

Torrance, California
August 24, 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, August 24, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Gucci moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 10, 1943; and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 17, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California submitting a statement of 2% of the gross receipts, for the year ending June 30, 1943, arising from the use, operation and possession of the franchise granted by the County of Los Angeles, by Ordinance No. 1010 (N.S.) to said Company, describing certain streets now included in the City of Torrance. Gross receipts for the year totaled \$2360.75; and the 2% due the City amounted to \$47.21.

The communication was ordered filed as a matter of record.

A communication was read from Mayor Thomas C. Sheehan, of the City of Hermosa Beach, regarding the Los Angeles sewage disposal situation, which has caused the quarantine of local beaches, and inviting the Mayor, or other members of the City Council, to meet with representatives of other cities in the Santa Monica Bay Area with a view to correcting the present objectionable sewage disposal facilities.

Councilman Gucci moved that Mayor McGuire be authorized to represent the City of Torrance at such meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Michael E. Scanlon, 1805 Arlington Avenue, requesting the City to remove two diseased pepper trees in front of his property.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for action. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State, County & Municipal Workers of America, Local 360, protesting the action of the Council in providing a general pay increase of \$10.00 per month; and stating that a motion was passed by their Organization accepting the increase, with the statement that a more substantial increase should have been forthcoming, particularly with reference to the lower paid workers, as \$155.00 per month is not sufficient to support a family during these times.

The communication was ordered filed as a matter of record.

A communication was read from the Longren Aircraft Company, requesting the City to extend Elm Avenue south from Carson Street, a distance of approximately 200 ft. and construct a "turn-around"

area, in order to provide proper trucking facilities to the rear of their factory building at 2576 Carson Street.

Councilman Cucci moved that the letter be referred to the Council as a whole for further consideration. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Cora B. Bohrer, who has charge of the Recreation Center, requesting an increase in salary of \$25.00 per month.

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

A communication was read from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, enclosing plans of a Trailer Camp to be constructed by this Authority near the plant of the Aluminum Company of America, on the east side of Western Avenue; and requesting permission to construct a driveway from Western Avenue leading into the property.

After some discussion Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles to construct a driveway on Western Avenue, leading into their property adjoining the Bohn Aluminum Company, be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1601

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 Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1601 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1602

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING THE SIMPLIFIED
EXAMINATION PROCEDURE OUTLINED BY THE CIVIL
SERVICE BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1602 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented for second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 347

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIX-
ING THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1943.

At this point Mr. Plumert, of the General Petroleum Corporation, requested permission to address the Council in regard to the proposed Budget stating that he represented the "Industrial Committee",

which Committee had made an analysis of the proposed tax rate, copies of which he passed out to the Council. He then proceeded to make a plea for a reduction of nine cents from the proposed tax rate, which he contended could be done without resulting in a deficit.

Mr. Plumert then introduced Mr. Higson, of the California Tax-payers' Association, who made a further plea for a reduction in the proposed tax rate.

After some discussion of the proposed tax rate, Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 347 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci then moved that Ordinance No. 347 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.

Councilman Powell advised that Police Chief Stroh had requested information regarding the hiring of crossing guards during the coming school year, and, following some discussion, moved that Chief Stroh be authorized to employ four Crossing Guards for the school year, commencing in September, at the rate of seventy cents per hour. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief McMaster requesting permission to take his vacation from September 1st to 15th, inclusive; and recommending that Captain J. R. Winters be appointed Acting Chief during his absence.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief McMaster be permitted to take his vacation from September 1st to 15th inclusive, and that Captain J. R. Winters be appointed Acting Chief during his absence. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell stated he was in receipt of a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, requesting that Robert E. Moffitt be appointed as an Engineer, but that he wished to hold this matter in abeyance for further consideration.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be requested to draw up an ordinance covering the allocated funds for a new fire house, the amount to be left blank; and that the City Attorney present this ordinance at the next regular meeting of the Council. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Howard M. Lucas be employed on a temporary basis, as a laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective August 23, 1943. 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 J. W. Tucker be employed on a temporary basis, as a Teamster in the Street Department, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective August 20, 1943. 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 advised that the City Engineer has asked for authority to hire three additional men in the Street Department, preferably as machine operators; whereupon he moved that the City Engineer be granted authority to employ three additional men in the Street Department, preferably machine operators. 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 read a list of street projects proposed for the fiscal year 1943-44, as submitted by the City Engineer. This list covered twenty separate projects, with a total estimated cost for materials only, of \$24,670.00.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that he would like a little time to discuss this with the Council.

Engineer Jain advised that only a few months remained before the rainy season would begin; that several of these roads are on soil that can't be worked during rainy weather, and due to man-power shortage it will take considerable time to do this work.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that he would discuss the matter with the Council during the coming week, and suggested that an adjourned meeting be held on Monday, August 30, 1943, at 5:00 P.M. to consider the matter.

Councilman Babcock stated that the motion made at an Adjourned Regular meeting held August 17, 1943, granting the variance request of Mrs. Mildred P. Lancaster for permit to convert her ten-room residence at 1503 Post Avenue into a four-unit apartment house, took in four complete blocks, and as he had seconded this motion, he wished to amend same; whereupon Councilman Babcock moved that the motion made by Councilman Powell on August 17th be amended to read: "that the Council go on record as suggesting to the Planning Commission that those portions of B blocks 13, 14, 25 and 26, Torrance Tract, fronting on Post Avenue, be rezoned from Zone R-1 to Zone R-3." Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mrs. Hall, who was temporarily employed to assist Mrs. Bohrer, from June 10th to September 15th, be retained until October 1, 1943, in order to allow Mrs. Bohrer to take a vacation. 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 stated that the request of Mr. King, made at the meeting of August 10th, to keep his bowling alley open between the hours of midnight and 2:30 A.M., had been taken under consideration by the Council, and that his request had been denied.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. J. W. Smith, who had formerly been employed as a Teamster, be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, effective September 1, 1943, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, as he had been relieved of his duties as "Teamster" at his own request. 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.

Councilman Babcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. 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.

At 9:05 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Friday, August 27, 1943, at 5:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance

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