

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California,
October 16, 1923.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, October 16, 1923, and was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Gilbert. The following Trustees were present: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert. Absent: Stone.

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 2, 1923, were read and approved as read.

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

"Torrance, Calif.
Oct. 16, 1923.

Hon. Board of Trustees,
City of Torrance,
W. H. Gilbert, Chairman.

Gentlemen:

In as much as I have moved from Torrance, I hereby tender you my resignation as City Trustee, effective immediately.

It is with deep regret on my part that I can no longer be one of the solid five.

With best wishes for the continued success and prosperity of the City of Torrance, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,
Signed: Joseph F. Stone."

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the resignation of Mr. Stone be accepted with regrets. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Trustee Proctor moved that R. R. Smith be appointed Trustee to serve in place of resigning Trustee Stone. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Mr. Smith thanked the Board for the honor conferred, stating that his only consolation would be the getting even with the Traffic officer. Trustee Smith immediately assumed his place at the round-table.

A written request by the Union Tool Co. for permission to erect an illuminated (electric) sign, approximately 6 ft. X 21 ft., on the south end of their Field Shop, was read. An exhibit was attached to the request showing the plans and specifications.

On motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Nash, the above was referred to the City Engineer for recommendations later in the meeting.

The Petroleum Midway Co. Ltd. wrote:
"Application is hereby made by the undersigned the Petroleum Midway Co. Ltd., for a franchise authorizing the construction, maintenance and operation of a telephone pole line along the streets named as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly boundary line of the City of Torrance with the Long Beach-Redondo Road; thence running northwesterly and westerly along the Long Beach-Redondo Road to the Westerly limits of the City of Torrance."

This matter was also referred to the City Engineer for report later in the meeting.

Clerk Bartlett read:
"Request for franchise or permit for extension of track on east side of Border Avenue from present terminus in front of Glass Works southerly 115 feet, is hereby made.

Signed: TORRANCE WINDOW GLASS CO.
By Mr. Bisbee."

Action on above was to be taken later in the meeting.

No direct action was taken on the written recommendations of Engineer Jessup, read by the Clerk, concerning ways and means of raising funds for the repair of streets in the oil district, which were in a deplorable condition. The Engineer gave the amount needed and a way of obtaining same.

Mr. Steadman was given the floor and asked, as Chairman of a Committee from the Free Holders League, for information as to why it was necessary to hold two elections on the proposed bond propositions?

Mr. Steadman asked if the Board thought the people were not intelligent enough to vote on three different propositions at once, and also the cost of the added election?

He was told that it was more a matter of carelessness that lack of intelligence, to-wit: the losing of the Sewer bonds, and that the added cost would be approximately \$50.00.

President Gilbert, Trustee Proctor and Attorney Briney explained the reason for the two elections, after which Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the Board meet with the Free Holders League and give them the reasons for holding two elections. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Steadman extended an invitation to the Board to meet with the Free Holders tomorrow night at 7:30 P.M. at 1020 Cota Avenue.

It was finally decided that President Gilbert and Engineer Jessup would attend the above mentioned meeting.

Mr. L. P. Barker requested a permit to operate a wagon through the oil field, dispensing soft drinks, ice cream, candy, etc.

On motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Proctor, and a majority vote, permission was granted.

The applications of Mr. Haward and Mr. Werner to build bungalow courts up to the property line on Lots 2, 3 and 4 of Block 12 and on the corner of Arlington and Sartori respectively were discussed.

Trustee Smith advised taking these questions up on their merits and combing the Ordinance in order to reconcile the building needs and the necessary restrictions as to fire, zoning, set backs, etc.

Trustee Smith moved that permits be issued to the above mentioned gentlemen in accordance with the plans as exhibited by them. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Mr. Allen stated that he had located a lunch wagon on a lot at the corner of Carson and Hickory on the front property line, not knowing that he needed a permit other than from the owner of the property, and had been operating same for 3 days, and requested that he be allowed to remain there.

Trustee Nash moved that the Ordinance covering this case be complied with, and the request of Mr. Allen refused. Trustee Smith seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Mr. Coleman requested a permit to maintain two tent houses well back from the property line.

President Gilbert stated that he had inspected the property in question and found the tents well built, with wooden sides, etc, intimating that he thought them not objectionable.

Trustee Proctor moved that the above request by Mr. Coleman be granted. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The regular order of business was suspended momentarily in order that Clerk Bartlett might read the following:

"PROPOSED ASSOCIATED OIL COMPANY
PIPE LINE-TORRANCE TO SAN PEDRO"

"To The Honorable Board of Trustees,
City of Torrance,
Torrance, California,
Gentlemen:

The undersigned, Associated Oil Company, hereby petitions your Honorable Body to offer for sale, and to sell in the manner provided by law, a franchise granting the right to construct, and, for a period of forty years from and after the date of the granting of such franchise, to maintain and operate an oil pipe line for the purpose of transportation and distribution of oil, under, along and across any and all public highways hereinafter described, and to conduct, erect, lay, maintain, use and operate a telephone system whether on poles or in conduits in, under, along, upon, over and across said public highways hereinafter described, to-wit:

All the Streets, Alleys and Public Ways in the City of Torrance, with the exceptions of the restricted District, bounded on the North by Dominguez Street, on the West by Madrid Avenue, on the South by Plaza Del Amo, and on the East by Cabrillo Avenue and Border Avenue.

Signed: ASSOCIATED OIL COMPANY
By Harrison Guio."

Trustee Nash moved that the Associated Oil Co's. request be referred to the City Engineer for recommendations. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

In the matter of granting a temporary permit to the above mentioned company to proceed with the work during the franchise proceedings, Trustee Proctor moved that a temporary permit to carry on the work be granted. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustees: None.

At this point a recess of five minutes was taken, after which Trustee Nash reported the condition of the City finances, stating that the funds had carried on just about according to his estimate.

Engineer Jessup reported in re the Glass Co's. request to extend their spur track, heretofore mentioned, could be accomplished just by a permit; that a resolution to this effect by the Board as evidence to place before the Railroad Commission was, probably, all that would be necessary.

Also the request of the Petroleum Midway Co. concerning a telephone line, overlooked at the time their franchise was granted, was only a reasonable request and he could see no reason why it should not be granted.

And, as the request of the Union Tool Co. to erect a sign as delineated on their exhibit, was directly in violation of the existing Ordinance, that he could not recommend the granting of the request unless it were done through a certain section of the Ordinance whereby the Board retained the right to pass on special cases; that Mr. Levy's request came under the same heading.

Trustee Proctor stated that it might be that they were to strict with small town Ordinances, and that if the Board considered certain signs to be a menace, they could be ordered down at any time.

With this understanding, Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the Union Tool Co. be granted permission to erect their sign as called for on the specifications filed. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Trustee Proctor moved that the request for erection of a sign by Mr. Levy be granted. Trustee Smith seconded the motion which was duly carried.

A report of the bad condition of alleys by Trustee Proctor was discussed. It decided that the Street Committee and the Engineer would inspect same and report something definite at the next meeting.

The matter of some awnings being too low was referred to Trustee Smith, and as to the services being received from the County Health Officer, Clerk Bartlett stated that he had communicated with the Health office and that an officer had come down and looked into the matter of the misquito nuisance and would report later.

Trustee Proctor suggested that the Health officer inspect the ice-boxes throughout the City next time he came to Torrance.

The Madrona Avenue dedication question was mentioned, Clerk Bartlett stating that Mr. Welch of the Dominguez Land Co. had told him that the Land Co. was now negotiating with the Santa Fe for a right of way and that he would write the City later.

Clerk Bartlett applied for an allowance for clerical help in his office, saying that the business had increased so rapidly that it was impossible for one man to do the work, and that it was quite necessary to have someone in the office when he was out on inspection duties; also reading a letter concerning same.

Trustee Nash stated that he had approved the demands for \$50.00 a month for a bookkeeper, but that it was not within his province to approve the demands for an allowance for a Building and Plumbing inspector.

Trustee Proctor moved that the request of the Clerk for an allowance of \$50.00 per month for a bookkeeper and \$25.00 per month for inspections be granted. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
 NOES; Trustees: None.
 ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Attorney Briney dictated:

RESOLUTION NO. 145

RESOLVED, That the Torrance Window Glass Co. be given permission to extend their spur track one hundred fifteen (115) feet southerly along the west side of Lot 3, Block 104, Torrance Tract.

Trustee Proctor moved that Resolution No. 145 be adopted as dictated. Trustee Smith seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
 NOES; Trustees: None.
 ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Attorney Briney read:

ORDINANCE NO. 72

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY ON THE 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1923, AND PROVIDING FOR SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF SAID CITY THE PROPOSITION OF INCURRING INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS THEREFOR, FOR THE LEVYING OF A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS, CONSOLIDATING ELECTION PRECINCTS, DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACES AND APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICERS FOR SAID ELECTION

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Ordinance No. 72 be adopted as read for its final reading, and the same filed in the office of the City Clerk. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
 NOES; Trustees: None.
 ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Attorney Briney read:
ORDINANCE NO. 73

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY ON THE 27TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1923, AND PROVIDING FOR SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF SAID CITY THE PROPOSITION OF INCURRING INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS THEREFOR, FOR THE LEVYING OF A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS, CONSOLIDATING ELECTION PRECINCTS, DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACES AND APPOINTING ELECTION OFFICERS FOR SAID ELECTION

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Ordinance No. 73 be adopted as read for its final reading, and the same filed in the office of the City Clerk. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Trustee Proctor moved that pamphlets, giving the facts and details of the proposed bond propositions, be drawn up, printed and distributed so that the voters may know exactly what they are doing; and that the City Attorney be instructed to care for the matter. Trustee Smith seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Mr. Price stated to the Board that he had worked for the Water Co. during the time the mains were laid in Torrance, and that he could assure the Board that the material used was first-class. President Gilbert asked him to collaborate with Attorney Briney in his forming of the pamphlets.

Chief Hannebrink mentioned the need of three fire plugs south of Plaza Del Amo.

Trustee Nash moved that the Clerk request the Torrance Water, Light and Power Co. to install same. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Trustee Fitzhugh asked how the card games in the pool halls were progressing? Chief Anderson assured him that card games were not being played at the present time.

Trustee Fitzhugh also mentioned the sign on the side of the Sevy building as being too close to the street. Mr. Levy stated that the reason for the sign was to keep dust and refuse from collecting in his doorway. The matter was referred to the Chief as was also a decision by the Board that the pool halls might resume the card games if they were run legitimately--another report of gambling laying them liable to a revocation of their licenses.

Heavy truck traffic on the prohibited side streets was brought up by Trustee Nash, and referred to the Police Chief.

The McDowell request to build California houses in the Industrial district was laid over until the next meeting on motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Nash, and a majority vote

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that all bills, properly audited, be paid. Trustee Smith seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor, Smith and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None. ABSENT; Trustees: None.

At 10:50 P.M. on motion by Trustee Proctor, seconded by Trustee Nash, and a majority vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:

W. H. Gilbert

President of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance.

Robert H. Briney
City Clerk of the City of Torrance.