

Torrance, California
March 24, 1942

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, March 24, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 10, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Division of Highways, State of California, advising that there are no State funds available for installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Highway 101 in the City of Torrance.

Engineer Jain reported cost of installation of the signal will be approximately \$2,000.00

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer, with instructions to continue his efforts to obtain installation by the Division of Highways of a traffic signal at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and 101 Highway in the City of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from F. J. Carpenter, representing The National Supply Company, general Petroleum Corporation of California, Hydril Company, Columbia Steel Company, Pacific Electric Railway Company, Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, D & M Machine Works, and Pacific Perforating Company, Ltd., all being industrial companies located in the City of Torrance. The matter of a possible reduction in taxes was discussed, the suggestion being offered that local taxes be reduced by cutting out non-essential services and expenses and operations which show losses. The City Council was requested to make a thorough study of this matter, the offer being made to render every assistance possible in the study of this situation. An expression of the Council's attitude in this regard was requested.

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

A communication was read from J. Isen, expressing appreciation for valuable assistance given by the City Building Inspector, Mr. Meier, in the reconstruction of the Gramercy Apartment building.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, recommending that sale of fireworks in the City of Torrance be discontinued for the duration of war.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief J. E. McMaster's recommendation that sale of fireworks in the City of Torrance be discontinued for the duration of the war be complied with. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from William F. Barta, Attorney-At-Law, Inglewood, California, representing the Coast Brick Company in the City of Torrance, seeking relief for said company from the provisions of Ordinance No. 316 of the City of Torrance. It was stated that the matter of variance has heretofore been before the City Planning Commission pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the Ordinance, and, upon hearing, the petition for variance was denied. A re-hearing before the Planning Commission or an appeal before the City Council was requested, it being stated that the Coast Brick Company feels that the case was not sufficiently presented to the Planning Commission at the time of hearing.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for whatever action he deems necessary.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the matter be referred to the Planning Commission to determine whether or not a re-hearing should be granted the Coast Brick Company.

Councilman Powell withdrew his motion to refer the matter to the City Attorney and moved that the request of William F. Barta, Attorney-At-Law, that the Coast Brick Company be granted a re-hearing before the City Planning Commission or an Appeal before the City Council in the matter of variance be referred to the City Planning Commission. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health, recommending that all members of the City Council, Fire and Police Departments and City employees be re-vaccinated and re-immunized against typhoid, and suggesting that the immunization can be done in any convenient room in the City Hall.

A petition was read, bearing 182 signatures, petitioning the City Council to use its influence in having the Pacific Electric Railway Company resume passenger service through the City of Torrance to the harbor district to accommodate the defense workers in this area, who would otherwise be unable to get to their work due to tire rationing.

Councilman Babcock moved that the petition be forwarded to the proper officials of the Pacific Electric Railway Company with a communication stressing the importance of transportation for defense workers in this area. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire reported that the Pacific Electric Railway Company had advised that no cars or busses are available for use in this area unless some of the present routes are discontinued. Councilman Powell said he felt the matter to be important enough to warrant action by the Federal Government in requesting the service.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1521

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING TEN-
TATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP OF TRACT NO.
13147 WITH THE ADDITIONS AND CORREC-
TIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1521 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1522

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGARDING DE-
FENSE EQUIPMENT FOR BAY CITIES AREA.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1522 be adopted. 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 Powell moved that O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician, be allowed to attend the South Bay Electrical Inspectors' Convention at Santa Monica March 25, 1942, expenses paid. 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 Kail inquired whether or not a suitable place is available for target practice to accommodate those persons who may desire to improve their shooting ability.

The City of Torrance Rifle Range and the Harbor Rifle Range were mentioned, Chief Stroh advising that the City Rifle Range is open daily, except Monday, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. He advised that the Harbor Rifle Range is available Saturdays and Sundays upon payment of a range fee of 25¢.

Mayor McGuire suggested that Councilman Kail obtain further details as to what is desired and size of firearms persons who have indicated an interest in this matter wish to practice with.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$78.10 be made for side curtains and windshield for Diesel Patrol Grader for the Street Department. 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 Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$11.70 be made for advertising in the Torrance Herald of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines schedules in conjunction with an advertisement to be inserted by the Beacon Drug Company. Councilman Kail 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 \$105.00 be made for construction by the Southern California Edison Company of an auxiliary power line to Control Center, Auditorium (Red Cross Shelter) and Post Office (Air Raid Shelter), in accordance with a request of the Civilian Defense Council. Councilman Kail 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 \$150.00 be made for canvas and frames for partitions in the Civic Auditorium for Red Cross, blackout door for ambulance entrance, and light lock for front entrance of 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 inquired as to the progress being made on the Plaza del Amo job. He said several residents of the street are anxious that the job be completed at the earliest possible date. Engineer Jain advised that the rains had made it necessary to stop the job temporarily, but that it will resume within a few days.

Councilman Powell asked whether or not polling place cards have been mailed to registered voters. Clerk Bartlett advised that the cards are being addressed and will be ready for mailing within one or two days. Councilman Powell asked if this would be done without a motion, the answer being in the affirmative.

Mayor McGuire moved that installation of a 4" water meter at a cost of \$135.00 in connection with the State Department of Social Welfare Garden Project be authorized. Councilman Kail 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 reported that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors had refused his request, made upon recommendation of the Associated Assessment Engineers, to be allowed to sell tax delinquent land by inserting a notice of sale after the County publication of tax delinquent land instead of following the former method of publishing the notice of sale three times in a local newspaper of general circulation, the former method being in compliance with Ordinance No. 327 of the City of Torrance.

Attorney McCall asked whether or not the telephone at the Red Cross Station in the Hollywood Riviera Section connects directly with the City of Torrance. Chief Stroh advised that it does not, since the Associated Telephone Company serves that particular district, while the Bell Telephone Company serves the Torrance area. The cost for installing a direct line to connect with the Torrance exchange would be prohibitive, amounting to approximately \$82.00 per month, he added.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. J. A. Evans of the Torrance Gift Shop suggested that a Fair Rents Board be appointed by the City Council. He said many persons are leaving the City and others refuse to move into the City because of high rental costs. Mr. Evans requested that the Council appoint such a board and furnish Leon Henderson, Washington D.C., with names of persons so appointed, Mr. Henderson to furnish information regarding functions of the Fair Rents Board. Attorney McCall was instructed to obtain information on the procedure to be followed in appointing a Fair Rents Board and report his findings at the next regular meeting.

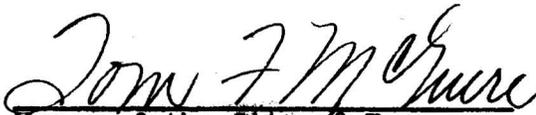
Chief Stroh advised that the Civilian Defense Council has information pertaining to this matter.

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 8:25 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Friday, March 27, 1942 at 5:00 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance