

Torrance, California  
July 27, 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, July 27, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Clerk Bartlett called the meeting to order. In the absence of the Mayor, on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, Councilman Babcock took the Chair.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 13, 1943; and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held July 20, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company making application for a building permit to cover the construction of a 60' x 140' addition to their plant; said building to be used for assembly purposes and to be an extension of the present Foundry and Drop Hammer Building No. 4.

The letter explained that while they had previously agreed to install sprinkler protection, application had been made to the War Production Board for the necessary material for this purpose, but to date had not received permission to use such materials.

Permission to construct the above-mentioned addition to their factory was requested, with the understanding that the proper sprinkler system will be installed just as soon as the War Production Board approves the use of the materials.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Doak Aircraft Company for a building permit to construct a 60' x 140' addition to their present Foundry and Drop Hammer Building No. 4, be granted, Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. James L. Rahl, President of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, requesting that one member of the City Council be appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Service Men's Foundation of Torrance, which organization was formed solely for the benefit of the returning Service men; to fete them and show them our appreciation for what they have done, and also, to lend financial assistance to their families if they are in need.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study and action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, Chairman of the Torrance Youth Commission, requesting the Council to include in the budget for the coming year a minimum sum of \$1500.00 as a working fund for the Commission. The Commission also asks that the City Council recognize it and its successors as a permanent organization to plan and create a Youth Center to include a recreational building, swimming pool, tennis courts, and whatever else

in the form of recreational equipment will be necessary, to be located on the City owned piece of land north of the Torrance Park, bounded by Cabrillo Avenue, Lincoln Street and the Santa Fe Railroad. The plan further provides that each year the City will set aside a certain sum of money to be used solely for this project, with the intent of using it to construct whatever equipment conditions warrant.

The Commission further asks permission of the City Council to use the services of the City Engineer's office for the purpose of surveying, leveling, constructing and drawing plans of this Youth Center project; which plans will be submitted to the Council for its approval or disapproval.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler be granted, and that the sum of \$1500.00 be set up in the Budget for the fiscal year 1943-44 as a working fund for use of the Torrance Youth Commission in the furtherance of recreational facilities in the City of Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Two communications were read from the Thrifty Building Service, Inc., advising that in order to secure final F.H.A. approval for construction of the proposed multiple-family apartment buildings, to be erected on Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10, in Block 12, Tract No. 4070, it will be necessary that assurance be given F.H.A. by the City, that the necessary public streets, sidewalks and curbing outside the project site will be completed within a reasonable time after completion of the project, the cost of which will be borne by the City of Torrance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the two communications from the Thrifty Building Service, Inc. be referred to the Council as a whole for further study and report at the next regular meeting of the Council. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain, recommending that Messrs. Katz and Pine be offered the sum of \$125.00 for a strip of land fifteen (15) feet wide with a turning radius at the easterly end, lying northerly of and parallel to the Santa Fe right-of-way, and being a part of Lots 8, 9 and 10, of Block 1, Tract No. 3758; said strip of land to be deeded to the City for use as a public alley.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of Engineer Jain be approved. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Mr. Louis H. Boyer, who was in the audience, stated (in regard to the two communications from the Thrifty Building Service, Inc.) that plans for the construction of the proposed apartment buildings had been submitted to the City Engineer for checking, prior to the issuance of the building permits; that the City Council had previously promised that the necessary streets, sidewalks and curbs would be installed when the materials were available. He explained that all the F.H.A. desired at this time was assurance from the City that the improvements will be made as soon after the completion of the project as possible.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain if he had made any estimate of the cost of these improvements.

Engineer Jain replied that he had, and that the estimated cost of curbs, sidewalks and gutters on both sides of the street, including a rock and oil surfacing on the street, is \$7200.00; or, for curbs, gutters and sidewalks on one side of the street only, the estimated cost was \$5000.00.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that this matter be held up for consideration at an adjourned meeting, to be held on August 2, 1943; and Councilman Babcock advised Mr. Boyer that the Council would give him a decision on that date.

A communication was read from Investment Underwriters, Inc. requesting that if 50 ft. is to be taken off the front of Lots 1 to 34 incl., and Lots 36 and 40, Tract No. 9901, for the widening of 203rd Street, that the City either secure for them an additional eight (8) feet at the rear of these lots, giving a minimum depth of 100 ft.; or, if possible, the City reduce to 42 ft. the amount to be taken off the front of these lots; explaining that if these lots are cut to 92 ft. in depth they would not contain the minimum area of 5000 ft. required by F.H.A. and the City Ordinance; nor provide sufficient area for the proposed improvements.

A communication was also read, from Investment Underwriters, Inc., requesting that the City install adequate sewers to serve the above-mentioned lots in Tract No. 9901.

Also, a communication was read, from Investment Underwriters, Inc. requesting permission to erect garages on the rear lot lines of the above-mentioned lots in Tract No. 9901; explaining that if a five foot set-back is required it would not leave adequate area for the proposed improvements.

Also, a communication was read, from Investment Underwriters, Inc. requesting the City to establish a ten foot building setback from the front lot line on 203rd Street; explaining that these lots are so shallow that there would not be adequate area for improving them if a twenty foot setback is required.

Clerk Bartlett stated that he had been requested by Investment Underwriters, Inc. to reduce this building setback from ten feet to five feet.

A communication was also read, from California National Builders, Inc. in reference to the requests by the Investment Underwriters, Inc. in connection with the lots in Tract No. 9901, advising that it will be impossible for them to complete priority applications, or to begin the preparation of plans until the requests submitted by Investment Underwriters, Inc. are determined.

The communication from California National Builders further states that some of the lots held by this Corporation in the Torrance Tract, upon which priorities have been issued, are only 45 ft. in width; that the minimum width permitted by F.H.A. for 4-car garages is 41 ft.; and therefore it is not possible to provide three foot side yards on these lots. They therefore request permission to construct the garages within two feet of the side lines.

Councilman Babcock asked Engineer Jain about the matter of sewers in Tract 9901, and Engineer Jain advised that an estimate had previously been submitted to the Council, and that the cost was in the neighborhood of \$7000.00.

Engineer Jain also advised, in regard to the setback from the front line of 203rd Street, that it was intended that the eight foot walkway on the north side of these lots should be given, or included with these lots, but that he did not know who owned this strip.

Clerk Bartlett advised that this eight foot strip was tax deeded and he understood it was only a matter of routine for the City to acquire this strip.

Following some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communications from Investment Underwriters, Inc. and California National Builders, Inc. be referred to the Council as a whole, as well as the City Attorney and City Engineer, for further study and report at the Adjourned Regular Meeting to be held on August 2nd. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bannerman, who was in the audience, stated that he would like to get the matter of set-back from the rear property line clarified, as it effects the construction of garages on the lots in Tract 9901.

After some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the five foot setback from the rear property line of the lots in Tract No. 9901, be changed to not less than one foot. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, recommending that Frank Cook be permitted to work during one of his two weeks' vacation period, and to draw regular pay for same.

Also, a communication from the Civil Service Board, recommending that James Brodie be permitted to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that he receive pay therefor.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendations of the Civil Service Board be concurred in, and that Frank Cook be permitted to work during one week of his vacation; and that James Brodie be allowed to work in lieu of taking a vacation; and that they be paid therefor. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented a report in connection with the contract with George M. Green for the collection and disposal of garbage and tin cans, under the terms of which the contractor will receive fifty cents per month for each new residence constructed after July 1, 1941; and advised that the amount now due George M. Green for the two year period from July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1943, is \$958.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the sum of \$958.00 be paid to George M. Green for the additional service for the two year period ending June 30, 1943, in accordance with the terms of his contract with the City. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

A communication was read from the Southern California Edison Company, submitting a renewal of the street lighting contract with the City of Torrance, for the year ending June 30, 1944.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the street lighting contract with the Southern California Edison Company, for the fiscal year 1943-44. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented the contract from the General Petroleum Corporation for the furnishing of gasoline, and stated that all gasoline companies are charging the same price, which is 13½ cents for Special gasoline, and 11½ cents for regular gasoline; and that this compared with last year's contract of 9.95 cents for Special gasoline and 8.95 cents for regular gasoline.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract with the General Petroleum Corporation for the furnishing of gasoline, be renewed for the fiscal year 1943-44. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

A communication was read from Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, advising that the parking stripes on our streets are almost faded

out, and that a lot of our street lights do not conform to the Dim-out regulations.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Electrician be instructed to immediately check the lights and see that they comply with the Dim-out regulations. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the matter of repainting the parking stripes on the streets be referred to the City Engineer.

Engineer Jain stated that the City painter had resigned and suggested that a contractor be employed to do this painting. Councilman Hitchcock recommended that Mr. Jain secure estimates and report back at the next meeting.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1591

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
CLERK TO RECORD QUITCLAIM DEED COVER-  
ING CERTAIN TAX DEEDED PROPERTIES.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1591 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1592

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM  
JOHN C. SMITH AND CECELIA S. SMITH,  
HUSBAND AND WIFE, COVERING CERTAIN TAX  
DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORR-  
ANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1592 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Powell stated that the sidewalk on the east side of Arlington Avenue, leading to the Municipal Park was overgrown with weeds, and requested Engineer Jain to look into this.

Councilman Powell stated he was in receipt of a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, recommending that Engineer Parry, who is Acting Captain during the vacation of Captain Winters, receive the regular Captain's salary for the two weeks' period from July 16th to July 30th inclusive.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Parry be allowed the Captain's salary for the two weeks period from July 16th to July 30th inclusive, 1943. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Cucci stated that some time ago he brought up the matter of an unsanitary condition existing in the Pueblo district, and asked Mr. Bartlett what had been done about it.

Clerk Bartlett replied that the County Health Inspector came in last week and said he was still working on it but had not made any recommendation or report since that time.

Councilman Babcock asked the City Attorney for a report on the contract with the Perry Mutual Water Company. Attorney McCall replied that it is in the hands of the Water Company, or their Attorney, Mr. Donald Findley; and that he had requested that the officials of the Company execute it and return it to him.

Councilman Babcock stated, in reference to the matter of employing boys under eighteen years of age, that it was his understanding the child must have a permit from the school and also from the State Labor Commission before he would be allowed to work.

Engineer Jain said he had brought up this question, and that a permit had been obtained from the school.

Councilman Babcock brought up the matter of the Appeal filed by Mrs. Mildred P. Lancaster, relative to the decision of the City Planning Commission in regard to her application for a zoning variance; stating it was his understanding that a public hearing shall be held not less than fifteen days, or more than forty days from this date.

Councilman Powell moved that the public hearing be set for Wednesday, August 11, 1943, at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the City Hall. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be instructed to notify all parties concerned, of the time and place of this hearing, in accordance with the provisions of the Land Use Ordinance. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Claude R. Barton be employed on a temporary basis, as a Bus Driver, effective July 22, 1943, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, to replace Walter L. Blair. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Councilman Babcock moved that John J. Metcalfe be employed on a temporary basis, as a Bus Driver, effective July 23, 1943, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, to replace James F. Johnstone. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Paul Wheeler reported that the Torrance Youth Commission had organized on July 19th and will hold a meeting on the second Monday in each month, the next meeting will be held on August 2nd. He also stated that the Commission had voted unanimously to request the City Council to move the baseball bleachers to the Pueblo district as soon as possible, and advised that he had investigated the matter and learned that these seats were still owned by the Columbia Steel Company, which Company had consented to their use, with the provision that they be returned at the request of the Columbia Steel Company.

Councilman Powell instructed Dale Riley to see that these seats were taken out to the Pueblo district at once.

Mr. Grover Whyte stated he had a suggestion to make in regard to the City street lights; stating that in Long Beach a number of accidents had occurred on account of lack of illumination; that they

had requested the Army to make a check of their lights, and as a result Long Beach was now allowed considerably more illumination. Mr. Whyte said he believed the street lights in Torrance were dimmed out too much and suggested that the Army be requested to check them.

Chief Stroh stated that in the dim-out area along the ocean front in Long Beach the lights were dimmed out considerably more than here; and that the Southern California Edison Company had checked on the lights here, with the use of a light meter.

Engineer Jain stated that in a number of instances the cardboard which were used to dim-out the lights had alipped down, with the result that the amount of light had been cut down; and the reason why more of the lights had not been adjusted was that Mr. Butterfield has been doing this work all alone, and requested authority to get additional help.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired if Mr. Butterfield could not get some help from the other departments. Whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved that if, in his opinion it is necessary to employ additional help, the City Engineer be authorized to employ such help as is needed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: McGuire.

Rev. Wheeler stated that the Torrance Rotary Club had performed a very fine service in printing cards and handbills with reference to the Curfew Ordinance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Torrance Rotary Club, in appreciation of their donation of the placards and handbills with reference to the Torrance Curfew Ordinance.

Mr. Tom Watson, of 1346 - 226th Street, stated that he thought the Curfew law was a good thing and would help to keep the children at home, but said he had always allowed his two boys to go out twice a week; that the boys work and then go to a show, and by the time they get out it is ten or eleven o'clock. He said he spoke to the Police Chief about getting a permit for his boys for a couple of nights a week, but that on account of the fact that they live in the Shoe String Strip, Chief Stroh said it would be impossible for him to issue them a permit.

Councilman Cucci said this matter had been discussed, but they were under the opinion that the City of Torrance wouldn't issue a permit as long as the Torrance Curfew law was in conflict with the laws of the other communities.

The City Attorney stated that a permit issued by Torrance would only have effect as long as the minor was in this City.

Councilman Babcock requested the City Attorney to give a written opinion on this matter; as to whether the Chief of Police should issue permits to minors living outside the City of Torrance, to protect them while in this City.

Rev. Wheeler said the County of Los Angeles has an ordinance which provides that all boys under eighteen years of age must be at home by nine o'clock, and that if the City of Torrance issued them a permit we would be contributing to the delinquency of minors.

After some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock requested Chief Stroh to contact the Los Angeles authorities with the idea in mind that they might act on his recommendation in granting permits to minors.

Chief Stroh said he had another question to bring up, and that was concerning the employment of minors in the bowling alleys, which operate until one o'clock in the morning, and employ boys ranging in age from ten to sixteen years, to set pins, and that the majority of the boys live outside the City of Torrance. He said the State law provides that boys under sixteen years of age cannot be employed after ten o'clock at night.

Mr. Burgin, 2467 Sonoma Street spoke in defense of the owner of the bowling alley, stating that Mr. King has to employ young boys to set pins as he can't get older boys. He said we don't have any too much recreation here in Torrance, and if Mr. King cannot employ the young boys it will mean we will have to discontinue bowling.

Councilman Cucci said that it was a State law and there is nothing we can do about the matter.

Mr. Burgin said Mr. King would be willing to take the boys home after the bowling alley closed.

Councilman Babcock said they should try to get permission from the State authorities.

Chief Stroh said the police officers take oath to up-hold the State laws and we must refer the matter to the State to take action; stating that nothing had been done about it up to this time as he wanted to get the matter straightened out.

Councilman Babcock said Mr. King should be informed as to the State law, and that he should endeavor to get permission from the Child Labor Division, in the State Building in Los Angeles, to employ the younger boys.

Mr. Slonecker of Walteria, requested the Council to have the weeds removed along Lomita Blvd.

Councilman Babcock requested Engineer Jain to look into this.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 9:20 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned until Monday, August 2nd, at 5:00 P.M.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance