

Torrance, California
June 8, 1943

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 8, 1943, 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.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 25, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization thanking the members of the Torrance City Council for their unanimous vote protesting the issuing of a liquor permit at 3612 West 242nd Street in WALTERIA. Filed for record.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, addressed to Mr. A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, expressing appreciation for his advice and help in opposing a liquor license at 3612 West 242nd Street in WALTERIA. Filed for record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Women's Club, thanking the Council for their financial support of the baby center while it was active during the past year. Filed for record.

A communication was read from Katz and Pine, advising that they plan to erect at least twelve residential units on the four lots which they recently purchased on the east side of Cabrillo Avenue, between 222nd Street and Plaza del Amo, but that the F.H.A. demands that curbs and sidewalks shall be installed before priorities are issued for this construction.

Katz and Pine agreed to install the required curb, gutter and sidewalk, along the frontage of their property, at a cost to them of approximately \$500.00; and requested the City Council to grade and surface, with one inch rock and oil macadam, the east side of Cabrillo Avenue in front of said property, or approximately 282 ft.

After some discussion the Mayor advised Mr. Pine they would take the matter up with Engineer Jain, and that it would be further considered at an adjourned meeting to be held on June 15th.

A communication was read from Alvin K. Hill, bus driver, requesting a three months leave of absence, commencing June 1st, 1943, in order that he might take care of important personal business in Kansas City before being inducted into the United States Military Service.

Councilman Cucci moved that the communication be referred to the Civil Service Board for their recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, enclosing a copy of their letter of May 6, 1943, regarding a violation of the Rules and Regulations by Bus Driver H. C. Callihan, and recom-

mending that disciplinary action be taken.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole; their answer to be given to the Civil Service Commission at the earliest possible date. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that Mr. Otto B. Willett had satisfactorily completed his six months probationary period, ending May 10, 1943; and recommending that Mr. Willett be permanently appointed to the position of "City Judge", subject to the return of Mr. John A. Shidler who is now on military leave.

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be concurred in, and that Mr. Otto B. Willett be permanently appointed to the position of City Judge, effective May 10, 1943, subject, however, to the return of former Judge John A. Shidler who is now on military leave. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, requesting that it be advised as to the present status of Mr. Dale Riley; since the Recreation Department has been abolished.

Mayor McGuire stated that Mr. Dale Riley was employed by the Bus Department on part time, and suggested that this communication be held up for reply at a later date.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, with letter attached from Mrs. Alice M. Speheger, addressed to the City Council, which letter had been referred to the Civil Service Board for recommendation.

The communication from Mrs. Speheger, dated May 1st, requested the Council to allow her compensation for the amount of earned vacation pay to which her husband, Patrolman Fred Speheger, was entitled at the time of his death on November 30, 1942.

The Civil Service Board recommended that Mrs. Speheger be allowed the vacation pay which was due Mr. Speheger at the time of his death, amounting to eleven-twelfths of his annual vacation pay; and advising that under Ordinance No. 249, Section 22, an annual vacation of fifteen days is provided for.

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be complied with, and that the vacation pay due patrolman Speheger up to the time of his death November 30, 1942, be paid to his widow, Mrs. Alice M. Speheger. 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 was read from Engineer Jain, advising that Mr. James Polston had passed the Civil Service examination for "Power Equipment Operator" and recommending that he be promoted to that position, effective June 1, 1943, at a salary of \$165.00 per month; his probationary period of six months to start from that date.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. James Polston be appointed to the position of "Power Equipment Operator", effective June 1st, 1943, at a salary of \$165.00 per month. 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 was read from Engineer Jain, with letter attached from Mr. Wm. Gascoigne, Street Superintendent, recommending a salary increase of \$10.00 per month for Mr. C. J. Magee, Senior Sewer Maintenance Man.

Engineer Jain also recommended that Mr. Magee be granted this \$10.00 increase, retroactive to May 1, 1943, stating that the nature of his work is such that he must supervise a crew at all times and perform difficult and relatively dangerous work in the maintenance,

cleaning and construction of sewers within the City.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communications from Engineer Jain and Street Supt. Gascoigne, recommending a salary increase for C. J. Magee be referred to the Council as a whole for further discussion, and that he be notified of their decision at a later date. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, stating that Mr. Ollie Dodson wishes to take his annual two weeks vacation, starting June 1, 1943, and to be paid for this period.

Engineer Jain advised that Mr. Dodson has been off duty, due to a non-occupational injury since February 27th and there appears to be some question as to whether he is entitled to a full two weeks vacation with pay at this time; but since his name had not been removed from the City Roster, it was Mr. Jain's opinion that he would be entitled to his full vacation period.

