

Torrance, California  
May 26, 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 26, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire being absent, Clerk Bartlett advised of the necessity of appointing a Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilman Powell moved that Councilman Hitchcock be appointed Mayor Pro-Tem in the absence of Mayor McGuire. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion.

Councilman Hitchcock offered a substitute motion that Councilman Babcock be appointed Mayor Pro-Tem, which motion was declared lost for want of a second.

The original motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock called the meeting to order.

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

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 26, 1942 and of a Special Meeting held May 19, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Texas Company, enclosing check in the amount of \$19.70 in full payment of amounts due or claimed to be due under franchise Ordinances 117, 884, 1129 and 1377 for the period January 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941 inclusive. Matter of record.

A communication addressed to Mayor McGuire from the City of El Segundo was read, expressing appreciation for the invitation extended to said city to participate in the General MacArthur Day celebration scheduled for June 13, 1942.

A communication addressed to Mayor McGuire from the City of Redondo Beach was read, accepting the invitation extended to said City to participate in the General MacArthur Day ceremonies scheduled for June 13, 1942.

A communication was read from the General MacArthur Day Celebration Sub-Committee, signed by J. A. Evans, and naming Neil J. McConlogue and Clarence R. Carr as other members of the committee, submitting certain requests in connection with the General MacArthur Day celebration as follows:

(1) Use of El Prado Park west of Arlington Avenue, together with the platform for reviewing stand and speaking.

(2) An appropriation of \$50.00 to help defray expenses of the Recreation Department of the City, which department is taking an active part in the celebration.

(3) Use of the Civic Auditorium for approximately one-half hour for exhibiting a moving picture, free to the public, said picture to begin its run at approximately 8:00 P.M.

(4) Use of busses for transportation of certain participants in the celebration.

(5) That an invitation be extended to Colonel Hicks, Commanding Officer at Fort MacArthur, to enter a detail of soldiers in the parade.

Councilman Powell suggested that, if it is felt the Civic Auditorium may not be readily available, the high school auditorium can be obtained by submitting a written application to the Los Angeles City Board of Education. Councilman Powell advised that the seating capacity of said auditorium is nine hundred eighty-one.

Mr. Evans agreed that this would be satisfactory, but asked that provision be made to allow use of the Civic Auditorium if the high school auditorium is not available. Chief Stroh stated he would direct a letter tomorrow (May 27, 1942) to the Los Angeles City Board of Education applying for use of the high school auditorium.

After short discussion, it was agreed that application should be made to the Los Angeles City Board of Education for the use of the high school auditorium on June 13, 1942 in connection with General MacArthur Day, for the purpose of showing a moving picture, free to the public, at approximately 8:00 P.M., the picture to run for an estimated thirty minutes; that if the high school auditorium cannot be obtained, the Civic Auditorium will be available for the abovementioned purpose and on the abovementioned date and time.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$50.00 be made, in accordance with the request of the Committee, to help defray expenses of the City Recreation Department in its participation in the General MacArthur Day celebration June 13, 1942, and that the use of El Prado Park west of Arlington Avenue together with the platform for reviewing stand be allowed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Mr. Evans stated that the transportation requested is for a company of State Guards from Redondo Beach, consisting of approximately sixty-five men, who will participate in the program if transportation is provided.

Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, advised that two busses will be available if June 13, 1942 is not declared a national holiday and four busses will be available if the day is designated as a holiday.

Attorney McCall said no reason exists to restrain the City from transporting the Company of State Guards unless some such restricting clause is contained in the insurance policy.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk examine the insurance policy to determine whether or not it contains a clause which would restrict the City from transporting the men, and to notify the General MacArthur Day Committee that the City will furnish transportation for a company of State Guards from Hermosa Beach to the City of Torrance to participate in the General MacArthur Day celebration to be held June 13, 1942, provided the insurance policy contains no such restricting clause as abovementioned. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to extend an invitation to Colonel Hicks, Commanding Officer at Fort MacArthur, to enter a detail of soldiers in the parade to be held June 13, 1942 in connection with the General MacArthur Day celebration. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock announced opening of bids for paving the center strip on Cabrillo Avenue between Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard. Bids were opened and read in the following order:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
Donaldson-Long Company 316 West Valley Boulevard San Gabriel, California	\$3952.67
A Bidders Bond in the amount of \$400.00 accompanied the bid.	
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Griffith Company 502 Los Angeles Ry. Building Los Angeles, California	\$3990.15
A Bidders Bond in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.	
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W. P. Powell Paving Company 2816 Gilroy Street Los Angeles, California	\$3839.70
A Cashiers Check in the amount of \$384.00 accompanied the bid.	
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T. J. Kesterson 1705 North Chester Compton, California	\$3951.95
A Certified Check in the amount of \$500.00 accompanied the bid.	
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Sully-Miller Contracting Company 1500 West 7th Street Long Beach, California	\$4263.85
A Certified Check in the amount of \$600.00 accompanied the bid.	
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Councilman Powell moved that the bids for paving the center strip on Cabrillo Avenue be referred to the City Engineer and City Attorney for examination and report at the next meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

A communication was read from the State Compensation Insurance Fund, referring to Case No. Y860925, Glenn M. Jain, advising that the decision previously rendered on this case has been rescinded and that the fund is assuming responsibility for the effects of Mr. Jain's injury of February 24, 1942. It was requested that the letter of April 22, 1942 pertaining to this matter be disregarded.

Mr. McCall stated that this is not an admission on the part of the State Compensation Insurance Fund that all persons serving as Civilian Defense workers are protected by the State Compensation Insurance Fund in connection with injuries received by them during performance of their Civilian Defense duties. He said, however,

that there is a bill pending before the Federal lawmakers whereby persons serving in the capacity of Civilian Defense workers will be given certain protection in case of injury during performance of their duties.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to direct communications to the United States Senators and Congressmen for this district, and to the State Representatives of this district urging the adoption of legislation for workmen's compensation for Civilian Defense workers. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

A communication was read from J. O. Bishop, offering his resignation from the Civil Service Board, Mr. Bishop having been a member of the Board appointed to administer civil service duties under Ordinance No. 249 prior to adoption of Ordinance No. 326.

Mr. Bishop suggested that a member of the Board functioning under Ordinance No. 326 be appointed to fill his vacancy and offered to make his resignation effective when a substitute for his position is named.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from Mr. J. O. Bishop be referred to the Mayor with the recommendation that the Mayor, at the next meeting, appoint a member of the Civil Service Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Bishop. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

A communication was read from Mrs. Matilda Winters, requesting the City Council to consider lifting the two-hour parking limit on El Prado Street from Sartori Street to Border Avenue to accommodate guests of the Murray Hotel, operated by Mrs. Matilda Winters.

Chief Stroh recommended that the two-hour parking limitation be enforced, inasmuch as the district is in the center of the City.

Councilman Powell stated that there are several important matters to consider before taking action on this matter. First, he said, it would create a chaotic condition during air raids and bombings if automobiles are allowed to remain parked on the street twenty-four hours a day. In the matter of cleaning the street, it is necessary for the Street Cleaning Department to have access to the street curbs in clearing away debris, he pointed out.

Councilman Powell moved that action on the request of Mrs. Matilda Winters that the two-hour parking limit on El Prado Street from Sartori Street to Border Avenue be lifted, be deferred until the next meeting to allow time for study of the situation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. R. Wilkes, 2463 Carson Street, requesting the City to pick up trash and cans from his property.

Councilman Powell moved that the complaint be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., requesting that the City of Torrance pass an ordinance, or otherwise prohibit, the parking of any vehicles on 190th Street between Hawthorne Boulevard and a point approximately 1600 feet East of Hawthorne Boulevard and on Hawthorne Boulevard between 190th Street and a point approximately 1100 feet North of 190th Street, and that the streets be posted accordingly. This request was submitted in connection with the guarding the KNX Transmitting plant against sabotage during the present National Emergency.

Chief Stroh advised that six signs would be sufficient to post the streets. Councilman Powell suggested that the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., be requested to bear the expense of the signs.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., to prohibit parking on certain streets and to post the streets accordingly be referred to the Chief of Police for report at the next meeting as to cost of posting the streets. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. E. M. King, Walteria, requesting permission to operate a tea room in Walteria, tea and card readings to be given by Mrs. King.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Chief of Police for investigation and report at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of the County Public Library, regarding the 1942-43 Library Contract, advising that that portion of the contract as submitted to the City Council pertaining to method of payment for County Library Services has been referred to Deputy County Counsel Lippold, and that the objectionable wording will be deleted very shortly.

A communication was read from Edmund G. Brady, submitting his resignation from the Engineering Department of the City of Torrance, effective as of May 31, 1942, this date including two weeks vacation.

Councilman Babcock moved that the resignation be accepted, and Mr. Brady be given a vote of thanks for his excellent services. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the California State Guard, acknowledging receipt of a letter of May 11, 1942 wherein the City of Torrance made application for allocation of State Guard troops for municipal protection. It was advised that the request will be placed before the Allocation Committee for consideration at a meeting to be held May 18, 1942.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending the purchase of a 1942 thirty-four passenger Reo bus for the price of \$6300.00, plus sales tax.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the entire City Council for further consideration. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1532

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENTS OF INDEBTEDNESS IN DISTRICTS CREATED UNDER THE "IMPROVEMENT BOND ACT OF 1915" AND ORDERING THE CANCELLATION OF SAID ASSESSMENTS ON THE BOOKS OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1532 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read communications from the Associated Assessment Engineers under date of May 18, 1942 and May 25, 1942 in which it was advised that certain lots are under option to the City of Torrance from the County of Los Angeles, and suggesting that the City of Torrance exercise its option to purchase the parcels mentioned, total price being \$670.66.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1533

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE EXERCISING ITS OPTION  
TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PARCELS OF TAX DEED-  
ED LAND FROM THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1533 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: EYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 335

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
USE OF SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS  
DURING THE PERIOD OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

Councilman Powell objected to the manner of presentation of the above ordinance, stating that he felt the Council should have some advance knowledge of ordinances before they are presented for adoption to allow time for study and consideration.

Engineer Jain said he agreed that ordinances should be presented to the Council in advance, but that, in this particular case, the necessity of immediate adoption had presented itself quite suddenly, inasmuch as several jobs are in progress for which builders cannot obtain materials specified by ordinances now in effect. He mentioned that it had been the hope of the Building Department that passage of this ordinance would not become necessary, and had been presented as a last resort.

Councilman Powell moved that Emergency Ordinance No. 335 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Cucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented orally the request of the Torrance Municipal Band to be authorized to participate in the General Mac Arthur Day ceremonies scheduled for June 13, 1942.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to determine approximate cost of the Band appearance and present same at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$96.84 be made for purchase of meter repair parts for the Water Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell moved that, in compliance with the recommendation of the Chief of the Fire Department, Engineer Gordon Northington be allowed the salary of Captain of the Fire Department for the two weeks period he served in that capacity in the absence of Captain Benner. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell presented and read a communication from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that the 45 degree parking on Cravens Avenue from Marcelina Avenue to Gramercy Avenue be changed to parallel parking to conform to the other portions of Cravens Avenue, and recommending that Eldorado Street from Arlington to Cota Avenue be restricted to parking on one side of the street only.

to designate the side of Eldorado Street which is to be restricted, his recommendation in this matter to be presented at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that a Resolution, to be numbered No. 1534, be adopted, said resolution to change from 45 degree to parallel parking the parking on Cravens Avenue from Marcelina Avenue to Gramercy Avenue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell moved that, in compliance with the recommendation of the Chief of Police, G. M. Calder be employed for a period of three months, during the vacation period, remuneration to be at the Patrolman's rate. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell requested that weeds be cleared from all vacant lots to eliminate the fire hazard caused by dry weeds and grass. He asked Attorney McCall what had been done toward eliminating the fire hazard existing in South Torrance due to sump holes. It was advised that the Fire Chief is making some progress in contacting owners and requiring them to clean up the abandoned sump holes.

Attorney McCall advised that the Bureau of Mines and Minerals of the State has made written demand on the bonding companies who issued bonds to various oil operators, requiring them to properly abandon the wells and clean up the sump holes. Attorney McCall offered to again contact the Bureau of Mines and Minerals and make a report at the next meeting as to results obtained.

