

Torrance, California
May 12, 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, May 12, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 28, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication addressed to Chief Stroh was read from the

County of Los Angeles, Civilian Defense Committee, inviting Chief Stroh, the City Council, the Mayor and others to attend the graduation exercises scheduled for May 24, 1942 at 10:00 A.M. at the George Washington High School football field, 107th and Normandie Avenues, at which time the Auxiliary Police, including the Torrance Auxiliary Police, having undergone a course of training since December 30, 1941, will be graduated and awarded diplomas.

Chief Stroh advised that the Torrance High School Band had been invited by him to participate in the exercises, and had accepted the invitation with the provision that the City furnish transportation to and from the School. Chief Stroh suggested that the City furnish a bus for this purpose. Attorney McCall stated that there exists no reason why the City should not be allowed to do this, unless the insurance policy contains some clause to the contrary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City of Torrance provide and pay for transportation of the Torrance High School Band to and from the George Washington High School on May 24, 1942 for participation of the Band in the Auxiliary Police graduation exercises. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from the California State Council of Defense, being Bulletin No. 99, on the subject of evacuation. It was urged that an evacuation officer be appointed and that the matter of evacuation planning be given serious study.

Chief Stroh reported he had talked with Jack Miller of the M and M Transfer Company regarding this matter, it appearing that Mr. Miller has the best facilities, such as trucks and vehicles, for movement of civilians if evacuation becomes necessary.

Mayor McGuire instructed Chief Stroh to contact Mr. Miller again and ascertain whether or not Mr. Miller wishes to accept the position as evacuation officer, which would involve use of his trucks and vehicles in the movement of civilians in case evacuation becomes necessary during the present war emergency.

A communication was read from William F. Barta, Attorney-At-Law, Inglewood, regarding the Coast Brick Company's request for relief from Provisions of Ordinance No. 316, and requesting a categorical answer as to whether or not a hearing will be granted his clients.

Friday, May 15, 1942, at 5:00 P.M. was agreed upon as a suitable time for all members of the City Council, Mr. Barta and his clients, to inspect the property in question.

A communication was read from W. B. Duncan, 2019-231st Street, requesting that 231st Street west from Eshelman Avenue be resurfaced.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Engineer for report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The communication read at the April 15, 1942 meeting from E. W. Sheets and R. R. Thompson, requesting permission to park a house trailer on certain Chanslor Canfield Midway Oil Company property, was re-read.

Engineer Jain advised that the location desired is east of Crenshaw Boulevard and south of Carson Street, approximately in the location formerly used as a Works Progress Administration garden project.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the entire City Council inspect the location desired by Mr. Sheets and Mr. Thompson for trailer house space. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Lela Gonner, Route 1, Box 152, Redondo Beach, a North Torrance resident, requesting that the job of painting the tank and tower of the Perry Mutual Water Company in North Torrance be awarded to her husband. She advised that it was her understanding \$75.00 had been allotted for this purpose.

Engineer Jain advised this appropriation had been made October, 1941. He stated further that only the red lead coat of paint had been applied.

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

A communication was read from George C. Hall, 1228 Arlington Avenue, applying for a position as watchman or for other available work.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner regarding puncture vine control and urging the cooperation of all cities in this control work, to be started not later than May 15, 1942.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that copies of the communication be made, one to be posted on the bulletin board at the City Yard and others to be mailed to the various industrial plants throughout the City of Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 1942 authorizing an appropriation of \$4,000.00 from the Motor Vehicle Fund for the improvement of Lomita Boulevard within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 1942 authorizing an appropriation of \$6500.00 from the Motor Vehicle Fund for the improvement of Plaza del Amo within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Homer L. Crawford, making application for permit to operate a lunch wagon business in the Hollywood Riviera section for the purpose of serving the soldiers who will be stationed there for the next six months.

Chief Stroh reported he knew of no objection to granting such permit.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of Homer L. Crawford for permission to operate a lunch wagon business in the Hollywood Riviera section be granted upon proper procurement by Mr. Crawford of his business license therefor. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. L. Lafond, submitting his resignation from the employ of the Engineering Department of the City of Torrance, effective the night of May 13, 1942.

A communication was read from the Southern California Telephone Company, enclosing four copies of an Agreement for Civil Air Defense Facilities, covering the installation of private line conference equipment for the use of the City of Torrance in connection with the operation of audible signals used for air raid alarms, the Agreement pertaining to the control unit only. It was requested that the Agreement be executed and returned to the Telephone Company for execution, a copy to be returned by the Telephone Company to the City of Torrance after execution by said Company.