Inasmuch as the Civil Service Board does not meet again until July 7th, Mr. Jain requested that the City Council make the necessary decision in regard to payment to Mr. Dodson for this period.

Councilman Powell moved that Ollie Dodson be granted his vacation pay, stating that Mr. Dodson had worked for the City for several years, sweeping the streets, and that he was a hard worker.

Councilman Cucci said he thought it was up to the Civil Service Board to decide whether Mr. Dodson was entitled to the two weeks pay.

Councilman Powell withdrew his motion, and Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Engineer Jain for two weeks vacation pay for Ollie Dodson, who has been off duty since February 27th, due to a non-occupational injury, be referred to the Civil Service Board for recommendation.

Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Board of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, advising that approval had been given to the recommendation of Engineer Jain that the City of Torrance extend its resurfacing of 213th Street to include the unimproved portion of said Street between the City limits of Torrance and the paved portion thereof in the City of Los Angeles; and that it had been authorized to reimburse the City of Torrance for the proposed resurfacing, in the amount of \$90.00.

After discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to complete the work of surfacing 213th Street between the City limits of Torrance and the paved portion thereof in the City of Los Angeles; and that the expenditure of \$90.00 be authorized for the cost of this work.

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 was read from Mr. Charles J. Long, advising that his original contract to service the high frequency radio communication equipment of the Torrance Police Department included only the main station equipment and the equipment of four cars, but since the radio equipment of a fifth car has been added to his responsibility, and because of increased labor costs, he requested a salary increase from \$7.50 to \$10.00 per week.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Mr. Charles J. Long, who services the high frequency radio communication equipment of the Police Department, be granted and his salary increased from \$7.50 to \$10.00 per week, effective June 1, 1943.

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 Mr. Paul Moore Wheeler, Vicar,

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, regarding the problem of juvenile delinquency in the City of Torrance, and suggesting that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the formation of a Youth Commission, whose duty it will be to make a thorough study of youth delinquency statistics, conduct surveys and examinations to determine the cause or causes for the condition, and finally to make recommendations to the City Council based on its findings.

Rev. Wheeler suggested that the City Council direct a letter to the following institutions calling upon them to each appoint one representative to act as a member of the Commission: Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, High School, High School P.T.A., Ministerial Association, Torrance C.I.O., Coordinating Committee, and three members at large to be selected by the members named above.

After some discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the plan suggested by Rev. Wheeler be carried out, and that the City Clerk be authorized to contact by letter, the various organizations mentioned, and any other organizations which the City Clerk might feel would be interested in this type of work; and that a tentative date be set, in the near future, for a meeting with the City Council; and that Rev. Wheeler be appointed temporary Chairman in charge of this meeting.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Miss Helen E. Vogleson, County Librarian, enclosing copies of the tentative budget for the County Library service to the City of Torrance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943, totaling \$7,132.46.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Library Budget, for the fiscal year 1943-44, in the amount of \$7,132.46, be approved, and that the County Librarian, Miss Helen E. Vogleson, be notified as soon as possible of the action taken.

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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1582

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 Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1582 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 presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1583

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1583 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.

Mayor McGuire asked Police Chief Stroh if "No Parking" signs had been posted in the vicinity of the new air field in South Torrance. The Chief replied that the permanent signs had not been posted as yet, and that it was undecided as to whether the cost would be paid for out of gas tax funds, or paid direct.

The Mayor remarked that a week ago Sunday the traffic was so congested along Highway 101, adjacent to the air field that it was almost impossible to get through. He said he contacted Major Luther, Commanding Officer of the field, and asked him concerning signs to be posted along the field and he advised he had ordered them three months ago.

The Mayor advised that Engineer Jain had contacted the Automobile Club and standard signs had been ordered placed along both sides of Highway 101.

Chief Stroh said that temporary signs had been placed along Highway 101 and that they had helped out a lot.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired if signs would be placed along Hawthorne Avenue. Chief Stroh replied, "Not at the present time". Councilman Hitchcock said he thought Hawthorne Avenue should also be posted with "No Parking" signs.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$650.00 be made, plus a trade-in allowance of \$659.65, for the purchase of a new Plymouth Special DeLuxe, 2-door sedan, 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 moved that an appropriation of \$30.00 be made, to cover the expense of Chief Stroh to go to Sacramento to attend the meetings of the Pacific Coast International Law Enforcement.

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 Fire Chief McMaster, advising that Mr. Chas. Quandt has a broken water main on Neece Avenue, which runs under the sidewalk at the Walteria Fire Station, and that the line has been shut off for several days now, resulting in the fire hydrant at 242nd Street and Neece Avenue being out of use.

Chief McMaster recommended that this hydrant be set back to the Alley (approximately forty feet) to eliminate removing forty feet of sidewalk. He further stated that Mr. Quandt has agreed to this arrangement if the City will remove and replace the concrete where the hydrant will be taken out and where it will be installed.

Following discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Fire Chief McMaster be complied with, and that the hydrant be moved from its present position and set back forty feet; and that the City make such replacement of concrete as is necessary.

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.

Councilman Powell stated he had a letter from Chief Stroh regarding protection of the buildings at the City Park, and remarked that this would be taken care of later on.

Councilman Powell stated he has a recommendation from Fire Chief McMaster, that the volunteer firemen be paid \$2.00 for each

drill, instead of only \$1.00 which they now receive.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of the Fire Chief to raise the pay of the volunteer firemen from \$1.00 for each drill to \$2.00 per drill be referred to the Council as a whole for recommendation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell stated he had a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, recommending that Engineer Bever receive a \$10.00 increase in salary, effective June 1st, as he has passed the six months probation period.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Bever receive a raise in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective June 1st, he having served his probationary period. 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.

Councilman Powell stated he had a recommendation from Chief Stroh, requesting the appointment of Alexander S. Thompson, as patrolman, to become effective when he can be released from his present job.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh be authorized to employ Alexander S. Thompson, as patrolman, to be on probation for six months, effective when he can be released from his present job. 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.

Councilman Powell also stated that Chief Stroh advises the Police Department is short three men; that only one applicant passed the recent Civil Service examinations; and therefore recommends that the two remaining vacancies be filled by temporary appointments for the duration.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh be authorized to fill these positions with temporary men, when and if he can get desirable men, subject to the approval of the City Council.

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.

Councilman Powell further stated he had a recommendation from Chief Stroh that he and Captain E. M. Ashton be permitted to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that they receive their vacation pay on or before July 1st.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Chief Stroh, that he and Captain Ashton be permitted to work instead of taking a vacation, and receive their vacation pay by July 1st, be referred to the Civil Service Board for their recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell said that Fire Chief McMaster has recommended a salary increase for Engineers Parry and Silence, from \$185.00 to \$195.00 per month.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Chief McMaster that Engineers Parry and Silence be given a salary increase of \$10.00 per month be referred to the Council as a whole for recommendation and action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$244.31 be made for repairs to the North Torrance Water Well. 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 asked Attorney McCall regarding the status of the North Torrance Water Well. Mr. McCall replied that the final bill for the repair work had never been received, so he couldn't draw up the Contract of Sale.

The Mayor stated that the bill was now in, and suggested that this amount be added to the previous costs and a new contract prepared.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$50.70, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 32.5 ft. of second-hand, black pipe to be used on 213th 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 \$180.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of two new tires and two recap tires for the Motor Patrol 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 Babcock stated he had a communication from Bus Manager Chas. Ward, advising that James Brown, a former employee of the Bus Department, is going to be available for work for the next two or three weeks, and requesting permission to employ him to take the place of Bus Driver Crowther, effective June 9, 1943.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Ward be authorized to employ James Brown, a former bus driver, for a period of two or three weeks, effective June 9th, at a salary of \$175.00 per month.

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 Babcock moved that Mrs. Florence Hall be employed as an assistant to Mrs. Bohrer at the Recreation Center, at the City Park, for the summer vacation period, from June 10th to September 15th, inclusive, 1943, at a salary of \$100.00 per month.

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 asked Councilman Babcock if there were any requests to the Council regarding the 11:30 bus.

Councilman Babcock said he had several requests from employees of the National Supply Company regarding the 12:40 bus, and he took the matter up with Mr. Ward and he said that it didn't pay, and that the trip was practically a total loss.

A discussion followed, regarding the holding of the 4:30 bus at the corner of Carson Street and Border Avenue, until 4:40, to accommodate the employees of the National Supply Company.

Councilman Babcock moved that the schedule of the 4:30 bus be changed to 4:40 at the corner of Carson Street and Border Avenue; adding that the reason for this is that we are primarily interested in serving the employees of the industrial plants in the City of Torrance.

Bus Manager Ward said he thought it would be perfectly all right to hold the bus back until 4:40 and then let it make the best time it could. He said he had given orders to have this done.

The above motion was changed to read, that the Bus Manager be authorized to place a notice in all busses that the 4:30 bus for Lomita and Walteria will be held until 4:40, at the corner of Carson Street and Border Avenue.

Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the various representatives of the different organizations that have set up Post War Planning Commissions of a meeting to be held on the 29th day of June, at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber.

Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Attorney McCall stated he had been advised that the building at the corner of Carson Street and Gramercy Avenue will be repaired and the City will be repaid for the cost of erecting the barricade.

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.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Council adjourn until 7:45 P.M., June 15. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.


 City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


 Mayor of the City of Torrance

Torrance, California