

February 23, 1944

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 Wednesday, February 23, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.; Tuesday, February 22nd, being a legal holiday.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 8, 1944, and of an Adjourned Meeting held February 15, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mrs. Mildred D. Ellis, Cravens Apartment, complaining of the noise in connection with the Friday night dances at the Civic Auditorium.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to communicate with the Directors of the Servicemen's Foundation and request that a meeting be arranged with the City Council, at some date in the near future convenient to both parties, in an effort to find a solution to the problem of eliminating this noise. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Planning Congress of Los Angeles County, acknowledging receipt of Resolution No. 1641, changing the names of a portion of Huntington Street and 203rd Street to Del Amo Boulevard, and thanking the Council for their cooperation. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Army Air Forces, Sixth Ferrying Group, Long Beach Army Air Field, requesting permission to operate Crash and Salvage Trucks over streets and highways in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Sixth Ferrying Group, Ferrying Division, Air Transport Command, for permission to use the streets and highways in the City of Torrance to operate Crash and Salvage Trucks be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, in regard to the proposed grading and resurfacing of Madrona Avenue, between Carson Street and Sepulveda Boulevard, and inquiring, if they remove their three tracks, whether the City could assure them they would again be permitted to cross Madrona Avenue, if occasion should arise.

Engineer Jain advised that the original permit for these three crossings on Madrona Avenue were granted by the Dominguez Land Corporation, and explained that the Railway Company had been requested to either remove the tracks or meet the grade to be established on Madrona Avenue.

Councilman Powell moved that the letter be referred to the City Attorney for an opinion as to the legality of any assurance the present Council might give the Railway Company that they would be permitted to again cross Madrona Avenue at some future date, and to report back to the Council at its next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Ann Higgins, Secretary of the Assembly of God Church, complaining that water stands in front of the Church property on Border Avenue the year around, and requesting that this street be cleaned and some action be taken to eliminate the mud and water in front of their property.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for action. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Municipal Bus Lines, requesting the Council to adopt a resolution that any employee of the Bus Department leaving the service of the City to enter the Armed Forces shall retain his seniority with the Bus Department from the date of his employment in that Department. This request was made for the reason that one of the employees in the Bus Department, who was still on probation, was leaving to enter the Armed Forces, and the Civil Service Board had ruled that said employee had no Civil Service status.

After some discussion Mayor McGuire moved that Mr. Ward's communication be referred to the Council and the Civil Service Board for study and report at the next Council meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Municipal Bus Lines, enclosing a Lease, with W. M. Garland and Company for premises at 1014 South Hill Street, in the City of Los Angeles, to be used as a Bus Station, and requesting that the City Council authorize the execution of this Lease for either a one or two year period.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute a Lease, with W. M. Garland and Company, for premises at 1014 South Hill Street, in the City of Los Angeles, for a period of two years commencing March 1, 1944 and terminating February 28, 1946, at a rental of \$50.00 per month; said premises to be used as a Bus Station for the Torrance Municipal Bus Line. 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 advised that he had received a bid, from Mr. Charles Elman for the purchase of Lot 1, Tract 9901, with a clear title, at a price of \$200.00; and for the purchase of Lot 2, Tract

9901, with a clear title, at a price of \$150.00; and stated that he had reported this bid to the Associated Assessment Engineers, who recommended that the offer be rejected for the reason that it would cost the City approximately \$650.00 to obtain the tax deeds from the County and to clear the titles, which would represent a loss of \$300.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the Associated Assessment Engineers be concurred in, and the offer of Charles Elman for the purchase of Lots 1 and 2, Tract 9901, be rejected.

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.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, suggesting that the Council Minutes for the meeting of February 15, be corrected due to the fact that the totals of some of the bids submitted for the improvement of Cabrillo Avenue were not correctly added; and submitting corrected figures. The City Engineer further advised that Authority to Begin Construction, in conformance with the regular bid, had been received from the War Production Board, and recommended that the Griffith Company be awarded the contract on the basis of their low bid of \$13,483.20, based on the estimated quantities and unit prices shown in their proposal.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the City Engineer be concurred in, and that the Griffith Company be awarded the contract for the paving of Cabrillo Avenue, based on the estimated quantities and unit prices shown in their proposal and their bid of \$13,483.20; and that the Minutes of February 15, 1944, be corrected in accordance with the corrected bid totals. 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 Mr. William Misselhorn, 214 South Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach, advising that he had sold his store at 1325 Sartori Avenue on February 8, 1944, and requested a refund on his business license which expires August 8, 1944.

After some discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the request of Mr. William Misselhorn for a refund for the unexpired term of his business license be referred to the Council for study, and that the City Clerk be requested to search through the minutes to see what action had been taken by the Council on previous requests of this nature. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from California National Builders, Inc. thanking the City for checks in the amount of \$235.50 to the California National Builders, Inc. and \$590.00 to Investment Underwriters, Inc., in connection with refund of deposits made on certain lots in the City of Torrance. They also requested that certain remaining deposits be allocated to the complete payment of three or four lots instead of forfeiting these deposits.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from California National Builders, Inc. be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Local 360, State, County & Municipal Workers of America, requesting the Council to adopt the check-off system for the collection of Union dues; deducting said dues from the employees' pay checks.

Mr. Treloar, President of Local No. 360, introduced Mr. Mortimer, a representative of the C.I.O. who addressed the Council briefly, explaining that this was not an unusual request as they have the same arrangement with other municipalities, and that it is not compulsory

on the part of the employees, who will be asked to sign a card requesting that his dues be withheld from his salary, and such arrangement may be terminated at any time by the employee.

Councilman Powell remarked that he saw no objection to this arrangement, and that it appeared to be practically a unanimous request of the City employees, whereupon he moved that the request of Local 360, with regard to the check-off system, be concurred in; and that this deduction be made by the City Clerk from the employees' pay checks each month, commencing on whatever date is agreeable. Councilman Babcock seconded this motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1642

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.

And also read the list of properties, and the amount bid on each respective parcel. The bids submitted by Mr. Charles Elman on Lots 1 and 2, Tract 9901, were stricken from this list, as his offer had been rejected by the Council.

Mr. Elman, who was in the audience, stated that he was prepared to purchase these two lots on the City's own terms and requested that his deposits on the two lots be applied on one of the lots, and he would make an additional deposit on the other.

Mayor McGuire advised Mr. Elman to contact Mr. Packard, of the Associated Assessment Engineers and make the necessary arrangements.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1642 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: Gucci.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1643

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1643 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: Gucci.

Clerk Bartlett presented for second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 350

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 197 AND PORTIONS OF SECTION 2 AND SECTION 3 OF ORDINANCE NO. 136.

Councilman Powell moved that Ordinance No. 350 be adopted for second and final reading. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCIL-

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

Councilman Powell moved that James A. Kelly be employed as a Patrolman in the Police Department, as a War Emergency employee, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective February 17, 1944.

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 Robert Moffitt be granted an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective February 16, 1944; explaining that this increase was recommended by Chief McMaster of the Fire Department, since Mr. Moffitt has completed one year's service with the Fire 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 Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$150.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 500 gallons of Nox-Weed Fluid for weed eradication along streets and parkways. 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 \$69.25, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 55 gallons of Drip Fluid (including service) for the City Buildings. 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 moved that Charles G. Sutton be employed as a Laborer in the Street Department, as a War Emergency Employee, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective February 14, 1944. 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 inquired of the City Clerk if he had written letters to all the members of the Perry Mutual Water Company, to determine if anyone wished to purchase the equipment.

Clerk Bartlett replied that he wrote to all the people who signed the original agreement and had received no replies.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Council take the matter of the disposition of the Perry Mutual Water Company under advisement, and that the City Attorney be requested to meet with them on Monday, March 6, 1944, and decide what disposition should be made of this property. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mayor McGuire moved that the working hours of the three School Crossing Guards be increased to six hours a day, effective February 21, 1944, at the regular rate of pay established for that job. He explained that this increase in time was necessary due to the increased enrollment at the elementary schools and the addition of an extra session. 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 Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 be authorized to purchase

1008 ft. of 4" cast iron pipe at 58¢ per foot, or a total of \$599.30, including tax. 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 moved that Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water District, be authorized to purchase 1008 ft. of 6" cast iron pipe, at 90¢ per foot, or a total of \$929.88, including tax. 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 moved that Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water District, be authorized to purchase 100 No. 3 cement meter boxes; 25 No. 4 cement meter boxes; and 8 No. 6 cement meter boxes, at a total cost of \$269.58, including tax. 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 Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water District, be authorized to purchase 24 - 5/8" Water Meters, without connections, at \$11.34 each, or a total of \$278.96, including tax. 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 Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water District, be authorized to purchase fittings, for stock, totaling \$336.96, including tax. 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 the expenditure of \$60.00 be authorized for the purchase of a new desk for the City Clerk's office, plus tax. 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. Turner addressed the Council, advising that the Boy Scout Troop No. 241, has about three or four tons of papers which they would like to dispose of and requested that the City allow them to use one of their trucks to take these papers to Long Beach for disposal.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Boy Scout Troop for permission to use one of the City trucks to haul papers to Long Beach be granted, and that the City Engineer and Street Superintendent arrange with Mr. Turner for the use of a truck. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh advised that the Boy Scouts, who meet in the Court Room on Monday nights, had gone through the Court Clerk's desk last Monday night and taken some stamps and pencils; and asked Mr. Turner if these boys were from his Troop.

Mr. Turner advised that these boys are from three different Troops.

Mayor McGuire suggested that some other place be found in which to hold these meetings.

Mayor McGuire advised that the Army was going to abandon their camp at the corner of 208th Street and Normandie Avenue, and that the buildings had been offered to the City, if they use them.

Chief Stroh stated that he and Mr. Dale Riley had examined these buildings, and said they would make ideal buildings for the boy scouts and for recreation and crafts purposes. Two of the buildings, he said, were lined on the inside with plaster board and have ceilings; the balance are not lined on the inside. All the buildings are 20 ft. wide and vary in length, up to 95 ft.; with a total floor area of approximately 35,000 sq. ft.

Clerk Bartlett stated that the California State Guard had requested written assurance that they would be permitted to remain in their present quarters in the City Park, and that they would be given thirty days notice, if at any time the City desired them to vacate.

Councilman Babcock moved that the California State Guard be granted the continued use of the land in the City Park, and that written assurance be given them that they will be given thirty days' notice in the event it is desired that the buildings be moved off. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

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 9:30 P.M., on 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