

Torrance, California  
June 23, 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, June 23, 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, 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 June 9, 1942 be approved as written. Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, requested that the minutes of the meeting of June 9, 1942 be amended as follows: 17, instead of 1700, persons, have applied to the Water Company for Victory Garden rates. Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his original motion and moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 9, 1942 be approved as amended. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from John E. McCall, City Attorney, in answer to the following question referred to Attorney McCall June 9, 1942: Does a city employee who volunteers for military service retain his civil service status the same as if he had been inducted into the service? Attorney McCall answered the question as follows: He does retain his civil service status. Various citations were referred to by Attorney McCall in his communication.

Councilman Babcock moved that copies of the communication and opinion from Attorney McCall regarding civil service status of employees who volunteer for military service be posted on all bulletin boards of the City in order that employees may have complete understanding of their status. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that both sides of Eldorado Street between Arlington Avenue and Cota Avenue be restricted from parking to facilitate moving of emergency traffic during air raids and emergencies, said street being in the vicinity of the Torrance Hospital.

Councilman Powell moved that a Resolution be drafted and adopted to comply with the recommendation of the Chief of Police, the resolution being as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 1537

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING PARKING  
ON BOTH SIDES OF ELDORADO STREET BETWEEN  
ARLINGTON AVENUE AND COTA AVENUE.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, recommending that, before the close of the 1941-42 fiscal year, the policemen who worked 12-hour shifts from December 7, 1941 to December 25, 1941 inclusive be paid overtime, the overtime totaling five days each, as it now appears the men cannot be allowed time off for this overtime as was originally agreed upon.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of the Chief of Police regarding overtime pay for policemen who worked overtime between the dates of December 7 and December 25, 1941, both dates inclusive, be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, regarding the request from Mrs. Matilda Winters that the two hour parking limit on El Prado Street in the vicinity of the Murray Hotel be lifted. He stated that, upon contacting all business houses on El Prado Avenue from Sartori Avenue to Border Avenue, he had determined that two business houses, El Prado Furniture Company, and Haig and Haig Photograph Studio, oppose lifting the two hours parking limit.

It was mentioned that, to lift the two hour parking limit from the alley adjacent to the Murray Hotel to Border Avenue would not interfere with business houses, there being none in that portion of the block except the hotel. Chief Stroh said he could see no objection to this arrangement.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the two hour parking limit be lifted on the East side of El Prado Street from a point beginning at the alley adjacent to the Murray Hotel and extending North on El Prado Street to Border Avenue, a distance of approximately 100 feet. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett re-read the communication from Kryne Van den Akker, Attorney, which was read at the June 9, 1942 meeting, in which Mr. Van den Akker tendered his resignation, Mr. Van den Akker having been retained by the City to represent the City in quiet title actions on certain parcels of real property. Clerk Bartlett reported that Mr. Van den Akker has completed all transactions started by him.

Councilman Babcock moved that the resignation of Kryne Van den Akker, Attorney, be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, requesting that the Council instruct each department head to formulate rules and regulations governing the operation of his department with particular regard to rules establishing hours of work, conduct of employees while on duty, etc.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of the Civil Service Board that the City Council instruct each department head to formulate working rules for his department be complied with and that copies of the Civil Service Board communication be given to each department head; that the department heads present their working rules to the City Council at the Regular Meeting scheduled for July 14, 1942, copies of same to be forwarded to the Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, requesting that an amendment to Ordinance No. 326, which Ordinance established a Civil Service Board, be made by the City Attorney by adding a new section thereto empowering the Personnel Board to waive the residence requirements contained in Section 3 (e) during the present emergency and as long thereafter as the said Personnel Board deems necessary; or whenever the Personnel Board finds it necessary to waive said requirements in order to secure the necessary applicants.

Councilman Babcock asked Attorney McCall whether or not Civil Service Ordinance No. 326 can be amended, Attorney McCall's answer being in the affirmative. Attorney McCall was asked whether or not, after adoption of the amendment to the Ordinance, the City Council has the power to repeal the amendment, Attorney McCall again answering in the affirmative.

Councilman Babcock said his understanding was that, when an ordinance is passed by the Council, it can be amended only by vote of the electorate.

Attorney McCall stated that an ordinance can be amended, by adding to or repealing portions thereof, but that it cannot be repealed in its entirety except by vote of the people.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the Civil Service Board requesting an amendment to Ordinance No. 326 be referred to Attorney McCall with instructions to prepare an amendment to said ordinance empowering the Personnel Board to waive the residence requirements contained in Section 3 (e) during the present emergency and as long thereafter as the Personnel Board deems necessary. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Mr. Crowthers, member of the Civil Service Board, stated that it is necessary to hold a public hearing in this matter, and that the purpose of the letter was to obtain permission for drafting such amendment and holding of a hearing.

Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion. Councilman Powell withdrew his second.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare an amendment to Ordinance No. 326 to provide for the adding thereto of a new section empowering the Personnel Board to waive the residence requirements contained in Section 3 (e) during the present emergency, the amendment to be presented to the City Council at the next Regular Meeting, July 14, 1942. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Civil Service Commission, presenting bill for fees for the performance of Civil Service functions for the City of Torrance from January 1, 1942 to June 30, 1942 per Contract #327-X, total charge, \$314.00 being based on average number of 101 each employees.

Councilman Babcock moved that a check be prepared in payment of \$314.00 payable to the County of Los Angeles Civil Service Commission for performance of Civil Service functions for the City of Torrance from January 1, 1942 to June 30, 1942. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication, being in the nature of a complaint, was read from Mrs. Lura Davis, 1522 Crenshaw Boulevard, advising that she had been compelled to lose an attractive business offer because Mr. Jain, City Engineer, had refused to see her in his office when she had called there recently for the purpose of requesting a permit to move a house onto her lot at 1522 Crenshaw Boulevard.

Mr. Jain advised that, at the time Mrs. Davis called at his office, he was in conference with three men from the State Highway Department, which conference lasted two hours. He said he had telephoned the Los Angeles House Moving Company, Mrs. Davis having left their card and stated that the Los Angeles House Moving Company could advise Mr. Jain how the house was constructed. Mr. Jain said the House Moving Company had advised that they had no knowledge of how the house was built, at which time he (Mr. Jain) had asked them if they could inspect it and let him know the results, at which time the House Moving Company informed Mr. Jain they could not spare the time to inspect it. Mr. Jain said that many persons must be served at the counter in the Engineering Department every day, and that he serves as many as possible, but had not felt that the time could be

spared to inspect the house, it being located in the Lakewood Village vicinity. He said there is constantly a line of people waiting in the Engineering Department to be served, and that it is practically impossible to see all of them.

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

A communication was read from the Oilfields Trucking Company, presenting invoice in the amount of \$3540.00 for total amount of contract for removal of the Pacific Electric track on Cabrillo Avenue in the City of Torrance. It was requested that 75% of the invoice be paid, balance to be paid in thirty days. Engineer Jain attached a note to the communication, recommending that \$2655.00 be paid at this time.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that \$2655.00 be appropriated to pay 75% of the total amount of contract to the Oilfields Trucking Company for removal of the Pacific Electric track on Cabrillo Avenue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Logan R. Cotton, Accountant and Auditor, offering to make a detailed audit of the accounts and records of the City of Torrance for the fiscal year 1942-43 for \$450.00, and a detailed audit of the accounts and records of the Water Department for the fiscal year 1942-43 for \$300.00. Action on this matter was deferred until June 30, 1942.

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 service between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance, and requesting that both copies be signed and returned to the County Public Library.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the contract between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles Department of the County Public Library for library services for the fiscal year 1942-43. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The contract between the Luippold Engineering Sales Company and Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 for liquid chlorine and anhydrous ammonia for the fiscal year 1942-43 was presented.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the contract between the Luippold Engineering Sales Company and the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 for liquid chlorine and anhydrous ammonia for the fiscal year 1942-43. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett requested that public liability insurance on the Library, Auditorium, City Hall, Jail, Fire House, Garage, Chamber of Commerce, Water Department and Park Department be renewed, premiums totaling \$350.33, for 1 year.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$350.33 be made for renewal of public liability insurance for 1 year on various City buildings. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire requested that Mr. Locke, Insurance Agent, be requested to present the policy providing protection in case of bombing of City buildings, said policy to be presented not later than July 1, 1942.

A communication was presented from the Office of Civilian Defense, urging the attendance of Fire Chief McMaster at a meeting to be held June 26 and 27 in the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Assembly Room, situated on the Fifth Floor of the Hall of Records, 220 North Broadway, Los Angeles, for discussion of important problems confronting Fire Chiefs of the Pacific Coast region.

Clerk Bartlett advised that Chief McMaster had estimated his expenses for attendance of the meeting at approximately \$10.00.

\*Fire

Councilman Powell moved that Fire Chief McMaster be authorized to attend the \*Chief's meeting scheduled for June 26 and 27, 1942, expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1538

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1184, BY THE ADDITION THERETO OF A NEW SECTION, DESIGNATED AS SECTION "V", EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 1942.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1538 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1539

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1539 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1540

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON CERTAIN STREETS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE WHERE RED BUS STOP ZONES ARE INDICATED.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1540 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett requested that \$100.00 per month be allowed for a temporary clerk and stenographer in the office of the City Clerk, and announced that one stenographer of the City Clerk's Office is resigning July 1, 1942, and another resigning approximately July 15, 1942. He said he had obtained a list of names from the Civil Service Board, and that it will be necessary to train a clerk in the duties of the City Clerk's office at once.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of the City Clerk that \$100.00 per month be allowed for employment of a stenographer for the City Clerk's Office on a temporary basis be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Fire Department employees be paid overtime for overtime worked by them between the dates of December 7 and December 25, 1942, both dates inclusive, if there is any overtime worked by said employees for which they have not been compensated. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Councilman Powell's motion regarding overtime pay for Fire Department Employees for time worked between the dates of December 7, 1941 and December 25, 1941, both dates inclusive, if there is any overtime worked by said employees for which they have not been compensated, be amended by adding "and Street Department Employees" thereto. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which amendment was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell's motion, seconded by Councilman Cucci, was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell suggested that members of the Council and Engineer Jain meet for discussion of the shortage of help in the Engineering Department. It was agreed that a meeting would be held immediately following adjournment of the Council meeting.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$320.00 be made for purchase of metal enamel street signs. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be granted authority to employ Jack Long at \$1.00 per hour for the purpose of checking the street lights and making necessary inspections during vacation absence of O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician.

Councilman Hitchcock said he understood it would take approximately two hours per day. Engineer Jain asked Mr. Butterfield for a report on approximate time Mr. Long will be required to work. Mr. Butterfield said it is practically impossible to determine this, but that it will take approximately two hours per day to check the street lights, plus time necessary for inspections.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported regarding the complaint received at the June 9, 1942 meeting that acid is being dumped into the Graham Gravel Pit located on the Weston Ranch near Walteria. Mr. Jain said Mr. Weston had been contacted and had brought the contractor, Mr. McCall, to see Mr. Jain, who had advised that, although oil sludge is being dumped into the pit, and contains a small amount of acid, the acid rapidly seeps into the sand and is not present in sufficient quantity to be considered harmful or dangerous to animals or persons. Mr. Jain said another inspection will be made the first part of next week, and if it is determined that a dangerous condition exists, Mr. McCall has expressed his willingness to comply with the City's safety requirements in every respect.

Attorney McCall stated that the matter could be abated as a public nuisance if it is determined that a hazard is created by dumping acid into the pit.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made for purchase of a 14" typewriter for the City Clerk's Office. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that two resolutions be adopted by the City Council of the City of Torrance, expressing appreciation for the services for the past several years of Miss Dorothy Christie, Secretary, and Miss Valeria Turner, Secretary, these two employees having announced their intention to resign July 1, 1942 and approximately July 15, 1942, respectively. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Crowthers of Walteria urged that the residue being dumped into the Graham Gravel Pit on the Weston Ranch near Walteria be examined thoroughly, stating that he knew of his own knowledge that one animal had been injured by coming into contact with the acid. Mr. Jain assured Mr. Crowthers that every caution would be taken to insure safety.

Mrs. George V. Powell requested permission for a group of ladies to use the piano at the Recreation Center on Arlington Avenue on the afternoon of July 10, 1942. This matter was referred to Councilman Babcock.

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

Clerk Bartlett announced receipt of \$7569.31, apportionment Motor Vehicle License Fees for quarter ending March 31, 1942.

At 9:15 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to 7:45 P.M. June 30, 1942 for the purpose of renewing contracts and agreements for the fiscal year 1942-43.

  
 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
 Mayor of the City of Torrance