,152.02.

Councilman Powell asked Engineer Jain if it was not correct that the City had entered into a contract with the Pacific Electric Railway Company for the performance of this work.

Engineer Jain replied that this was correct, and that the estimate submitted by the Pacific Electric Railway Company at that time was \$2500.00, so this statement was considerably below the estimated cost.

After some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bill of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, for costs incurred in connection with the abandonment and removal of tracks on Cabrillo Avenue, in the amount of \$2,152.02, be paid. 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 a resolution from the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce, endorsing the Number One Plan of the Greater Los Angeles Citizens' Committee, providing Freeways, a Scenic Drive, Recreational Centers and Parking Facilities in the Redondo Beach area, and requesting the endorsement and support of the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Council go on record as favoring the Resolution as presented by the Chamber of Commerce of Redondo Beach. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion.

Councilman Powell questioned the wisdom of endorsing this resolution until it was more clearly understood what the aims and purposes of this Committee were.

Councilman Babcock then withdrew his motion.

Following some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that this resolution be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Nolan F. Robison be employed as a Patrolman, effective October 20, 1943, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, as a War Emergency employee. 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. 1613

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE, AUTHORIZING GLENN M.
JAIN TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE STATE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR WAR HOUSING AID.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1613 be passed, and that the City Engineer be appointed on the Housing Committee. 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 moved that Messrs. Paul Findley, Wm. Peterson, F. Hodges, M. Fenwick, Don Vorhis and Phil Osborn, who were employed as auxiliary patrolmen to assist at the Rodeo held on Sunday, October 24, 1943, be paid at the regular rate for patrolmen. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that Mrs. Walter Silence be employed as a crossing guard, replacing Mrs. Allie West, resigned, effective October 26, 1943, at the prevailing rate of pay of 70 cents per hour. 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.

Councilman Powell stated he had an inquiry from Police Chief Stroh as to whether the War Emergency employees are entitled to a vacation with pay after working for the City for a period of one year; stating that in his opinion anyone employed by the City for one year is entitled to a vacation with pay, and offered a motion to that effect. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, provided it is after the expiration of one year.

Councilman Hitchcock remarked that it is already a matter of record that all employees are entitled to a vacation after being employed for a period of one year or more.

Councilman Babcock stated that there is a definite period set up in the Civil Service Rules and Regulations for the taking of vacations.

Chief Stroh advised that there is no special period established for the taking of vacations in the Police and Fire Departments; the ordinance stating that vacations may be taken at any time, at the discretion of the Chiefs of the two departments.

Councilman Powell then withdrew his motion and offered a substitute motion that the War Emergency employees in the Police and Fire Departments be granted a vacation of two weeks, with pay, at the expiration of one year's service with the City, said vacations to be taken at such times designated by the Chiefs of those Departments; and that the War Emergency employees in all other departments of the City be allowed a vacation of two weeks, with pay, after the expiration of one year's service, said vacations to be taken at such times designated in the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. 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.

Councilman Powell moved that Messrs. Casper Clemmer and John Fess, having completed one year's service in the Fire Department, be given the usual raise in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective September 19, 1943.

Councilman Babcock asked Chief McMaster what their classification was. The Chief replied that it was "Engineer".

Councilman Babcock then called attention to the fact that the Salary Resolution provided for two classifications; "Fire Engineer" and "Fire Apparatus Engineer", and suggested this matter be clarified before taking any action.

Councilman Powell then withdrew his motion, and Mayor McGuire suggested that the Fire Chief and the Councilmen get together after the Council meeting and get the matter straightened out.

Councilman Powell stated he had a request for a ninety day leave of absence from Engineer R. L. Parry, of the Fire Department, on account of sickness, with the recommendation of Chief McMaster that this request be granted.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Engineer R. L. Parry be referred to the Civil Service Board, with the recommendation of the City Council that this request be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Charles G. Sutton be employed as Truck Driver, in the Street Department, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$165.00 per month, effective October 14, 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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Alvin R. Sprouse be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective October 25, 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.