Councilman Babcock requested that Attorney McCall contact the League of California Cities, and the Los Angeles County Division of the League and determine whether or not a uniform ordinance has been drafted relating to control of civilians during blackouts and air raids.

Attorney McCall advised that, to date, the City of Los Angeles has not adopted such an ordinance.

Councilman Powell said he felt an intelligent answer had been given by a speaker heard recently at a League of California Cities meeting, said speaker being from London, England, when he informed that pedestrians instinctively protect themselves during raids and blackouts by seeking shelter.

Councilman Babcock brought up the subject of the difficulty some of the Auxiliary Police have encountered in trying to control pedestrians and enforce air raid regulations during blackouts, inasmuch as the Auxiliary Police have not been delegated any authority whatsoever.

Councilman Powell said he did not feel the Auxiliary Police should be vested with authority, they being, in the majority of cases, persons unfamiliar with police duties and law enforcement methods. He said the Auxiliary Police are on duty to direct pedestrians and may call a regular police officer if it becomes necessary.

It was the opinion of the Council that a State-wide, uniform ordinance should be in operation to avoid confusion.

Councilman Babcock said he did not feel that the pedestrian who has legitimate business during a blackout should be compelled to remain off the street, but that persons wandering aimlessly should be required to stay off the streets.

Chief Stroh reported that the Auxiliary Police, after completing the required twenty-seven weeks training course, are as

well equipped to act as Police officers during emergency as any rookie policeman on the regular police force. He said the Auxiliary Police and the Air Raid Wardens are entitled to some measure of protection after diligently and conscientiously completing a course of training to qualify themselves to act in their respective positions.

A gentleman in the audience cited cases where the courts have upheld Auxiliary Police and Air Raid Wardens in their orders to persons during blackouts and when the persons refused to comply with orders. Rigid court sentences have been administered to persons refusing to comply with orders given them by the Civilian Defense wardens and policemen, he pointed out.

Chief Stroh said he would ascertain how many cities have adopted ordinances pertaining to this matter.

Clark Bartlett reported receipt of \$59,348.92, of which amount \$3,195.71 is Water Department funds, this amount being the last half of the 1941-42 tax collections.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$185.00, plus tax, be made for road materials for resurfacing of Llewellyn Avenue between Engracia and Torrance Boulevard. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$115.00, plus tax, be made for road materials for resurfacing 231st Street west of Eshelman Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$95.00, plus tax, be made for road materials for resurfacing 227th Street east of Pennsylvania Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$165.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of one motor tune-up equipment for the Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

James Wood of Venice addressed the Council, requesting permission to present in the City of Torrance, from June 1 to June 7, 1942, a wild animal exhibit, the animals being those used in the filming of the moving picture "Jungle Book."

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted, a license fee of \$5.00 per day to be charged. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Chief Stroh advised that the Chief Air Raid Warden had asked him to extend to the City Council an invitation to be present at the graduation of Air Raid Wardens Wednesday evening, April 27, 1942 at 8:00 P.M. at the Civic Auditorium. Chief Stroh expressed regret that the Mayor will be unable to attend the graduation exercises, he being out of town.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock appointed Councilman Babcock to serve as Chairman and Master of Ceremonies at the graduation of Air Raid Wardens April 27, 1942 in the absence of Mayor McGuire.

Engineer Jain reported that Lieutenant Llewellyn had requested that a city truck be made available for use at night during emergencies by the State Guard stationed at the municipal park, the truck to be left at the park at night and returned in the mornings, a capable driver only to be allowed to drive the truck. Attorney McCall advised that the public liability insurance covers the truck, regardless of who drives it.

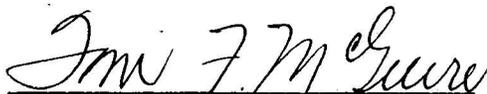
Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock instructed Engineer Jain and Mr. Gascoigne, Street Department Superintendent, to confer regarding this matter and grant the request of Lieutenant Llewellyn if possible.

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

At 9:41 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned to May 27, 1942 at 5:00 P.M.

  
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 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
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 Mayor of the City of Torrance