

Torrance, California
November 25, 1941

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, November 25, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All persons present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 13, 1941, of a Special Meeting held November 17, 1941, of an Adjourned Special Meeting held November 18, 1941 and of an Adjourned Special Meeting held November 19, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the action taken at the Special Meeting held November 17, 1941 and at the adjourned Special Meeting held November 19, 1941, be ratified. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the "Let Us Be Friends" Club, signed by Clarence Carr, President, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium for the purpose of holding Saturday night dances. It was mentioned that the Club will be unable to pay the full rental amount, but is willing to pay a portion of the usual fee.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the City Council as a whole for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication, signed by John W. Martin, Secretary, was read from the Southgate Lodge No. 1145, Loyal Order of Moose, expressing sympathy for the misfortune which befell the City of Torrance November 14, 1941 when an earthquake struck the City.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that the City Council authorize purchase of certain parts from the City of Santa Monica for use on the White busses recently purchased from said City, the price as submitted by the City of Santa Monica for the entire lot being \$573.55. Mr. Ward further stated that the tires in use on the busses are in need of replacing, said tires being property of the Goodrich Company, and further requested that the City of Torrance enter into a contract with the Goodrich Company for rental of tires by the mile in order that the worn out tires can be replaced and in order that the tires which have been in use on the busses since date of purchase of busses can be paid for.

Mayor McGuire suggested that action be deferred until such time as the list of parts can be studied by the Council, the garage mechanic and Mr. Ward.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Parent-Teacher Association, signed Mrs. R. J. Deurloo as Secretary and Natalie L. Ross, Principal, requesting that a reliable crossing guard be placed at the Highway 101 crossing.

Chief Stroh advised that a Mexican lady crossing guard had been furnished by the W. P. A., and that she had experienced some trouble with her automobile, making her late on a few occasions. However, he said, it was his understanding that she had been on duty regularly for some time now, no complaints having been received for the past week, and that the Foreman of the W.P.A. Crossing Guard Project had also investigated the matter and reported no irregularities.

A communication was read from Clarence A. Pinkham, requesting change of address on pool hall license from 1650 Cabrillo to 1208 El Prado Avenue, the former building having been rendered unsafe by the recent earthquake, it being the desire of the proprietor to operate the pool hall business at the latter address.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request for change of address on business license of Clarence A. Pinkham, per his communication, be granted, subject to safety clearance of the City Engineer or City Building Inspector. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance High School, signed by Thomas H. Elson, Principal, expressing appreciation for the improvement made recently by the City in the small park immediately in front of the High School. Filed.

A communication was read from Milky Williams Lodge, Local No 1414, acknowledging receipt of letter from the City of Torrance advising of favorable action taken regarding their request for a free night for a dance in the Civic Auditorium, and advising that the committee had decided on November 29, 1941 as the most suitable date for said dance, and expressing appreciation for action of the Council in this matter.

A communication was read from Jack Margolies, requesting license to peddle in the City of Torrance and requesting to be allowed to pay the license quarterly in advance in \$3.00 payments.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department, which motion was lost for want of a second, Councilman Powell suggesting that the City Clerk be authorized to direct a letter to Mr. Margolies and state the requirements for a peddler's license in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify Mr. Jack Margolies of the requirements for obtaining a peddler's license in the City of Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication signed by thirteen residents, was read, requesting that the alley between Cabrillo Avenue and Border Avenue, extending from 218th Street to 220th Street, be repaired.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department and Engineering Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City Council of the City of Los Angeles, signed by John W. Baumgartner, requesting the City of Torrance to advise at the earliest possible moment the approximate amount of non-combustible rubbish which is collected and disposed of by the City of Torrance, for the purpose of reporting at the December meeting of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities on the feasibility of municipalities grouping together with the thought of disposing of non-combustible rubbish through a salvage disposal plant.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer, the Engineer to obtain from the garbage contractor an estimate of the approximate amount of garbage, rubbish and non-combustible material collected by him, and report same to Mr. Baumgartner; Also to report to Mr. Baumgartner regarding the feasibility of municipalities grouping together with the thought of disposing of non-combustible rubbish through a salvage disposal plant. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. May Abramsky, 4624 McPerson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, offering for sale to the City of Torrance Lot 3, Block 15, Torrance Tract, which property is adjacent to the Fire Department building at 1523 Cravens Avenue.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Kail arrived during reading of the above communication.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, pertaining to the request of Joseph DeSalve, 1662-252nd Street, Harbor City, for license to operate a transportation company in the City of Torrance, to be known as "City Taxi". Chief Stroh stated that he could find no reason to deny the license.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Joseph DeSalvo for a license to operate a transportation company in the City of Torrance, to be known as "City Taxi", be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication, signed by Josephine McCarty, Executive Secretary, was read from the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association, requesting the Mayor to issue a proclamation to the local residents regarding the annual Christmas Seal sale.

