

Torrance, California
August 11, 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, August 11, 1942, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All who were present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication addressed to the City Clerk from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was read

advising that under the provisions of Section 8d of the Metropolitan Water District Act (Stats. 1927, p. 694, as amended), the City of Torrance, on or before August 25, 1942, may elect to pay out of its municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax, which would otherwise be levied upon property within said City for the fiscal year 1942-43.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California be notified that the City Council of the City of Torrance is not in favor of paying out of municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax to be levied upon property within the City of Torrance for the fiscal year 1942-43. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucchi, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication addressed to the City Council from E. M. O'Mara was read setting forth the writer's distasteful experience with the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines due to the present inadequate schedules.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Columbia Steel Company, signed by S. G. Sargis, Supervisor of Industrial Relations, was read requesting that the bus schedule of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines be changed to accommodate employees who are experiencing difficulty in getting to and from work at the beginning and end of their working schedules.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the Columbia Steel Company be turned over to the Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for study and report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from Lt. Lottie Merriam of the Women's Ambulance and Defense Corps was read thanking the Torrance City Council for the use of auditorium.

A communication addressed to the City Council from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, was read recommending that the Council comply with the provisions of a petition signed by fifteen City employees requesting that the present bus schedule be arranged to accommodate them on their morning and evening trips so that the employees can avoid using their own cars.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Ward informed the Council that he had written the letter which constituted the petition and had done so in view of the fact that the proposed arrangement would not in any way harm the present schedule or operation of the bus lines. He described at length the route that could be taken to pick up these 15 men who live in scattered locations in and around WALTERIA and recommended that the above-mentioned arrangements be approved, provided a change in the present schedule is made. No action was taken.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the County of Los Angeles, Office of the County Surveyor and County Engineer was read advising that the County Surveyor's Office cannot proceed with the checking of map of Tract No. 13122 inasmuch as they have not received the mutual agreement between the City Engineer of the City of Torrance and the County Surveyor of the County of Los Angeles provided for in the Amendment to the State Subdivision Map Act, which agreement had been submitted for approval on October 6, 1941. Duplicate copies of the above-mentioned agreement were enclosed.

City Engineer Jain stated that he had been advised by the Subdivision Engineer and others to withhold the execution of the agreement which provides for the checking of subdivision maps within the City limits of Torrance pending the passage of a subdivision ordinance. He reported that such an ordinance has been

passed recently whereby the City must pay the County for checking services; and that the City receives \$10.00 for its portion of the work which consists of 40 per cent of the checking. The City Engineer recommended that he be authorized to enter into the contract.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer and the City Clerk be authorized to sign the contract with the County of Los Angeles for the checking of subdivision maps within the City limits of Torrance. 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.

At 8:00 P.M. Mayor McGuire opened bids for the sale of certain tax deeded property commencing with Torrance Tract, Lot 1, Block 88.

A bid on the above-mentioned property was submitted by letter by Mr. Ellis Owen for the minimum price of \$375.60 and was read by Clerk Bartlett. A check for \$37.56 was enclosed.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1544 authorizing the Sale of Lot 1, Block 88 to Ellis Owen 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.

The following property was offered for sale, but no bids were received.

<u>TRACT</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>
Torrance	15	88
"	16	88
"	16	89
"	19	89
"	10	67
"	2	71
"	3	71
"	4	71
"	5	71
"	7	71
"	8	71
"	14	18
"	5	39
"	1	88
9901 All of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 86, and 87.		

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Felker Manufacturing Company was read advising that inasmuch as said company has been recently made a prime contractor for the U. S. Signal Corps and is engaged in the manufacture of an important product requiring speed in production and increased volume that it has become necessary to enlarge the existing plant at 1128 Border Avenue and therefore request that the Council grant them permission to build the building to their property line and to pave a portion of the alley connecting thereto.

Following a brief discussion relating to the importance of immediate action in view of the fact that the plans for the above-mentioned building have been approved by Washington with orders to proceed at once, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request from the Felker Manufacturing Company for the expansion of their building adjacent to the alley be granted and that Mr. Felker be notified as early as possible. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Office of J. M. Lowery, County Auditor, was read setting forth instructions for the fixing of tax rates and enclosing a statement of the assessed valuation of this municipality as shown on the tax roll for the year 1942.

Clerk Bartlett, reading from the enclosures, reported that the total assessed valuation of Torrance City Tax District No. 1 is \$9,976,780.00; and that the total assessed valuation of Torrance City Tax District No. 2 is \$10,498,670.00, this being \$831.00 higher than last year.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 337

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIXING THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1942.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 337 be adopted as an emergency ordinance. 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.

Mayor McGuire at this time invited inquiries concerning Ordinance No. 337.

