

Torrance, California  
September 15, 1942

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 15, 1942, at 4:45 P.M.

Upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock seconded by Councilman Babcock, Councilman Cucci was appointed Mayor Pro-tem in the absence of Mayor McGuire.

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

Inasmuch as this was an Adjourned Regular Meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, addressed to the City Council, Attention Mr. Hitchcock, was read advising that Fire Chief J. E. McMaster has requested permission to arrange a transfer of John Fess and Casper Clemmer from the Park Department to the Fire Department for the duration of the war or until they can be replaced by men on the Civil Service list. The writer stated that the transfer met with the approval of his department providing that provision is made and permission granted to replace one or both of these men in the Park Department inasmuch as a transfer at this time without a replacement will seriously handicap the Park Department's work schedules.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the City Engineer regarding the transfer of John Fess and Casper Clemmer from the Park Department to the Fire Department be held over until the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the City Engineer, attention Mr. Hitchcock, was read requesting that consideration be given to

the matter of hiring additional help in the Street and Park Departments and calling attention to the fact that said departments have lost five regular men out of a total of thirty, none of whom have been replaced.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the City Engineer regarding the hiring of additional help in the Street and Park Departments be held over until the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, was read informing the Council that on September 22, 1942, the writer intends to start his vacation of two weeks ending October 5, 1942; and that during that time Alvin K. Hill, senior driver, will officiate as manager.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from W. H. Stanger, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, was read respectfully requesting authorization to purchase 50 - 3/4" No. 3 cement meter boxes with covers and 50 - 3/4" No. 3 cement meter boxes without covers at a total cost of \$200.85, including tax; and 1 - 18" gate valve, hub end, solid wedge, 125# at a cost of \$389.92, including tax. The valve is to be used for an emergency shut-off between the Metropolitan and the Torrance System.

Councilman Babcock moved that \$200.85 be appropriated for the purchase of 50 - 3/4" No. 3 cement meter boxes with covers and 50 - 3/4" No. 3 meter boxes without covers. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and Cucci. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell, and McGuire.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$389.92 be made for the purchase of 1 - 18" gate valve, hub end, solid wedge, 125#, said valve to be used for an emergency shut-off between the Metropolitan and the Torrance System. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and Cucci. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell, and McGuire.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles, signed by A. H. Adams, Acting Chief Engineer, was read enclosing a copy of a communication received from the County Tax Collector relating to tax delinquent land on the northeast corner of 223rd Street and Border Avenue, which property was sold at public auction, and stating that the Office of the Regional Planning Commission recommended to the Tax Collector that the above-mentioned property be withheld from sale pending negotiations for a read deed from the prospective purchaser. The writer advised that said deed was not acquired; and that if buildings were constructed within the future right-of-way lines of 223rd Street the cost of widening this important highway in this City would be prohibitive. The Regional Planning Commission therefore recommended that a building line ordinance be established by the City Council with regard to 223rd Street so as to protect the Master Plan of Highways for the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance.

City Engineer Jain advised that 223rd Street is proposed by the Regional Planning Commission as a primary highway 100 feet wide. He also stated that the Doak Aircraft Company negotiated for the property on the northeast corner of 223rd Street and Border Avenue; that said company had agreed to convey the sly 20 feet of the property to the County for road purposes; but that said company was

over bid at the auction. Mr. Jain stated he was informed that Mr. Lady, the successful bidder, intended at a later date to convey the above-mentioned property to the Doak Aircraft Company. For obvious reasons Engineer Jain recommended that an ordinance requiring certain set-back lines be passed as soon as possible.

Engineer Jain presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 338

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BUILDING SET-BACK LINES UPON PORTIONS OF CERTAIN STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ESTABLISHED BY AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE MASTER PLAN OF HIGHWAYS FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the further reading of Ordinance No. 338 be dispensed with. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and Cucci. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell, and McGuire.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Ordinance No. 338 be adopted for first reading as per request of the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and Cucci. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell and McGuire.

City Engineer Glenn M. Jain reported that he had prepared and wished to submit at this time estimates for the repair of Amie Street as per instructions received at the Regular Meeting held September 8, 1942. He stated that the cost of repairing said street from Torrance Boulevard to Spencer Street, which approximates one-half mile in length, would cost about \$1,400.00 for materials and labor.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the matter be held over until the next regular meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Miss Rose Segure, Regional Representative of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, affiliated with the C.I.O., addressed Mayor Pro-tem Cucci and the Council and stated that at a meeting of Local 360 held last Friday night members regarded with satisfaction the plan of the City Council to place city employees on a monthly rather than an hourly basis; and that they had agreed to accept the Council's proposal to raise the salaries of men now receiving \$140.00 to a salary of \$155.00 per month. She stated, however, that the proposed \$15.00 a month raise for men now receiving \$130.00 was not accepted and asked the Council if there had been any more discussion on this matter. Mayor Pro-tem Cucci advised that the Council had considerable discussion on this point, but that it was their opinion that \$145.00 per month was a reasonable wage for these lower bracket men.

A discussion arose regarding the relative compensation which could be earned by the former \$130.00 group on both the monthly and hourly basis. Miss Segure accused the Council of offering to pay this group of men less than they meant to in the first place by reason of the fact that the men would allegedly receive more on an hourly basis if labor were figured at 84¢ an hour than they would by receiving \$145.00 a month. She then requested that each member of the Council state his personal opinion on this question. Councilman Hitchcock replied on behalf of the other Councilmen stating that at a meeting of the councilmen the other night it was unanimously agreed that \$145.00 a month was a reasonable wage in that it constituted a \$15.00 a month raise for men previously earning \$130.00 per month.

"As we understand it, you are going to give a \$15.00 raise to all workers now receiving under \$140.00 per month and a \$10.00 raise to everyone above that," remarked Miss Segure.

"With a few variations," replied Mayor Pro-tem Cucci. Mayor Pro-tem Cucci also advised that the Council intended to pay the bus drivers \$1.00 per hour; and that on the average all other workers were receiving a blanket raise of \$10.00.

The question of remuneration for clerical workers was the next matter in line for debate. Mayor Pro-tem Cucci advised that Marcella Crook, now making \$90.00 per month, would be given \$110.00; and that Typist June Whitt who is now earning \$95.00 would receive \$110.00 per month also. He stated that those on probation would receive a minimum salary of \$100.00 a month during the probationary period with a ten dollar raise at the end of every six-month period.

Mr. Treloar, also representing Local 360 of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, asked Mayor Pro-tem Cucci what he considered to be a reasonable wage for experienced clerical help.

"There is no maximum amount which may be earned by experienced help. It is according to their ability. They might go as high as \$150.00 or \$160.00 a month." Mayor Pro-tem Cucci continued by citing the salary received by Miss Valeria Turner who received \$145.00 previous to her leave of absence.

Mr. Treloar submitted an appeal on behalf of Marcella Crook, employee in the Judicial Department, who has been working at a salary of \$90.00 per month for approximately eighteen months, asking that Miss Crook be given at least \$125.00 per month.

At 5:18 P.M. Councilman Powell entered the Council Chamber.

Mayor Pro-tem Cucci replied to Mr. Treloar's plea for a larger increase in the salary of Court Clerk Marcella Crook by stating that the Council was trying to keep clerical workers on a par as much as possible to avoid conflicting feelings between the various departments.

Miss Segure at this time entered protest on behalf of the bus drivers who opposed the Council's plan to place them on an hourly basis and asked for a decision as to whether or not the bus drivers would be placed on an hourly or monthly basis.

Mayor Pro-tem Cucci replied that inasmuch as the \$1.00 per hour rate of pay would amount to approximately \$174.00 that the Council would be willing to pay the bus drivers \$175.00 on a monthly salary basis.

Miss Segure advised that the above would be acceptable provided no irregularities are found. She also announced that she wanted it understood that the negotiations thus far by no means closed the possibility of coming back and discussing individual or general wage adjustments. Mayor Pro-tem Cucci and Councilman Powell assured Miss Segure that all grievances would be ironed out as fairly as possible.

A discussion arose regarding the appropriate time for the official adoption of the resolution setting forth city employees' classifications and their respective salaries. Councilman Babcock moved that the salary situation be postponed until September 29, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Mr. Hallanger, Deputy City Clerk, addressed the Council and audience at this time and stated that it would be almost impossible to have the payroll including retroactive pay out by the first of October if the resolution wasn't adopted until September 29. He discussed at length the long procedure to be followed in figuring out retroactive pay at the new salary rates, especially in cases involving overtime. Mr. Hallanger advocated a supplementary payroll which could be issued before the first of October provided the Council passes the resolution above-mentioned at the Adjourned Meeting to be held September 18, 1942.

Councilman Babcock withdrew his original motion and moved that the resolution with reference to salary rates for city employees be officially adopted at an Adjourned Meeting to be held September 18, 1942, at 4:45 P.M. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to be present at the Adjourned Meeting to be held September 18, 1942, at 4:45 P.M. for the purpose of ruling on the legality of action taken at that time. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Grover C. Whyte, Publisher of the Torrance Herald, addressed the Council and audience at this time on the subject of housing, urging that something be done immediately to alleviate the housing shortage which is hampering the development of this community. He stated that the Pacific Electric did not intend to reinstate the red cars in Torrance but that said company does intend to operate "semi-trailers" from Manchester direct to Terminal Island, the latter arrangement not to include Torrance, however. Mr. Whyte stated that Mayor McGuire had promised definite action on the housing matter this afternoon.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the Council give the housing committee a definite answer with reference to hiring a housing expert and expediting other matters pertaining to the housing problem at the Adjourned Regular Meeting to be held Friday, September 18, 1942, at 4:45 P.M.

At 5:42 upon motion of Councilman Babcock seconded by Councilman Hitchcock the meeting adjourned to September 18, 1942, at 4:45 P.M.

A. H. Barrett  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire  
Mayor of the City of Torrance