Mayor McGuire signed the proclamation and released it to the Torrance Herald.

A communication was read from the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, outlining the services offered by the Building Officials Conference, and inviting the membership of the City of Torrance. It was mentioned that all the services established for Active Class A. Members of the conference are based on the 1940 Edition of the Uniform Building Code, and added that the Building Inspector will find this service of great value in the administration of the Code. Subscription to an Active Class A Membership was listed at \$30.00 dues for one year.

Engineer Jain stated that, inasmuch as the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference prepared the Code originally, the service offered by them will be of great value, and recommended that the City subscribe to one year's Active Class A Membership.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that not to exceed \$30.00 be appropriated for dues for one year for an Active Class A Membership in the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Walker and Eisen, Architects, signed by P.H. Eisen, advising that the firm of Walker and Eisen had made a careful examination of the one-story, Class "C" brick building occupied by the Water Department of the City of Torrance, with regard to damages caused by reason of the recent earthquake. A detailed list of damages to the building was given, followed by recommendations for restoration and improvement of the building. A communication was also read from Walker and Eisen, advising that fees for architectural services for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Water Department Building will be at the rate of seven per cent of the cost of such work and advising that acceptance of their letter may constitute a contract in the absence of a regular prepared contract.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the letter of Walker and Eisen be accepted and that said firm be employed to repair and rehabilitate the Water Department building at 1511 Cravens Avenue in accordance with recommendations outlined in their letter. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Walker and Eisen, architects, signed by P. H. Eisen, advising that the firm of Walker and Eisen had made a careful examination of the two-story, Class "C" building at 1523 Cravens Avenue, the Fire Engine House adjoining the City Hall, with regard to ascertaining the amount of damage caused by reason of the recent earthquake. A detailed list of damages to the building was given, followed by recommendations for restoration of the building. A communication was also read from Walker and Eisen, advising that fees for architectural services for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Fire Engine House building will be at the rate of seven per cent of the cost of such work.

Councilman Powell moved that the letter of Walker and Eisen be accepted and that said firm be employed to repair and rehabilitate the Fire Department building at 1523 Cravens Avenue in accordance with recommendations outlined in their letter. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from C. J. Rambo and Company, Accountants and Auditors, submitting a bid of \$300.00, payable quarterly, for auditing the accounts, records and financial transactions of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1942, additional compensation to be agreed upon for investigations beyond the scope of the regular audit, in the event such investigations are necessary.

A communication was read from C. J. Rambo and Company, Accountants and Auditors, submitting a bid of \$450.00, payable quarterly, for auditing the accounts, records and financial

transactions of the City of Torrance, covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1942, additional compensation to be agreed upon for investigations beyond the scope of the regular audit, in the event such investigations are necessary.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communications be filed for future reference. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 331

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING MINI-
MUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECONSTRUC-
TION OF BUILDINGS DAMAGED BY EARTH-
QUAKE.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Resolution No. 331 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire explained that the above mentioned ordinance had been adopted at a Special Meeting held November 17, 1941 as an emergency ordinance, with the aid of several prominent structural engineers and architects, and that a state structural engineer had called the ordinance an unusually fine one.

Mr. Jain advised that he had contacted the State offices and asked that a few engineers and inspectors be furnished to help for the duration of the emergency created by the earthquake. He said the Los Angeles office is unable to provide any men, but that it had been hoped the Sacramento office might possibly provide them. He advised further that Mr. Cannon, Structural Engineer, had been hired on recommendation of the State Division of Architecture and the County of Los Angeles, it appearing that Mr. Cannon is very well qualified to assist in earthquake reconstruction plans and work. He said that the Los Angeles Department of Building Safety had advised that a number of engineers and inspectors are available for hire by the City to assist in the work during the emergency.