Mrs. Loughridge asked why the rate for District No. 1 was the same as the rate for District No. 2. Clerk Bartlett answered stating that there now are sufficient funds in the treasury to take care of certain bond issues which were previously included in the assessment for District No. 1 and not included in the assessment for District No. 2; thus the assessment on District No. 1 has been lowered sufficiently to equal the assessment for District No. 2.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1545

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AGREEING TO A RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT PREVIOUSLY EXISTING BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT ENGINEERS, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, RELATING TO RESTORATION OF TAX DEEDED LANDS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1545 be adopted. 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.

Clerk Bartlett read the annual audit report of Auditor Logan Cotton for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942.

Councilman Powell read a communication from the Chief of Police requesting authorization to purchase a Special Deluxe Plymouth Four-Door Sedan from Allen H. Paull, price of said automobile being as follows:

\$1230.32	
36.92	Sales Tax
<hr/>	
1267.24	
800.00	allowance on Pontiac "8"
<hr/>	
467.24	Balance

Councilman Powell moved that \$467.24 be appropriated for the purchase of a 1942 Special DeLuxe Plymouth Four-Door Sedan from Allen H. Paull for the Police Department. 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 read a communication from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, recommending that \$145.00 per month be paid to J. G. Bergeron for his services at the Walteria Fire Station and that \$65.00 be allowed Engineer Bergeron for the vacation period which he is forfeiting.

Councilman Powell moved that Fire Chief J. E. McMaster be permitted to enter into a contract with J. G. Bergeron for the latter's services as Engineer at the Walteria Fire Station for the ensuing year at a salary of \$145.00 per month; and that Bergeron be given an allowance of \$65.00 for the vacation period which he is forfeiting. 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 Cucci reported that he met with the Executive Board of the City Employees' Union last Monday and appealed for more time in which to complete arrangements for the proposed meeting between the City Council and the City Employees for the purpose of discussing the budget for the fiscal year and its relation to a possible wage increase for City workers. He stated that his appeal for time was granted and therefore recommended that the Council set a definite date for said meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the City Council would meet with the City Employees for the above stated purposes on Wednesday, August 19, 1942, at 4:45 P.M. in the Council Chamber.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that not to exceed \$130.00, plus tax, be appropriated for two 75 x 24 tread tires and tubes and one section repair on the same size tire and tube to be used on the Diesel Motor Grader. 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 Council authorize the return of \$297.70 to the County Road Department as the unexpended balance on the Lomita Boulevard improvement. 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.

City Engineer Jain informed the Council that money returned in the foregoing manner will be placed in the gasoline fund for future use.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$990.00, plus tax, be made for the construction of a bunkhouse for the California State Guards stationed at the City Municipal Park. 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.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$975.00, plus tax, be made for the construction of a kitchen and dining room for the California State Guards at the City Park. 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.

Mayor McGuire moved that the following be reappointed to the City Planning Commission for the terms specified: W. A. Felker for a two-year term; Charles A. Curtiss for a two-year term; John Salm for a three-year term; and Glenn M. Jain to replace Leonard Young, said appointments to take effect immediately. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Although R. J. Deininger refused a reappointment at the present time because of other pressing duties, Mayor McGuire stated that he believed he could induce Mr. Deininger to accept an appointment in the near future and would report to the Council at that time.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Renee Bartlett, 2325 Sonoma, representing the Women's Auxiliary of the C.I.O., proposed the establishment of a U.S.O. for the soldiers stationed in and around Torrance. A discussion relating to the relatively small number of soldiers here and the past experience with recreation facilities ensued and was terminated by the statement that there are no buildings available for a recreation center.

A gentleman from WALTERIA appealed for bus service to Hawthorne Boulevard on behalf of WALTERIA residents. He reported that there is no garbage or rubbish collection service for WALTERIA residents living on and near Hawthorne Boulevard; and that the U.S. Mail man from Lomita refused to deliver mail in certain sections because of the deplorable condition of Ocean Avenue to Sepulveda. Mayor McGuire suggested to Councilman Hitchcock that he study the condition of Ocean Avenue.

City Engineer Jain reported that he had received a favorable reaction from the Santa Fe Railway regarding the improvement of Madrid in that said company is willing to remove the fence and cultivate ice plants along Madrid provided laborers can be obtained to do the work.

A discussion regarding the suitability of various plants for the Madrid right-of-way ensued, Mrs. Leonard Young and Engineer Jain participating.

Clerk Bartlett at this time announced that he had overlooked a communication from the Chief of Police requesting the City to authorize the building of a bicycle rack to place in front of the Torrance Theatre in view of the ticket box as the Police Department is experiencing difficulty in keeping bicycles off of the street on Sartori Avenue.

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

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 9:00 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.



City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance