

Torrance, California  
December 14, 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, December 14, 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: Cucci (during last half of meeting, due to illness).

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 23, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting the sum of \$75.00 for their annual Christmas Party.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the WALTERIA Civic Organization be granted, and the sum of \$75.00 be appropriated for their Christmas Party. 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 from the WALTERIA Parent-Teachers Association, calling attention to the fact that the Public Library in WALTERIA has no rest rooms or running water, and requesting that something be done to remedy this condition, and also repair the roof.

Councilman Cucci moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to contact Mr. Lewis, the owner of the building, and see what can be done to make the necessary repairs and improvements, and to contact the Council with reference to these changes. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A Resolution, adopted by the WALTERIA Civic Organization, was read, calling attention to an increase in vandalism by boys in WALTERIA, and requesting that a City Ordinance be drafted, if one does not already exist, to assess fines against the parents of children guilty of acts of vandalism.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the Resolution of the WALTERIA Civic Organization be referred to the Ordinance Committee and the City Attorney for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the 1943 Grand Jury, County of Los Angeles, calling attention to the fact that a former Grand Jury had recommended that an additional cot be placed in the women's division of the Torrance City Jail, and inquiring why this had not been done.

Police Chief Stroh advised that a cot had been placed in the women's division of the Jail but that it had been broken, and sug-

gested that a new and stronger cot be purchased.

Councilman Powell moved that the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Jain, be authorized to purchase the necessary bed or cot for the Jail, which will comply with the regulations of the County Grand Jury. 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 from the 1943 Grand Jury, County of Los Angeles, inquiring whether it would not be wise to favor some kind of a pension system for the Torrance Police Department.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed as a matter of record. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Rev. H. Wesley Roloff presented a communication from the Kiwanis Club, of which he is a member, and made a personal plea, in behalf of the Servicemen's Foundation of the City of Torrance, for the loan of a piano to be placed in the Recreation Room of the new Army Hospital; stating that the Kiwanis Club had been advised that the City had one or two pianos which were not in use at the present time.

After some discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Kiwanis Club, for the loan of a piano to be placed in the Recreation Room of the Army Hospital, at the corner of Carson Street and Normandie Avenue, be complied with, providing there is a piano available for this purpose. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, making its annual report of earnings from franchise granted said Company under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1351 of the County of Los Angeles, and advising that no receipts or earnings were derived by said Company for the year ending December 2, 1943.

The above communication was ordered filed for record.

A communication was read from the Longren Aircraft Company, regarding a Zoning Variance and conditional permit which had been granted said Company on July 1, 1943, for the erection of a sheet metal building and a concrete slab. They advised that application had now been made for a building permit to erect a building 55' x 70' to enclose this concrete slab, and that the Building Inspector had requested authority to issue this permit.

Mayor McGuire requested the Building Inspector, Mr. Jain, to explain the matter more fully.

Mr. Jain stated that application was made on November 29th by the Longren Aircraft Company to construct a portion of this building, and a permit had been issued, but he felt that he could not grant permission to build this additional building without authority from the City Council or the Planning Commission, and he would like an interpretation of the decision rendered by the Planning Commission on July 1, before issuing this building permit.

Mr. Roy Nikkila, Secretary-Treasurer of the Longren Aircraft Company stated that this concrete slab was constructed with the idea of placing a building on it, and that it was his understanding that the Zoning Variance granted his Company on July 1, 1943, would cover all future building on the property owned by his Company.

Councilman Babcock said he couldn't see why the building would hurt anyone, and moved that the request of the Longren Aircraft Company for a building permit be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Judge Willett stated that in his opinion it is not within the realm of the Council to grant them permission to construct this additional building, as their petition for a variance covered certain specified things, and for the Council to grant them a permit now would establish a precedent, even though there would be no objection to the building.

Councilman Powell agreed with the opinion given by Judge Willett and said he thought the request should go through the Planning Commission.

Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his second to Councilman Babcock's motion; and Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion.

Councilman Hitchcock said it was the desire of the Council to allow the Longren Aircraft Company to go ahead, but if it is illegal to grant them permission to erect this building, he believed their request should be referred back to the Planning Commission.

Judge Willett said he thought the Planning Commission would have the authority to amend their decision by stating that it was their intent at the time to allow them to use the entire lot.

Mayor McGuire requested Engineer Jain to call a meeting of the Planning Commission as soon as possible for the purpose of obtaining from them an interpretation of their decision, given on July 1st.

Engineer Jain agreed to do this, and suggested that the date for this meeting be set for Tuesday, December 21, at 8:00 P.M.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers, giving their recommendations (as previously requested by the City Council) in regard to properties previously purchased by California National Builders, Inc. and Investment Underwriters, Inc., and the request of said Companies for a refund of their deposits on the grounds that the City has been unable to deliver clear titles.

As to those properties in Group #1, upon which the City agreed to sell merchantable titles, it was the recommendation of Associated Assessment Engineers that any deposits made to the City by the above named Companies upon properties which have not as of this date been cleared, be either returned to the corporation or applied to the further payment of their obligation concerning properties in Tract 9901 under Group #3; this to be at their election and dependent upon whether or not the corporation wishes to complete the payment due on said Tract 9901.

As to those properties in Group #2, upon which the bid was for tax title only, and upon which further payments have not been made subsequent to the original payment, Associated Assessment Engineers recommended that the request of the corporation for refund be denied, and notice be served upon them forthwith that unless the additional payments which are now due are brought up to date within thirty days after date of the notice, that the said option should be cancelled and the purchaser forfeit the amount of payments heretofore made.

As to the parcels in Group #3, being those in Tract No. 9901, it was recommended that any payments refundable to said corporation from properties in Group #1, which the City has not been able to complete title upon, be applied as a credit toward the further purchase of lots in Tract 9901; providing, however, that the corporation bring up to date, within thirty days from date of notice, all payments then due under the option agreement for the purchase of lots in Tract No. 9901.

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of the Associated Assessment Engineers be concurred in by the City Council, and that Mr. Bannerman, of California National Builders, Inc. be notified of the action of the Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, in regard to the construction of a concrete culvert under the Pacific Electric tracks along the south side of 213th Street near Bow Avenue in the City of Torrance. The estimated cost of this culvert was \$5,465, to be divided as follows: City of Torrance \$3,617.00; National Supply Company \$1,195.00; Pacific Electric Railway Company \$653.00.

After some discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that a meeting be arranged between representatives of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, National Supply Company and Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, as representative of the City, in an endeavor to arrive

at a more equitable distribution of the costs. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented a statement from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, for costs incurred by said Company in relocating tracks at Border Avenue and Plaza del Amo, in the amount of \$394.03.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the statement of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, in the amount of \$394.03, 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.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, advising that Mr. William C. Warfield, 1037 South Sierra Bonita Avenue, Los Angeles, is planning to develop and build houses on Tract No. 10216, at the southeast corner of Hawthorne Avenue and 182nd Street; and that he had requested a letter to the War Production Board stating that there is no water available for this tract and there would be no objection by the City to his developing his own water supply. Mr. Jain suggested that a legal opinion be secured as to whether the approval of the City Council to this water development would affect the rights of the City at a later date in developing a City water system in this area.

Mr. Jain also advised that he had received a letter stating that it was the intention of the subdivider to sell the lots in this Tract and allow the purchasers to construct garage houses on the rear of the lots.

Councilman Powell moved that the communications be referred to the Council as a whole for further study and report at the next regular Council meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Star Furniture Company regarding the erection of a temporary garage building, to be erected on a lot at the rear of their Furniture Store, for the purpose of housing their trucks; and stating that the building will be completely removed at the end of the present war emergency.

After some discussion, Mayor McGuire authorized Engineer Jain to request Mr. Koch, of the Star Furniture Company to be present at the Council meeting on Friday evening, December 17, 1943.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, advising that the temporary permit granted to John J. Koshak by the City Council on May 23, 1943, to operate a woodyard at 2214 - 236th Street, expired on November 23, 1943.

Mayor McGuire instructed Engineer Jain to make a personal investigation of this matter.

At this point Councilman Cucci withdrew from the meeting on account of illness.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1619

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCOUNTING TO  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR CERTAIN  
SALES MADE PURSUANT TO AN EXISTING  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF TORRANCE  
AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1619 be adopted. 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 title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1620

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE RELATIVE TO  
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR  
VOLUNTEER CIVILIAN DEFENSE WORKERS.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1620 be referred back to the City Attorney. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 349

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE  
NO. 119 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Some discussion followed, regarding the location of the Loading Zones, as some complaints had been received because they were placed on alley corners, but Chief Stroh explained that the reason they had been placed on alley corners was because the alleys were in the middle of the block, and it was easy for the parcel post and delivery trucks to get in and out at these locations.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 349 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 349 be adopted for second and final reading. 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 moved that the sum of \$43.35, including tax, be appropriated for the printing of folders and placards concerning "Bill of Rights" week. 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 moved that Fred Bever, emergency Engineer in the Fire Department, receive an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective December 1, 1943, as he had completed one year's service in that 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.

Councilman Powell moved that Sam Shepherd, emergency Engineer in the Fire Department, receive an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective December 15, 1943, as he had completed one year's service in that Department. 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 moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to employ Cyril Bennett, as a Patrolman as soon as he qualified with the Civil Service Commission in Los Angeles, 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, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell advised that John Jones, a former employee in the Park Department, was laid off on July 15, 1943, and was entitled

to receive \$5.00, on account of the \$10.00 a month increase granted to all employees as of July 1, 1943.

Clerk Bartlett advised that this had already been taken care of and a check for \$5.00 sent to Mr. Jones.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$700.00 be made for the replacement of broken sidewalk and curb on Abalone Avenue. 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 Babcock moved that Mrs. Margaret Nuckles be employed in the Recreation Department, on a temporary basis, at a salary of fifty cents an hour, effective December 9, 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 Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$124.00, plus tax, be made for straightening axle and housing on Bus Nos. 101 and 102. 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.

Mayor McGuire moved that Mrs. Valeria Turner Worsham, who was previously employed as stenographic secretary in the City Clerk's office, be re-employed, effective December 20, 1943, at a salary of \$155.00 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.

Mayor McGuire stated that Frank Davies had requested to be allowed to take his vacation at this time in order to accompany the body of his son-in-law, Fireman Russell Parry, to Utah. He stated that it would be impossible to grant this request as Mr. Davies had no earned vacation due him at this time.

Mayor McGuire stated that Police Chief Stroh has been acting as Coordinator for Civilian Defense for over two years, and has put in a great deal of overtime, without receiving any additional compensation. Whereupon he moved that Chief Stroh be given a salary of \$50.00 per month, effective July 1, 1943, as Coordinator for Civilian Defense, and to continue for the duration of the war. 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

Mayor McGuire advised that a meeting had been held with the Principal of the High School in regard to repairing the Science Building, and Mr. Perry advised that the school was having a great increase in enrollment, and requested that the Chamber of Commerce write to the War Production Board informing them of these facts and urging that the School Board be permitted to make the necessary repairs to the Science Building; and even though the Science Building was repaired and was available in September, 1944, it would not be adequate for the number of children in the School, and he requested permission to place a temporary bungalow on the school grounds until a permanent building can be placed in this position.

Councilman Babcock stated that while he favored permission being granted for this building to be moved onto the school grounds, he wanted it specifically understood that the building would be removed within ninety days after the duration of the war.

Councilman Powell moved that the Los Angeles School Board be

permitted to move in a temporary building, known as a bungalow, onto the school grounds to be used as a school room for the duration of the war, plus ninety days thereafter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. C. B. Dillon, 23731 Ward Street, stated that Ward Street was in very bad shape and requested that it be repaired and resurfaced. She further stated that a junk yard was being maintained in her immediate neighborhood and the street was torn up by heavy trucks hauling junk to this property; that this was a restricted residential area and that this junk yard should not be permitted to operate in this area.

Mayor McGuire requested the Chief of Police to contact Mrs. Dillon after the meeting and see what can be done to remedy this condition.

Councilman Powell stated that Mr. Quandt should be compelled to put in a safety device at his water plant so water will not be flooding the streets in the Walteria area; and suggested that Mr. Quandt be billed for the damage to the street.

Engineer Jain replied that it would be difficult to determine what damage was caused by water from his pumping plant.

Mrs. Slonecker, of Walteria, said something should be done about the water tank overflowing nearly every day, and the water running down Neece Avenue, as the street is full of holes.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to notify Mr. Quandt to appear before the City Council, at a meeting to be held on Friday, December 17, at 8:00 P.M. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Slonecker also stated that Mr. Quandt is not properly filling excavations made by him, particularly between Neece Avenue and Hawthorne Blvd., just north of Newton Street.

Mr. Jack Miller reported that the community dances at the Auditorium were being well patronized, and conducted in a very satisfactory manner, but that a problem had arisen in regard to the Curfew Law, and requested that some system of passes be worked out so the boys and girls could patronize the dances without breaking the law.

Mayor McGuire suggested that the Chief of Police work with Mr. Miller and endeavor to perfect some plan to cover this situation, and that anything they work out will be satisfactory to the Council.

Mr. Jack Miller also reported that Mr. Sam Levy has donated the use of the upstairs quarters in his building on Cravens Avenue for accommodations for the wives of patients in the U. S. Army Hospital, and they are trying to get donations of cots, blankets, etc. for this purpose.

Mayor McGuire stated that Fire Chief McMaster has placed six cots in the Fire Department's quarters where service men, who cannot find accommodations, can stay over night.

Chief Stroh inquired if any of the Councilmen knew where he could get a crossing guard for the intersection at Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw; and advised that the shelters for the crossing guards had been built and will be ready when school resumes after the holidays.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be 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.

At 10:05 P.M., on motion of Councilman Powell, seconded by

Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

*A. H. B...*  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

*Tom J. McGuire*  
Mayor of the City of Torrance