Mayor McGuire invited comments, questions and discussion from anyone interested in the reconstruction work made necessary by the earthquake. Mr. Sam Levy, veteran merchant of the City of Torrance, advised that a serious condition will exist when persons get ready to begin the actual work on their buildings, due to the priority restrictions on building materials, especially steel. He said that he thought the Council should contact Washington, D. C. and ask that some plan be devised whereby steel can be made available for purchase and use in buildings damaged in the earthquake. To this end, he said, he had contacted the Los Angeles Office of Priorities, who had telephoned Washington, D. C. asking that a distributor be appointed to take the priority applications in Torrance from property owners who will require building materials for reconstruction of buildings damaged in the earthquake. He said Washington, D. C. had apparently not reacted favorably to this suggestion and that nothing had been done to date.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the City Attorney direct a letter to Washington, D. C. to this effect. Attorney McCall suggested that the matter be done by resolution.

Engineer Jain said he had understood from representative of the Los Angeles Office of Priorities that it could be arranged to make the necessary steel and other materials available for repair of the buildings damaged. He said Mr. McGregor of that office had been in Torrance the day after the earthquake and had practically assured him that the matter would be attended to promptly. Mr. Levy said he felt a telegram would serve the purpose.

Attorney McCall dictated the following resolution title:

RESOLUTION NO. 1507

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING THE DIVISION OF PRIORITIES, OFFICE OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT, IN WASHINGTON, D. C. TO MAKE AVAILABLE STEEL AND OTHER BUILDING SUPPLIES TO REPAIR THE BUILDINGS IN THIS EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF NOVEMBER 14, 1941.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1507 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. McCall advised that the resolution would be prepared immediately after the meeting and forwarded to Washington, D.C. at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Tom Babbitt asked what had been done about the condemned building at 1518 $\frac{1}{2}$ Crenshaw Boulevard. He asked if the building had been condemned by the Council in open meeting. Mayor McGuire asked Clerk Bartlett to produce the copy of the letter sent to Mrs. Davis, owner of the house, advising that the City had condemned her building at 1518 $\frac{1}{2}$ Crenshaw Boulevard. Clerk Bartlett advised that he had not been instructed to write the letter; that a careful search of the minutes had been made to ascertain what action had been taken by the Council regarding this matter. He left the Council Chamber to obtain copies of the minutes relating to this matter.

Engineer Jain said his understanding was that both he and the Fire Chief had condemned the building by letter and that the City Council had sustained the action and advised the City Clerk to notify them not to occupy the building. He said it is occupied at the present time by rental and that he had sent a policeman to Mrs. Davis and advised her against occupancy of the building. He stated she had advised the policeman that her attorney had advised her the City could take no action against her, inasmuch as she had not received written notice of condemnation of the building.

Councilman Hitchcock remarked that he could not recall the City Clerk being instructed to write the letter and that he understood it had been referred to the Attorney.

Clerk Bartlett returned with excerpts of the minutes referring to the building at 1518 $\frac{1}{2}$ Crenshaw Boulevard. The minutes of August 26, 1941, at which time the petition was read objecting to restoration of the building, and at which time Attorney McCall advised a new law had been passed providing means to abolish buildings declared unfit for habitation and offering to render an opinion, and also the minutes of September 11, 1941 at which time Mr. McCall stated he had received a copy of the law and would render an opinion at the next meeting, were cited. The excerpts were accompanied by statements to the effect that nowhere in the minutes could it be found that the Clerk had been instructed to write a letter to Mrs. Davis. It was also stated that the minutes revealed no further action following the September 11, 1941 meeting.

Attorney McCall advised that a copy of the law had been obtained at which time he and Mr. Jain had studied it. He said it is a complicated legal proceeding, requiring that the City Engineer may give notice to the party concerned, setting out what work must be done and setting a time limit. If the work is not done within the required time, he said, the law provides that the City can abolish the building. So far, he added, the notice has not been sent out, inasmuch as the City Engineer has not been directed to do so.

Mayor McGuire asked if, in cases where buildings are in very bad condition, they can be allowed to remain so long as they are brought up to standard requirements. Engineer Jain answered that such is the case. Mr. Babbitt said he had been informed the building is "non-conforming" so far as the Zoning Ordinance is concerned, and said that the matter should be placed before the Planning Commission. Mr. Jain explained that Ordinance No. 316 referred to by Mr. Babbitt is a land-use ordinance and has nothing to do with construction. He said the ordinance governs only "use" of the land and not construction of the buildings upon the land. Mr. Babbitt said it is desired that appearance of the building be improved. Mr. Jain pointed out that the City has no authority to dictate how the building shall appear, so long as it is structurally in compliance with the building requirements.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Council as a whole for further study and investigation. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$200.00 be made for labor and equipment to remove the siren and upper portion of the tower at the Fire Station. (damaged in the earthquake). Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that James H. Gainy, Jr. be engaged to do the traffic striping job per estimates filed with the City Engineer. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote. AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the City Clerk direct letters of appreciation to the various communities and governmental bodies who rendered such valuable and necessary assistance during the emergency created by the earthquake of November 14, 1941. Clerk Bartlett advised he has a list of them.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to direct letters of appreciation to various cities, governmental bodies and individuals who gave so freely of their time in rendering aid to the City of Torrance during the disaster created by the earthquake of November 14, 1941, the letters to be signed by all members of the City Council, the City Clerk, City Engineer and City Attorney. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be made to help defray expenses of Attorney John E. McCall in attending the Attorney's Convention in Washington, D. C. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$77.00 plus sales tax, be made for purchase of colored lights for the stage in the Auditorium. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be directed to notify Mr. A. E. Treloar to report to Mr. L. C. Fix at the City Garage Monday morning, December 1, 1941, for full time work on the busses. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which

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

Regarding the communication from the County of Los Angeles, Office of County Surveyor and County Engineer, referring to checking and examining of subdivision maps, Engineer Jain advised that engineers from nearby cities had asked that no action be taken until plans are a little more definite as to how the work will be divided between the City and the County. Mayor McGuire suggested that Mr. Jones of the County Surveyor's Office be contacted for further details in the matter.

Regarding the shacks south of the City Park which have been condemned, Mr. Jain said the owners had agreed that anyone who will demolish the buildings is entitled to the material they can salvage from them, provided the lots are left clean and the City assumes responsibility. He said two boys had contacted him and wanted to demolish the buildings during the Christmas vacation period. He said he had required them to bring letters from their parents releasing the City from responsibility.

Mr. Jain reported that it is now required by law that the Building Inspector be informed as to whether contractors are carrying compensation insurance for the men working for them. He suggested that the Certificate of Compensation Insurance be presented at the time of issuance of the business license and made a part of the business license record. He said that, although all contractors are required to have the insurance, it had only recently been made the responsibility of the Inspector to have conclusive evidence of it before issuance of permits. Mayor McGuire counseled all persons who contemplate hiring contractors to determine first whether or not the contractor carries compensation insurance for his men. Councilman Hitchcock asked if any action is necessary at this time to instruct the City Clerk to demand contractors to produce their Certificate of Compensation Insurance at the time business licenses are issued. Mayor McGuire answered that, inasmuch as the measure is a mandatory one, the Clerk will automatically require that the information be furnished before issuing the license.

Attorney McCall reported that the matter of the old Crown Water Company, now the Ferry Mutual Water Company, (apparently referring to the contract between the new company and the city whereby the new company will reimburse the City for money expended in establishing the company) is not ready for final report as yet.

Councilman Powell suggested that it might be advisable at this time to enter into contract with the County of Los Angeles Civil Service Commission to classify the employees of the City of Torrance.

Mayor McGuire said signing of the contract had been authorized, but that upon receipt of the contract, it had been noted that practically all the authority is removed from the local Civil Service Board. Mr. Thomas T. Babbitt, Mr. J. W. Crowther and Mr. Howard R. Raymond, members of the local Civil Service Board, were present and advised that they have perused the contract and found it satisfactory. In regard to removal of authority from the local Board, each of the above mentioned gentlemen seemed to be of the opinion that, inasmuch as the local Board has had no experience in this particular type of work, it will be advantageous to let someone assist in the preliminary stages who has had the benefit of experience. The thought was expressed that the contract can be terminated at any time the Council so desires, and, further, that by the expiration date of the contract, June 30, 1942, the members of the local Board will know a great deal more about it. Mr. Babbitt said the Board had not gained the impression that the contract removes all authority from the local Board. Mr. Crowther pointed out that one

member of the local Board is allowed to assist in correcting and grading examination papers. Mr. Raymond said that, in order to be fair with the present City employees, someone with experience should handle the original setup. All three gentlemen remarked that the rules and regulations are in the process of being prepared. They said information has been gathered from various cities and that much time and effort is being devoted to the matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that, upon recommendation of a majority of the members of the Civil Service Board, the contract between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles Civil Service Board for classifying employees of the City of Torrance and for conducting examinations, be signed by the Mayor and City Clerk for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$144.20 be made for 100 No. 3 Concrete Meter boxes with cast iron lids for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall suggested that Ordinance No. 331 be adopted for final reading. Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to Ordinance No. 331. Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 331 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications.

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

At 9:30 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned to December 2, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.


 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


 Mayor of the City of Torrance