

Torrance, California
December 10, 1940

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 evening, December 10, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Murray moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 26, 1940 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held November 28, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Headquarters, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, Office of the Quartermaster, Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, California, inquiring how many trucks the City of Torrance has available for hire suitable for hauling troops and number of trucks suitable for hauling cargo in case of an emergency.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department for checking and report to the City Clerk. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, advising that the Board had rejected the City's application to purchase nine parcels of tax-deeded land in Tract 4070 at the price of \$1.00 per parcel. It was advised further that the Board would consider an application from the City of Torrance to purchase said nine parcels at a price of \$15.00 per parcel.

Mr. Haines of the Associated Assessment Engineers advised that the application offering \$15.00 per parcel had already been submitted to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. No further action necessary.

A communication was read from Dale Riley, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, recommending approval of the Co-Sponsor's application and agreement for State Wide Recreation Project for the year 1941, which was submitted with the communication and recommendation.

Councilman Murray moved that the City Clerk be authorized to sign the Co-Sponsor's application and agreement for State Wide Recreation Project for the year 1941 in compliance with Mr. Riley's recommendation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from A. L. Nelson, Nelson House Moving Company, requesting permission to set on his 10-acre ranch a frame, sided house, valued at \$1200.00 for a period of approximately three months, with a guarantee that the house will not be removed from timbers during the time.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that the request of Aubrey Thomas for permission to operate a pool hall at 1214 El Prado be granted, and that license for same be issued.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Chief Stroh's recommendation be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John Ashton Shidler, Attorney, requesting the City to adopt two resolutions which he enclosed. He urged that the resolutions be adopted as soon as possible in order that Vincent Thomas, State Assemblyman, can effectively represent the City in these matters when he goes to Sacramento soon. The first resolution presented by Mr. Shidler pertained to issuance of drivers' licenses, and requested the return of the privilege of being examined

locally by the State Motor Vehicle Department for said licenses, City of Torrance to furnish suitable rooms as was the practice before discontinuance of said service.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1413

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FAVORING THE RETURN OF THE PRIVILEGE OF LOCAL EXAMINATIONS BY THE STATE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT FOR DRIVERS' LICENSE.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1413 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1414

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FAVORING THE PASSAGE OF A BILL BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE PERMITTING THE KEEPING OF A SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS FOR EMERGENCY USE IN HOSPITALS WHERE NO HOUSE PHYSICIAN IS IN ATTENDANCE.

This resolution, presented by Mr. Shidler, was one urging the passage of a bill by the State which would allow hospitals too small to maintain a regular house physician to keep on hand a supply of narcotics for emergency use.

After a short discussion, it was decided to contact several physicians for their opinions in the matter. It was suggested also that Mr. Shidler and Miss Maxwell, Superintendent of the Torrance Hospital, be contacted regarding this matter.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Associated Division, advising that for the twelve months preceding December 2, 1940, no receipts or earnings were derived by said Company from the use, operation and possession of Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1351 lying within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Columbia Steel Company, requesting permit to install a truck scale for weighing all trucks entering and leaving said Columbia Steel plant, location desired being near their main office and on Cravens Avenue. A sketch of the proposed scale location was submitted.

Engineer Jain stated he had investigated the matter thoroughly. He said the street would have to be reconstructed, but that the Columbia Steel Company had agreed to do the reconstruction at their expense. He added that both he and Mr. Gascoigne were of the opinion no one could be damaged except, possibly, Soule Steel Company located across the street from Columbia Steel Company, which company, it appears, has offered no objection.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Columbia Steel Company be granted, provided they comply with certain requirements as specified by the City Engineer. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Miss Emily Higuchi, requesting information about certain birds observed in the field southeast of 190th and Cedar Streets.

A communication was read from the Torrance Coordinating Council, submitting three amendments to the Boy's Club proposal heretofore delivered to the City Council. The three amendments were as follows: (1) Cost of both building and furniture was estimated at between \$6000.00 and \$7000.00. (2) Club facilities to be made available to both boys and girls, with a possible increase in age limitations for those eligible to use club equipment. (3) Recreation facilities to be made available for Walteria residents by erecting a recreation center, including library facilities, in Walteria.

Councilman Murray moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Agreement between the City of Torrance and Stone and Myers, Funeral Directors, for ambulance service, said service to be furnished for the sum of \$12.00 per month.

Mayor McGuire suggested that the Agreement, if approved, be dated to conform with the manner of dating other agreements - from the beginning to the end of the City's fiscal year.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement between the City of Torrance and Stone and Myers, Funeral directors, for ambulance service to June 30, 1941. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Agreement between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles for assessment and collection of taxes.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles for assessment and collection of taxes. Councilmen Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Acting Engineer Jain advised that some action should be taken regarding the proposed change of Inglewood Boulevard. He was instructed to draw up a Resolution making the proposed changes and present it for consideration at the next meeting of the City Council.

In the matter of operation of business enterprises in residential zones which has been a controversial subject for some time, Deputy City Attorney Hunter rendered an opinion as follows: "It is the ruling in this State that zoning regulations cannot be made retroactive, and that nonconforming uses cannot be removed and existing conditions cannot be affected. Any attempt to enforce a zoning ordinance in such a manner would be unconstitutional."

Councilman Powell presented a recommendation of John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, that Henry E. Garner be appointed as a regular police officer at the regular rate of pay, effective December 1, 1940, Mr. Garner having served his probationary period. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Council Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$60.85 be made for Walteria alley repair. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$35.20 be made for material for general alley repairs. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$176.70 be made for fertilizer for regular parks. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$129.78 be made for purchase of 6 manhole frames and covers for sewers. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Acting Engineer Jain be instructed to write a letter to Mr. Wilson, Superintendent of Santa Fe Railway Company, Right of Way Department, San Bernardino, requesting that something be done toward improving Madrid Avenue right of way. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not a letter had been received from the National Supply Company regarding moving of a fence, Clerk Bartlett's answer being in the negative.

Engineer Jain said Mr. J. O. Bishop of the National Supply Company had expressed his intention to bring in a letter requesting that the City ask the Pioneer Lumber Company to move their fence back onto their (Pioneer Lumber Company's) property line in order that National Supply Company can complete their building plans and open a certain street known as Bow Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Pioneer Lumber Company be requested to move their fence back onto their own property, in compliance with the request of the National Supply Company. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock suggested that some action be taken to guarantee city employees the right to return to their positions with the City of Torrance if called for military service or training with the United States Government. After a short discussion as to what methods are being employed by other cities to take care of this situation, Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write a letter to the Los Angeles County League of Municipalities for advice as to how the matter can best be handled. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

In connection with this matter, Councilman Powell suggested that the City should take some action toward agreeing to remunerate persons who might be called for training, as he said, the Government does not pay the full amount the first few months' of service. Clerk Bartlett was instructed to obtain information regarding this matter also.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Haines of the Associated Assessment Engineers presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1415

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF TAX DEEDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 3897-D AND SECTION 3897-3 OF THE POLITICAL CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAKING AND SIGNING OF APPLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE PURSUANT TO THE AFORESAID SECTIONS OF THE POLITICAL CODE.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired whether or not the Resolution and Application in connection with same had been checked by the City Attorney. Mr. Haines replied that it had not been checked by the Attorney as yet, but that he would submit same for checking. He asked that, if possible, the Resolution be adopted at this time to allow his company to file the Application by December 15, 1940, which had been designated as the last day for filing.

Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not former owners of property would be allowed to bid for property formerly owned by them when the public auction is held. Mr. Haines replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1415 be adopted, subject to approval of City Attorney. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Haines advised that, in connection with the City's application before the Board of Supervisors for purchase of some 106 parcels of tax deeded property, further information has been requested by the Board of Supervisors, which information is being tabulated at this time by the Associated Assessment Engineers.

Mr. King asked that something be done about the traffic marking in the front of the Post Office. He said the pedestrians' zone is completely ignored by motorists and that it is difficult to cross the street at that point, since automobiles are constantly being moved in and out while short calls are made at the Post Office.

Chief Stroh advised that he felt the pedestrians' cross-walk should be moved a short distance down the street (toward Cravens Avenue). He added that the Post Office had offered to put in a curb box near the post office, which would eliminate a great deal of parking while short visits are made to post letters. Mr. King suggested that, if and when the cross-walk is moved, it be painted with white lines instead of the present method of using metal traffic markers for lines.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Police Department be authorized to make whatever changes are necessary to relieve the condition mentioned, and to contact Mr. Connor, Postmaster, regarding placing of a curb box. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Chief Stroh stated he had received several complaints because of the hazard to motorists existing due to method of parking automobiles on Cravens Avenue near Cabrillo Avenue. He stated that on the north side of Cravens Avenue near Cabrillo Avenue, automobiles are parked on a forty-five degree angle, while on the south side, they are parked parallel to the curb. Traffic proceeding around the corner from Cabrillo Avenue onto Cravens Avenue going west is forced to drive in the center of the street, and over the white line, to avoid striking parked vehicles. He asked for permission to park the automobiles parallel to the curb on both sides if the Council sees fit.

Miss Lute Fraser concurred in the opinion of Chief Stroh that vehicles should be parked parallel to the curb on Cravens Avenue near Cabrillo Avenue. Also, she asked that something be done about drivers of automobiles cutting corners, mentioning especially the intersection of El Prado and Cravens Avenue. She offered a sug-

gestion that, when the City concludes its business with the Pacific Electric Railway Company in acquiring the Cabrillo Avenue right of way, the intersection of Cravens Avenue, Cabrillo Avenue and Carson Street be made into a traffic circle to keep all traffic to the right.

Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police submit his request in writing for consideration at the next meeting. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Councilman Powell included in his motion that Chief Stroh investigate the condition Miss Fraser mentioned.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:44 p.m. upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned.



 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:



 Mayor of the City of Torrance