Councilman Hitchcock questioned one clause of the Agreement, being Section 3 thereof providing a payment of \$240.00 at the end of a five year period, this amount representing cost of the equipment and installation less net salvage value. He asked Attorney McCall whether or not the City Council could authorize an expenditure to be made five years hence. Attorney McCall advised that this procedure can be followed, insofar as the legality of the transaction is concerned.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Agreement between the City of Torrance and the Southern California Telephone Company, covering installation of private line conference equipment for use of the City in connection with the operation of audible signals used for air raid alarms. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from B. Russell Priess, Attorney at Law, submitting copy of an application No. 24301, filed by Landier Transit Company, Inc., with the Los Angeles office of the Railroad Commission of the State of California on April 28, 1942. Attention was directed to the fact that operations of the transportation company will be restricted on that part of Figueroa Street traversed by the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

A second communication was read from B. Russell Priess, enclosing copy of the amendment to the second supplement to application No. 24301 of Landier Transit Co., Inc., original of which was filed with the Railroad Commission May 8, 1942. Landier Transit Co., Inc. requested that the Railroad Commission grant as a second supplement to its In Lieu Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Decision No. 34663, issued October 14, 1941, a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the proposed transportation line, the route to be followed, fares to be charged and time schedule constituting part of the abovementioned application.

Attorney McCall attached a note to the communication dated April 29, 1942 to the effect that, if the Council has no objection to the transportation line traversing the same section of Figueroa Street paralleling the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines route, no action is necessary.

Councilman Cucci moved that this matter be referred to the entire City Council for further study and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of the County Public Library, enclosing two copies of the 1942-43 contract for library services between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance and its Board of Library Trustees.

Attention was directed to an added paragraph providing for the retention by the County of certain tax moneys due the City.

It was requested that the Mayor and the President of the Library Trustees sign and return both copies of the contract for final signatures of the Board of Supervisors.

A discussion ensued regarding the provision in the contract for retention by the County of certain tax moneys due the City. Clerk Bartlett read an excerpt from the minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council held January 13, 1942, at which meeting the matter was first presented in the form of a communication from the County Counsel requesting the City to advise whether or not the City desired to have the County Auditor retain certain tax moneys due the City in payment of library services rendered by the County. An excerpt from the next Regular Meeting, held January 27, 1942, was read, in which action was taken to the effect that the City does not desire to have the County retain certain tax moneys due the City, but desires to pay for library services semi-annually upon receipt of invoices from the County of Los

Angeles in the same manner as has been the practice heretofore.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the County of Los Angeles Department of the County Public Library be referred to a communication under date of February 24, 1942 which was directed to the County Counsel in which communication the wishes of the Council that payment be made by the City of Torrance for library services in the same manner as has been the practice heretofore was specifically set out; that the County of Los Angeles Department of the County Public Library be requested to comply with the wishes of the City Council with respect to the method of payment. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Fire Chief John E. McMaster be appointed as Local Property Officer, to be custodian of material, equipment and supplies to be loaned by the Office of Civilian Defense for protection of persons and property from war hazards. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Clerk Bartlett presented an agreement between the City of Torrance and Gordon Northington, providing that the trailer owned by Gordon Northington and loaned to the City of Torrance for the duration of the war for use by the Torrance Fire Department as a first-aid unit shall be returned to Gordon Northington at the termination of the national emergency.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement between the City of Torrance and Gordon Northington. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A list of approximately one hundred names was presented, representing complaints received over a period of eight months of poor garbage and tin can collections, among them being complaints from the business district, including restaurants and markets, apartment house districts and schools and residence districts.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that all these complaints have been attended to.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the fire insurance on the grandstand and bleachers at the Municipal Park be renewed for a period of five years, the premium being \$75.60, and that the fire insurance on the Water Department building at 1523 Cravens Avenue be renewed for a period of five years, the premium being \$60.00. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci brought up the matter of control of pedestrians during blackouts, stating that Mr. Don Findley had requested him to ask that a section be added to Ordinance No. 333 to give the Police Department or Civilian Defense Authorities jurisdiction over pedestrian traffic during blackouts, and especially in the matter of keeping pedestrians off the streets.

Attorney McCall stated that he had attended many conferences in Los Angeles during which time discussions had taken place regarding this matter. He said the City of Los Angeles is now in the process of drafting an ordinance requiring persons to stay off the streets during blackouts. However, he added, he had repeatedly contended that such an ordinance is unnecessary, since the power vested in the Police Department automatically gives said department control over pedestrians during blackouts and emergencies. He offered to submit a copy of the Los Angeles ordinance, when same is completed and adopted.

In the matter of the City compelling persons to remain inside buildings during blackouts, and in case a particular building housing pedestrians, such as a theatre building or assembly hall, should be bombed, the City could possibly be held liable for persons injured or killed as a result of being compelled to remain inside a building which was subsequently bombed, Mr. McCall stated.

Mr. I. J. Hallanger addressed the Council, speaking on behalf of the Air Raid Warden section of the Civilian Defense Council, stating that the purpose of having air raid wardens and auxiliary police on duty during blackouts is entirely defeated if pedestrians are to be allowed to remain on the streets with no one having jurisdiction over them. He pointed out that in all air raid training courses for air raid wardens, the trainees have been instructed that persons are to remain inside buildings and that operators of motor vehicles are to be instructed to park their vehicles, turn off the ignition key, and walk to their homes if within five minutes walking distance, and if not within short walking distance of their homes, they are to be escorted to the nearest air raid shelter.

Chief Stroh agreed with Mr. Hallanger and said he personally felt convinced that there should be an ordinance to keep pedestrians off the streets during blackouts. He mentioned that the City of Long Beach and the City of Glendale have both adopted such ordinances, and pointed out that instruction in this phase of Civilian Defense should be uniform. He said that if one city allows pedestrians to remain on the streets and another city compels them to remain inside buildings, great confusion will result during blackouts and disasters, and the functions of the Civilian Defense workers will be seriously impeded by the inconsistent instructions given pedestrians.

Councilman Cucci suggested that no action be taken on this matter until the City of Los Angeles completes the ordinance now being drafted, which ordinance the City of Torrance will examine and then determine whether or not adoption of such an ordinance is advisable.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Street Department be authorized to cut the weeds around the Perry Mutual Water Company in North Torrance in compliance with the recommendation of Chief McMaster, and that the Street Department be further authorized to cut weeds anywhere in the City where the weeds create a fire hazard. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Engineer Jain reported that the overhead facilities on Cabrillo Avenue have been removed, and the workers are now engaged in removing the rails.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$650.00, plus sales tax, be made for purchase of 250 steel helmets from the B. F. McDonald Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired regarding manner of issuance of steel helmets. Chief Stroh reported that a \$2.00 deposit will be required for use of the helmets which the City will purchase from the B. F. McDonald Company, and that a deposit of \$1.50 will be required on helmets furnished the City of Torrance by the County of Los Angeles, or, he added, persons may be allowed to purchase their own helmets outright.

Engineer Jain requested that City Employees be furnished use of helmets without paying the required deposit, a statement to be signed by each person receiving a helmet to the effect that the cost of the helmet can be deducted from his pay check upon failure by employee to return the helmet, inasmuch, he said, as City Employees are required to work during air raids.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Local Property Officer, (J. E. McMaster) be authorized to issue steel helmets and other Civilian Defense equipment to City Employees without requiring a deposit for same, the person receiving said equipment to sign a statement to the effect that the cost of the equipment is to be deducted from his pay check in the event of failure to return said equipment assigned to him; that the City Clerk be furnished with a list of names of employees receiving equipment; that department heads be notified to furnish the City Clerk with information as to persons contemplating leaving the employ of the City of Torrance in order that deductions can be made from his pay check for all equipment assigned to him and not returned to the City by him. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. J. A. Evans, representing the Loyal Order of Moose, Torrance Lodge No. 785, requested that Mayor McGuire extend an invitation to the Mayors of the City of Redondo Beach and the City of Hermosa Beach to participate in the patriotic observance and celebration of General MacArthur Day on June 13, 1942. Mayor McGuire said he would be happy to comply with Mr. Evans' request.

Mr. R. J. Deininger, Treasurer of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, appeared before the Council, advising that the Kiwanis Club contemplates offering the gift of an International Emergency Ambulance to the City. Clerk Bartlett read in full a Trust Indenture, setting out certain provisions governing acceptance by the City of Torrance of the ambulance.

A blank Application to Acquire a New Commercial Motor Vehicle, Form PD-310, to be filled in and sent to the nearest Local Allocation Office, was submitted.

Mr. Deininger explained that the vehicle has not been purchased yet, it being necessary to obtain it through application on Form PD-310.

The Trust Indenture as read by Clerk Bartlett was examined by the Mayor.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the Trust Indenture between the City of Torrance and the Torrance Kiwanis Club whereby the City agrees to accept delivery and title to an International Emergency Ambulance, in trust, for the purposes set forth in the Trust Indenture. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to complete the Application to Acquire a New Commercial Motor Vehicle, Form PD-310, for purchase of an International Emergency Ambulance, said vehicle being a gift of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and forward said form to the nearest Local Allocation Office. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Harry Massey, 1318 Engracia Avenue, requested variance in zoning restrictions on property immediately adjacent to the City Yard property to allow establishment thereon of a trailer camp. He mentioned that sewer facilities are not immediately available, but will require laying of a few hundred feet of sewer line. He said that, at the present time, the property is zoned against such use as he hopes to be allowed to use it for.

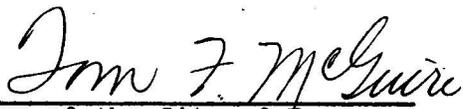
Mr. Massey was instructed to contact Engineer Jain for full details and particulars of the procedure to be followed in seeking a variance in zoning restrictions for land use. He was informed it will be necessary to present the matter, through Engineer Jain, to the Planning Commission for public hearing.

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

At 9:16 P.M., upon 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