Councilman Hitchcock said, in order that a misunderstanding might be cleared up in regard to certain laborers who were temporarily assigned the duties of driving a truck, he would suggest that a resolution be adopted, retroactive to September 1, 1943, to the effect that any employee of the City, while working at a job with a higher salary rating than his own, for a period of four hours or more per day, or a minimum of one-half day, shall receive a full day's pay at the rate applicable to the higher paid position; said Resolution to be given the number and title:

RESOLUTION NO. 1614

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING
RATE OF PAY OF EMPLOYEES WORKING
TEMPORARILY IN A HIGHER WAGE BRACKET.

Whereupon, Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1614 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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Manager of the Water Department, Mr. W. H. Stanger, be authorized to attend the Municipal Water Works Convention in Los Angeles, October 27, 28, 29 and 30, with expenses paid. 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 Arlie E. Trowbridge be employed as Bus Driver, on a temporary basis, effective October 26, 1943, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, replacing Virgil H. Plunkett, resigned. 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 \$113.55, plus tax, be made to the Crown Body and Coach Corporation for stock on Busses Nos. 101 and 102, as per invoices. 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 presented a contract between the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines and the Los Angeles City High School District of Los Angeles County, for the transportation of pupils residing in WALTERIA, to and from the Narbonne High School in Lomita, and moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign this contract on behalf of the City of Torrance, providing said contract meets with the approval of the City Attorney. 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 moved that a transfer of \$40,000.00 from the general fund of the Torrance Municipal Water District to the general fund of the City of Torrance be authorized. 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 Engineer Jain how he was progressing with plans for the improvement of Crenshaw Blvd. and Cabrillo Avenue. Engineer Jain replied that the plans for Crenshaw Blvd. have been completed and application made to the State Highway Department, who in turn have recommended the project to the War Production Board. The plans for the improvement of Cabrillo Avenue have not yet been completed, he said.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Charles Elman, 318 So. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, stated that he was glad to hear that the Bus Department had extended its service to Redondo Beach, and commended the action of the Council in establishing a fund to build a new Fire Station. He also approved the recent action of the Council in setting the tax rate for the fiscal year 1943-44, stating that he was not in favor of lower taxes as the City was badly in need of entertainment and recreational facilities.

Chief Stroh stated that 213th Street, from Cabrillo Avenue, easterly to the railroad tracks, was badly in need of additional street lighting, and recommended that a street light be placed in the vicinity of the Torrance Brass Foundry.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Electrician be authorized to install a street light on 213th Street, as recommended by the Chief of Police.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

Engineer Jain said the Doak Aircraft Company has requested that a street light be placed on Abalone Avenue, between their plant and 220th Street.

Councilman Hitchcock amended his motion to include a street light on Abalone Avenue, to be located between the Doak Aircraft factory and 220th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion as

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

Councilman Babcock stated he had received several complaints about street lights being out at various locations in the City, and asked that these lights be replaced.

Engineer Jain replied that the City Electrician was taking care of these complaints as fast as possible.

Councilman Hitchcock requested that the street lights be checked in the Hollywood Riviera District.

Chief Stroh said he had received a letter from Mrs. Winters, who conducts a hotel at 1212 El Prado, requesting that the two hour parking limit on El Prado be removed, and stated that he was not in favor of doing this, as it would be unfair to remove the parking limit on this street and not on the others.

James Brodie, Custodian, stated that a serious condition exists in the area in the vicinity of Cota and Manuel Avenues after eleven o'clock at night when the street lights are turned off, as it is very dark there and unsafe for women and girls going to and from work on the midnight shift, and suggested that the street lights be allowed to burn until after midnight.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be requested to notify the Southern California Edison Company to allow the lights to burn throughout the City until 1:00 A.M. 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 said he had talked with the City Electrician, Mr. Butterfield, about taking some of the shields out of the street lights, as we are now entitled to have more light, and Mr. Butterfield had removed the shields from the lights on Sartori and Cravens Avenues.

Engineer Jain stated he had looked into the method of cutting off the lower edge of the cardboards, and that it would involve too much work for the small amount of additional light to be gained.

Councilman Cucci said he thought it was all right to give more light in the business district, but didn't think the cost would be justified for making the small adjustment throughout the entire City.

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 9:15 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance