

Torrance, California  
April 12, 1944

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 Wednesday, April 12, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.; Tuesday, April 11, being a legal holiday due to the holding of City elections.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 28, 1944, and of an Adjourned Meeting held April 4, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Gertrude Hermes, 2603 Gates Avenue, Redondo Beach, making application for a license to operate a used lumber yard at 4350 Redondo Beach Boulevard, in the City of Torrance, and advising that they had received the approval of the City Engineer.

Due to the absence of the City Engineer this communication was laid aside, and again taken up for discussion upon Mr. Jain's arrival, at approximately 8:25 P.M.

Mr. Jain advised that the location mentioned (4350 Redondo Beach Blvd.) was at present in a C-1 Zone, which would permit the resale of used lumber, but stated that there was the danger of it developing into a junk business.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Gertrude Hermes be referred to the City Planning Commission for their study and report at the next regular meeting of the Council; and that the City Engineer be authorized to call a meeting of the Planning Commission, at which meeting the City Attorney and Gertrude Hermes be requested to be present. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Grace Oliver, 2614 Eldorado Street, complaining of the condition of Eldorado Street, between Fern and Hickory Avenues, and requesting that this street be repaired.

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

A communication was read from Mr. and Mrs. William Youkstetter, of Huntington Park, California, requesting further consideration of their Petition for Variance and Conditional Permit, covering Lots 7, 8 and 9, in Block 109, Torrance Tract, for permit of the conversion of the present factory building into a multiple-family apartment building, which Petition had been denied by the Torrance City Planning Commission.

Mayor McGuire explained that the petition of William Youkstetter had been denied by the Planning Commission due to the fact that the building was in very bad condition, making it necessary to practically rebuild it from the ground up; and that there had been considerable opposition from the factories located in that area, it being their contention that if this building was converted into an apartment house the tenants might complain of the noise and fumes from the factories and declare such industries to be a nuisance and force them to move out of that area.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Council concur in the decision of the City Planning Commission, in regard to the Petition for Variance submitted by Mr. William Youkstetter, and that the City Clerk notify Mr. and Mrs. Youkstetter of the decision of the Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. J. W. Alford, advising that he had arranged for a waiting room for taxis, at 1501 Cabrillo Avenue, and requested the cancellation of the taxi stand at Roberts' Liquor Store and the transfer of same to the new location at the above address.

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

Mayor McGuire advised that Mr. Walter Schlick, a former resident of Torrance, and now connected with the Income Tax Department, in Long Beach, had requested and obtained permission to come to Torrance on Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, to assist the citizens of Torrance with their income tax problems; and that Mr. Schlick would be in the City Hall all day Friday and Saturday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:30 P.M.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board recommending that the Park Superintendent, Fred Blake be permitted to work in lieu of taking one week of his vacation, during the week of March 27 to 31, inclusive, and that he be paid therefor in addition to his regular salary.

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of the Civil Ser-

vice Board be concurred in. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board recommending that Henry Dever be permitted to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that he be paid for the period from April 3 to 14, inclusive, in addition to his regular salary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be concurred in. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Following a short discussion regarding the necessity of submitting requests from City employees to work in lieu of taking a vacation, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the various department heads of the City, upon receiving the approval of the Civil Service Board, be given the authority to grant the requests of their employees to work in lieu of taking a vacation, without the necessity of submitting such requests to the City Council for action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from Mr. W. V. Schneider, addressed to Mr. Dale Riley, Director of Recreation, requesting permission, on behalf of the newly created Torrance Industrial Softball League, for the use of the Torrance Baseball Park and its facilities for League softball games; and advising that it is planned to play three nights a week during the months of May to September inclusive; and that all games will be free of charge to spectators.

A note was attached to this communication, from Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, advising that he had met with representatives of the various ball clubs, and recommending that the request of the Industrial Softball League be granted.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of the Industrial Softball League, comprised of five Torrance firms and the Torrance Army Hospital Base, be concurred in, and that Mr. Dale Riley be authorized to notify the League of the action of the Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci inquired of the City Electrician, Mr. Butterfield, regarding the cost of fixing up the lights at the Baseball Park for night ball games.

Mr. Butterfield replied that it would cost approximately \$50.00 to fix up the lights for softball games; but in order to provide lights for hard-ball games, which require considerably more illumination, it would cost approximately \$200.00.

Councilman Cucci moved that the sum of \$50.00 be appropriated for the purpose of replacing and repairing the lights at the Ball Park for use of night playing on the soft-ball diamonds. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, recommending that the amount of \$3185.90 be authorized to be paid to the Griffith Company to cover that portion of the Cabrillo Avenue contract which was completed prior to April 1, 1944, less the ten percent withheld as per the contract until the final estimate is submitted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$3185.90 be authorized, for payment to the Griffith Company, in accordance with the terms of the contract for the paving of Cabrillo Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from Mr. I. J. Hallanger. Accountant in

the City Clerk's office, calling attention to the fact that he had not received a raise in salary on July 1, 1943, at which time a general raise of \$10.00 per month had been given to City employees; and requesting that his salary be raised accordingly.

After a short discussion Councilman Cucci promised to look into the matter, and moved that the communication be referred to the City Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1652

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. 1652 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Clerk Bartlett requested that an appropriation of \$395.00, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of one Remington Rand printing Calculator, for the City Clerk's Office; advising that the present machine was worn out and practically worthless.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$395.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one Remington Rand Calculating Machine, as requested. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci stated that at the last meeting of the Council he had requested that an ordinance be drawn up repealing Ordinance No. 247, in regard to weed abatement.

After some discussion as to the necessity of repealing the present Ordinance, Attorney McCall presented and read:

ORDINANCE NO. 355

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING  
ORDINANCE NO. 247.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 355, repealing Ordinance No. 247, be adopted for first reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci advised that he had received a request, from Mr. T. E. Dean, 749 South Broadway, Redondo Beach, to permit the Cub Scouts of Redondo Beach to camp in the Ball Park on Saturday night, April 29, 1944; whereupon, Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Mr. Dean be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$53.80 be made, for the purchase of differential gears from the Jumbo Equipment Company, for Bus No. 101. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci requested Clerk Bartlett to notify Mr. T. E. Dean, Chairman of the Committee for the Cub Scouts of Redondo Beach that his request had been granted.

Attorney McCall reported on the matter of obtaining a right-of-way for the Crenshaw Boulevard cut-off, through the fifteen acres at the corner of 190th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard; stating that he had looked into the titles and found that all parties who own an interest in this property live in California, and therefore it would not take long to get service if it was the wish of the Council to start condemnation proceedings.

Councilman Hitchcock said he thought a condemnation suit would delay the proposed improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard too long, and moved that Mr. Benall be notified that the City Council feels that the price asked for this property is too high and that it was decided to take no action at this time to acquire same. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci suggested that the City go ahead with the condemnation suit, and acquire the right-of-way, even though it is not used for some time, as there is the possibility that buildings may be erected on this property which would materially increase the cost to the City at a later date.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain, who had just arrived in the Council Room, for his opinion in regard to this matter.

Engineer Jain stated that the City will eventually want to acquire this right-of-way, and was of the opinion that the City should proceed with the condemnation suit.

Mayor McGuire called for a vote on the motion before the house, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to expend the sum of \$22.50 for a search of the title to the fifteen acres at the corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and 190th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

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 and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Solomon, stated that he had talked with Mr. Koors regarding the possibility of getting bus service to his locality, but had not been given any definite assurance of such service, and therefore requested the Council to take some action.

Mr. Koors, at the request of Mayor McGuire, advised that the O.D.T. had approved the extension of the bus line, and assured Mr. Solomon that bus service would be available in approximately three or four months.

Mr. Koors also advised that the O.D.T. will not permit Torrance busses to run into the City of Long Beach, as they do not want to withdraw any labor from that area, as it was felt that Long Beach was more urgently in need of labor than Torrance.

He stated that the O.D.T. had approved the other lines, the only exception being that we will not be permitted to run the busses to the end of the Hawthorne car line; but only to the corner of Redondo Beach Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard.

He further advised that the O.D.T. has tentatively approved the order for six new busses, but that they desired to change the wording of the application somewhat, so that these busses will be requested for the replacement of certain of the present Torrance busses, although we will be given the privilege of keeping the old busses.

At 8:45 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned until Monday, April 17, 1944, at the hour of 7:45 P.M., for the purpose of canvassing the vote and announcing the results of the election held on April 11, 1944.

A. H. Baines  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

Tom J. McGuire  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE