

Torrance, California
December 22, 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, December 22, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag:

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 8, 1942 and the minutes of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 14, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Earle E. Palmer, stating that certain property owners had been greatly inconvenienced due to an act by a city employee. It was further stated that a delegation of the property owners affected by the act will be present at the meeting and desire to be heard.

Mr. Palmer not being present in the Council Chamber, the communication was laid aside awaiting his arrival.

A communication was read from the Torrance Kiwanis Club, signed by Gaston J. Arcq, President, expressing appreciation for cooperation and help extended the Club during the past year by the City Council.

A communication was read from W. F. Burgener, 1630 Beech Street, requesting removal of a large camphor tree in front of his residence.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request from W. F. Burgener that a camphor tree be removed from the front of the residence at 1630 Beech Street be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from H. Korchak, 522 North Genesee Street, Los Angeles, applying for permission to construct a six-unit court on Lots 2 and 3, Block 70, Torrance Tract, subject to a ten foot setback from the front property line instead of the twenty foot setback which present regulations establish for buildings on the above-mentioned property.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of H. Korchak to be allowed to construct a six-unit court on Lots 2 and 3, Block 70, Torrance Tract, subject to a ten (10) foot setback from the front property line, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, advising that both he and Mr. Butterfield, City Electrician, recommend that the contract with the General Electric Company, through their agents, Two Macks Electric Company of Torrance, for street lamps for the fiscal year 1942-43 be cancelled, effective December 31, 1942, and that a new contract be arranged with the Westinghouse Electric Company, through the Two Macks Electric Company of Torrance as their agents. It was stated that terms of the Westinghouse Electric Company contract will be identical to those embodied in the General Electric Company contract regarding price of lamps.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that, in compliance with the combined recommendations of Engineer Jain and Electrician Butterfield, the contract with the General Electric Company, through their agents, Two Macks Electric Company of Torrance, for street lamps for the fiscal year 1942-43 be cancelled, effective December 31, 1942, and that a new contract be arranged with the Westinghouse Electric Company, through the Two Macks Electric Company of Torrance as their agents, new contract to be effective January 1, 1943, subject to approval of the City Attorney, and to be executed by the City Attorney. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, enclosing a working schedule for the Fire Department for the entire year 1943, showing the days to be worked by each man in the Department; their days off and their "cover-up" days.

It was requested that immediate action be taken in order to put the plan into operation commencing January 1, 1943, and that the Police Department be instructed to cooperate in putting the plan into effect by keeping a copy of the schedule posted conveniently and calling the "cover-up" man whenever the siren sounds.

Chief Stroh advised that he had not as yet examined the schedule and requested permission to study it.

Councilman Powell moved that the working schedule for the Fire Department for the entire year 1943, as submitted by the Civil Service Board, be adopted in its entirety, effective January 1, 1943. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, calling attention to a serious problem existing in connection with the Street Department and offering suggestions for solution of the problem.

Mr. Jain stated that Street Department personnel classified as "Power Equipment Operators" refuse to operate the heavy equipment such as tractors, motor graders, heavy rollers, loaders, etc., for the same salary as is paid truck drivers. It was stated also that, under the Civil Service Rules, it is not permissible to use truck drivers to operate the heavy equipment as long as there are power equipment operators available.

Mr. Jain stated that he agrees that the power equipment operators should receive more money than truck drivers.

He requested that, unless a higher salary is set for power equipment operators, their titles be changed to truck drivers, leaving all positions under the title "Power Equipment Operators" vacant, a higher salary to then be established for power equipment operators and an examination conducted, whereby all truck drivers can attempt to qualify for the positions.

Mr. Jain urged immediate action in order to secure more efficient operation of City Equipment.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Council and the Civil Service Board meet for thorough discussion of this matter before action is taken, date of the meeting to be set after January 1, 1943. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read, signed by eighteen members of the Police and Fire Departments, protesting the proposed adoption of the Rules and Regulations supplementing Personnel Ordinance No. 326 to supplement Ordinance No. 249, latter being the Civil Service Ordinance governing Police and Fire Department personnel.

Chief Stroh advised that members of the above departments have not heretofore had copies of the Rules and Regulations in question, and he has requested the Civil Service Board to furnish copies for study by members of the two departments. After a thorough understanding of the Rules is gained, he said, he feels that members of the two departments might agree to adoption of the Rules and Regulations insofar as they do not conflict with Ordinance No. 249.

A communication was read from the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, County Sanitation District No. 5, enclosing check in the amount of \$3,757.92 as payment in full for the City's portion of the Sponsor's Contribution of W. P. A. Project No. 1101-4276 (Vista Highlands Sewer Project.) Matter of record.

A communication was read from the General Petroleum Corporation of California, enclosing check in the amount of \$304.76, representing income derived from the use, operation and possession of franchises under Ordinances No. 179 and 781. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, advising that an ordinance prohibiting the practice of fortune telling as a business in the unincorporated territory of the County is proposed. A copy of the proposed Ordinance was enclosed and a request was submitted that the City adopt a similar ordinance to guard against diversion of fortune tellers into the various municipalities where the practice is not prohibited.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication and sample ordinance be referred to the Ordinance Committee for study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Earle E. Palmer, 4813 West 171st Street, North Torrance, addressed the Council at this time regarding a letter read in the early part of the meeting relating to an act committed by a City employee which, it was stated in the letter, greatly inconvenienced certain property owners. Mr. Palmer stated that Mr. Henry Dever, a City employee, had rented a house in North Torrance owned by him to a person or persons who are engaged in the business of boarding children from a reform school in the house rented from Mr. Dever. He stated that the persons operating the boarding school are unfit to care for children and that the house is not adapted to boarding house use.

He pointed out that a very undesirable condition is created by allowing the reform school children to reside in a locality which is inhabited by property owners following agricultural pursuits and who have families of their own. The children of the property owners in the vicinity will naturally be associated to some extent with the children of questionable character, he said. He requested the City Council and City Attorney to take some immediate action to remove the persons operating the boarding house and also to remove the children from the vicinity, either by official action, or by prevailing upon Mr. Dever to remove the renters from the house.

He stated that he believes there is only one bedroom in the house, and that there are six children boarding there. However, he said, he did not know how the house may have been re-arranged to provide bedroom space since the persons rented it.

Attorney McCall stated that he believed authorities of the Health Department would cooperate with him and Chief Stroh in arriving at a solution of the problem.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Chief of Police and the City Attorney for thorough investigation and report. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh corrected one statement made by Mr. Palmer, advising that the children in question are wards of the Juvenile Court. He agreed that the person operating the boarding school is an undesirable person.

Mr. Blackwood, 4819 West 171st Street, North Torrance, addressed the Council on this subject, stating that several families have girls of school age who should have the privilege of walking to and from school without the fear of coming into contact with boys of bad character.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$60.00, plus tax, be made for 200 Grevillia trees, for street planting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Chief Stroh advised a report will be made early in January regarding boulevard stop signs which he feels can safely be removed.

Councilman Babcock stated that several persons have complained regarding condition of Carson Street west of Madrid Avenue. Also, he said, some complaint had been made that, in accordance with dim-out regulations, residents in the area are compelled to close window blinds while Edison Company lights are allowed to operate with no restriction whatsoever. He requested that these matters be investigated by the Street Department.

Clerk Bartlett advised he had received a letter from the Selective Service Board, requesting an audience with the City Council this evening. He said he had invited them to attend the Council Meeting.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$209.04, plus tax, be made for one axle and axle housing for rear motor on No. 101 Bus. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Chief Stroh advised that a building located at 1879 Carson Street had been agreed upon as a suitable building for conducting the business of issuing 1943 automobile license plates, this to be done by the Motor Vehicle Department.

Mr. Carl Steele, representing Selective Service Board No. 280, Torrance, addressed the Council at this time, outlining the functions of the Selective Service Board. He went into detail in explaining how a request for deferment is considered by the Board, how the decision to grant or deny the request is reached, and, finally, in denials of requests for deferment, how the selectee has the privilege of exercising his right of appeal, stating that the final appeal can be made through the Board of Appeals in Washington, D. C.

He invited Department heads who desire deferments for employees to personally call at the Local Draft Board and discuss the merits of the case thoroughly, a practice the Board heartily encourages, he said.

Mayor McGuire commended the Local Draft Board for the excellent service the Board has rendered and is continuing to render. A short discussion ensued, during which time Mayor McGuire asked several questions which were answered by Mr. Steele pertaining to application of the rules and regulations as laid down by Washington, D. C. in connection with Selective Service matters.

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

At 8:45 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to December 30, 1942 at 5:00 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance