

Torrance, California
July 28, 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, July 28, 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 July 14, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication addressed to the City Council from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, was read recommending that the City Council authorize the purchase of five \$1,000.00 M.I.D. No. 1, 4 per cent, 1964 bonds and one \$1,000.00 M.I.D. No. 1, 4 per cent, 1965 bond for the Water District for \$6,723.81, including interest to July 29, 1942. Mr. Stanger stated that the purchase would mean a saving of \$4,596.19 in the life of the above-mentioned bonds.

Councilman Babcock moved that \$6,723.81 be appropriated for the purchase of five \$1,000.00 M.I. D. No. 1, 4 per cent 1964 bonds and one \$1,000.00 M.I.D. No. 1, 4 per cent 1965 bond for the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. 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 addressed to the City Clerk from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, was read advising that Engineer Ivan Kettering of the Fire Department has enlisted in the United States Coast Guard for the duration of the war, effective as of July 22, 1942. The writer stated that all city property has been returned. Matter of record.

A communication addressed to the City Council from The National Supply Company, signed by F. J. Carpenter, Assistant Treasurer, addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council was read stating that it is the desire of the National Supply Company to acquire the City's right, title, and interest to and in a portion of Lot 1, Torrance Tract, in the event that the City legally owns said property.

In the discussion which followed, Mayor McGuire stated that with the exception of a thirty-two foot right-of-way, no one seems to know who the property in question belongs to. Attorney McCall suggested that the matter be assigned to a title company for investigation.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from the National Supply Company, with reference to acquiring the City's right, title, and interest to and in a portion of Lot 1, Torrance Tract, be turned over to the City Attorney with instructions to obtain the required information concerning the property and to consult with the Council as soon as such information is acquired. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**Insert

A communication from the General Petroleum Corporation of California was read advising that no pipe line was laid under Ordinance No. 781 N.S. of the County of Los Angeles during the six months' period ending June 30, 1942. Matter of record.

A communication addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council from the National Brotherhood of Service, Inc. was read in which Mr. C. A. Shelhamer, President, asked for permission to hold their "Flower Day" sale on Saturday, August 15, 1942, for the benefit of the blind and shut-ins.

A short discussion ensued regarding the authenticity of the request. Clerk Bartlett assured the Council that the request was authentic; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the National Brotherhood of Service, Inc., for permission to hold their "Flower Day" sale on Saturday, August 15, 1942, for the benefit of the blind and shut-ins be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles was read calling attention to the need for transportation facilities for over 1500 people living in the Normont Terrace Housing Development, located at Vermont Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway and requesting that the present route and schedules of the Torrance Bus System be changed to accommodate these people.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles be turned over to the Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for investigation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was read advising that the District is meeting the urgent request of military authorities for the immediate extension of stand-by aqueduct service to certain war industrial centers by establishing regulations governing, during the period of the present emergency, the sale of water outside the boundaries of the District.

A communication addressed to the City Clerk from Helen E. Vogleson, County Librarian, was read enclosing copies of bill and statement for library service rendered to the City of Torrance and Board of Library Trustees of the City during the six months' period, January 1 to June 30, 1942.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that \$3,356.00 be paid to the County Public Library for services rendered to the City of Torrance between January 1 and June 30, 1942, in accordance with Contract. 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.

A communication addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council from the United Steel Workers of America, C.I.O., Local 2470, was read stating that an unfavorable report regarding the attitude of the Council toward the request of the under-paid workers of the City for higher wages had been submitted at a Regular Meeting of the National Supply Company unit of Local 128, Oil Workers' Union, held July 17, 1942. The writer, H. L. Linde, Recording Secretary, advised that resolutions from every union in Torrance denote the will of a majority of the people in this City; and reminded the Councilmen that they are entrusted with the duty of carrying out the express will of the people of the community.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed under oral communications for further report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the State, County and Municipal Workers of America was read advising that employees of the City of Torrance, members of State, County and Municipal Workers of America, Local No. 360, are becoming restive because of the lack of any definite indication of action on the part of the Council toward the wage increase demands of the City employees. The writer, J. E. Jeffery, Regional Director, stated that a delegation from the above-mentioned organization together with a delegation representing other CIO unions in this area will be present at the Regular Meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, July 28, 1942, to discuss the question with the Council.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the State, County and Municipal Workers of America be filed in the same manner as the preceding communication. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the Honorable Mayor and Council from the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the Milky Williams Lodge, Local No. 1414, C.I.O., was read advising that at a Regular Meeting held July 23, 1942, a report relative to the meeting between the Council and representatives of the City workers and other Unions in Torrance was made to the Milky Williams Lodge; and that said report did not meet with the approval of the Union above-mentioned inasmuch as the Council had decided to grant an increase in pay to City employees only if there are sufficient funds remaining after all other items in the budget have been provided for. The letter reminded the Councilmen that they are entrusted with carrying out the wishes of the people of this community.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the Milky Williams Lodge be filed with the preceding communications for further discussion and report under oral communications. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A Supplemental Petition of City Workers in Support of Previous Petition for Increase in Salary addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council, City of Torrance, and signed by A. E. Thomas, President, and A. E. Treloar, Secretary of the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America was read by Clerk Bartlett.

Councilman Powell moved that the petition be filed with the preceding communications until the time for presentation of oral communications. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 336

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
RESCINDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 327.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Ordinance No. 336 be adopted for final reading. 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 Powell read a communication from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, recommending that Captain J. J. Benner who has passed his six months' probation period be appointed regular Captain of the City Fire Department, to take effect as of July 1, 1942.

Councilman Powell moved that Captain J. J. Benner be given a permanent rating as Captain of the Fire Department, effective July 1, 1942, Captain Benner having served his six months' probation period. 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 Powell reported that customers of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines are complaining of the lack of printed bus schedules, and stated that he understood new schedules had not been printed because a change in the present schedule is contemplated. Mr. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, verified Councilman Powell's statement. Councilman Hitchcock suggested that a definite date for a meeting be set so that the Council and Mr. Ward may discuss and terminate this matter, date for said meeting to be determined upon adjournment.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$350.00, plus tax, be made for materials for the extension of Abalone Street. 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 an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00, plus tax, be made for the improvement of Walnut Street from 237th Street to the City boundary. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. J. E. Jeffery, Regional Director of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, representing the City Workers' Local No. 360, introduced himself to the Council and announced his purpose: That of requesting the City Council to take immediate action on the request of City employees for higher wages. After enumerating the communications from the various unions which were read earlier in the meeting, Mr. Jeffery introduced Mr. A. E. Thomas, President of Local No. 360 of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America who presented Clerk Bartlett with a petition signed by over fifteen hundred citizens of Torrance in favor of a wage increase for municipal employees.

In accordance with the wishes of Mr. Jeffery and others, Mayor McGuire at this time addressed the audience stating that the City Budget had not been given enough thought for him to report as to the amount of increase that could be allowed; but that each time the budget had been discussed, a wage increase for City employees had been the first consideration and would be the first consideration at all times in the future. He stated that as soon as the Budget is in better shape, it will be worked upon by all members of the Council at a number of meetings; and that before its final adoption, a meeting will be held with representatives of local unions and Torrance business men. Mayor McGuire said that he and the other members of the Council are aware of present conditions and will do everything in their power to answer the request of the employees of this City.

During the discussion which ensued, Clerk Bartlett advised that the Budget does not have to be adopted until about the middle of August; and that it can be adopted, if it is in order, at the next Regular Meeting, August 11, 1942.

Mayor McGuire terminated the discussion by stating that all organizations and interested parties would be notified of the Budget meeting, to which will be invited representatives of local unions and Torrance businessmen, a week ahead of time; and that said meeting will be held within the first ten days of August. Mr. Jeffery asked if this was a definite statement; Mayor McGuire replied in the affirmative.

Mrs. Renee Bartlett, 2325 Sonoma, asked if the City Engineer had received a reply from the Santa Fe Railway regarding the improvement of Madrid. Mr. Perkins, answering for City Engineer Jain who was on his vacation, informed Mrs. Bartlett that a reply had been received; whereupon Mr. Perkins was instructed by the Council to send Mrs. Bartlett a copy of the letter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that 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, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:32 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

*INSERT

A communication from the Law Offices of George S. Hupp, enclosing claim of C. D. Phillips against the City of Torrance for damages due to an accident with a Torrance Municipal Bus on May 27, 1942 was read. The claimant asked for damages in the sum of \$854.31 for personal injuries and property damage.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the Law Offices of George S. Hupp enclosing claim of C. D. Phillips against the City of Torrance in the sum of \$854.31 be turned over to the insurance carrier for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.