

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California,
October 17, 1922.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, October 17, 1922, and was called to order by President Fitzhugh at 8:20 P.M. The following Trustees were present: Gilbert, Nash, Proctor Stone and Fitzhugh. Absent: None.

The regular order of business was dispensed with so that some special business might be done to accommodate the time of out-of-town parties.

City Engineer Jessup presented a written report as follows:
"The Hon. Pres. and Council
of the City of Torrance, Cal.

Gentlemen:

I beg to report that the work of paving Arlington Ave. from Carson Street southerly to the southern boundary line of the City, has been completed with the exception of oiling shoulders south of Long Beach Boulevard, and some general trimming up.

The total amount of paving constructed is 207,392 square feet. The cost of one-half of this pavement, or 103,696 square feet, is to be paid for from Street Improvement Fund.

The contract price is 19 cents per square foot. 103,696 sq. ft. @ 19 cents equals \$19,702.24. This amount is payable upon your order.

The work has been done under my direction and supervision and to my satisfaction and acceptance.

I would recommend that payment as above be made.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) J. J. Jessup

City Engineer and Supt of Sts!

Trustee Proctor moved that a warrant be issued for the amount of \$19,702.24 in payment of contract on Arlington Avenue under Bond proceedings. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Nash, Proctor, Stone and Fitzhugh.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Mr. Quirk, a bondsman of the L.A. Paving Co., addressed the Board concerning the work of preparing the bonds for the assessment portions of Arlington and Carson Streets, stating that the firm of Andicott & Larson were very efficient in this line and he could recommend them very highly; that in addition to computing the principal and interest on each lot or parcel, they would print the bonds and make out the whole assessment, after maps had been furnished, for 2% of the whole amount, also the necessary books.

Trustee Proctor moved that the City Engineer be allowed to procure whatever outside help necessary to perfect these bonds. Trustee Stone seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Nash, Stone, Proctor and Fitzhugh.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Mr. Werdin stated that the paving of Carson Street would be completed in three weeks.

At this point the regular order of business was resumed.

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 1922, were read and approved as read.

A letter from the Pacific Electric Co. signed by F.L. Annable, was read. The same acknowledged receipt of a communication from the Board relative to operation of trains over the crossing at Carson and Cabrillo, expressing thanks for having called their attention to the matter, and promising immediate investigation.

No action was taken on this letter.

The Communication from the Board of Supervisors of City and County of San Francisco asking that a resolution be passed showing unalterable opposition to the proposed Constitutional Amendments, to-wit: Propositions Nos. 10, 11 and 30, was tabled on motion by Trustee Gilbert, seconded by Trustee Proctor, and a majority vote.

A petition from residents of Portola Avenue concerning the playing of base ball in the street was referred to the Street, Sewer and Park committee for investigation. A majority vote being polled after the motion by Trustee Gilbert and seconded by Trustee Nash.

Schultz, Peckham & Schultz submitted data and price, by letter, for a Ford one-ton truck. The total price for extra equipment, etc. was \$857.77.

Trustee Nash moved that the matter be referred to the Street, Sewer and Park committee for further consideration. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Fire Chief Hannebrink stated that more fire plugs were needed in Vista Highlands, in the Mexican pueblo, on Amapola Street and one or two in the southern part of the City. The same was referred to the Chief and the City Engineer to bring in a report of what was needed at the next meeting.

The matter of the water connection with the big main on Carson Street was referred to the City Engineer with instructions to get in touch with the Torrance water, Light and Power Co. in the morning so as to get this connection made before Carson Street was paved. Trustee Proctor made the motion, seconded by Trustee Gilbert, which was carried by a majority vote.

Mr. G. A. R. Steiner addressed the Board concerning the acquisition of oil land by the City of Torrance, the idea being to make the City self-sustaining from oil royalties, and, as a consequence, making taxation unnecessary; that oil men, at the present time, were working along the line of owning the land in fee simple rather than leasing it, which would look as though the oil possibilities were more than probabilities; that a very few acres would be all that the City needed--room enough for two or three wells. He stated that the City of Long Beach had acquired oil land and that we had the same chance here with just as good an outlook. Concerning the Sewer farm, he thought the people were looking at it differently now than at the time the bonds were voted down for its acquisition and that now they would no doubt vote differently if given a chance. Mr. Steiner stated that there was still good oil locations to be had and at a very low price to the City, one location being at 213th and Normandy; that if the City was not financially able to acquire this land at the present time, some patriotic citizens would doubtless be ready to help out; that for his own part, he was willing to do all in his power financially or otherwise.

Trustee Gilbert moved that the Finance committee be requested to investigate what was being done by the City of Long Beach along these lines, and bring in recommendations. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The City Attorney was instructed to look up Mr. Carlson in re Sewer farm.

Trustee Stone stated that Mr. Jessup had drawn up some tentative plans for the jail and Fire house which might be looked over later in the evening; also that the matter of routing the stage line was referred to the Police Chief.

In regard to a patrolman for the Mexican village, Trustee Stone stated that another man had been recommended by Mr. Isenstein but it appeared that he was not an American citizen, and the younger man was the only one among the eligibles who was a citizen. The matter was again tabled for the present.

As to fire fighting apparatus, Trustee Stone stated that it would be some time before the Seagrave Co. could give a demonstration of their machine; that there would be other companies who could not give a demonstration and as all of the machines were guaranteed to give satisfaction according to their specifications, he thought it was unnecessary to have any more demonstrations, and that the whole matter might be laid over for two or three weeks. In this connection it was suggested that tentative bids be asked for from the different companies together with their allowance on the old apparatus, and that a verbal demonstration could be given by each representative as his bid was tendered.

Trustee Gilbert moved that when this meeting was adjourned, it should be adjourned until one week from tonight and that the Police, Fire & Light committee be requested to submit their specifications to the different Fire companies asking them to submit a sealed bid at that meeting and have their representatives present to explain their machines. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The Police Chief reported that the Stage line was willing to co-operate with the Board in any way possible in transferring their route to business streets. The same would have to be taken up before the Railroad commission. At the present time they would like to run as they are on account of detours. The Clerk was instructed to write the Railroad Commission in conjunction with the Stage line in order to show that the City was back of the Stage line in wanting a re-routing. Chief Anderson also reported that no prices had been received as yet on jail cells.

Trustee Nash reported the depleted condition of the General fund, and also that the option held by the City on lots 20, 21 and 22, block 15, would expire on the 22nd of October, and moved that a warrant be drawn for the amount of the purchase price less amount deposited for the option, or \$7800.00, in full payment of lots described above. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Nash, Proctor, Stone and Fitzhugh.
 NOES; Trustees: None.
 ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Trustee Proctor reported that the play grounds at the School house might be used after school hours and on Saturdays by furnishing wages for a caretaker; that one and one-half hours each day and four hours on Saturday, a total of 11½ hours at 85¢ per hour, would cost \$9.78 per week. After explaining the situation to the Board, Trustee Proctor moved that a letter be written to Mr. Barnett accepting this proposition. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Nash, Proctor, Stone and Fitzhugh.
 NOES; Trustees: None.
 ABSENT; Trustees: None.

Arlington Avenue having been paved anew, the question of weight limits for trucks was taken up and the Police Chief instructed to enforce the state law covering this matter. Trustee Gilbert making the motion; Trustee Proctor seconding same, and a majority vote:

The City Engineer reported that the fixing of Madronna Avenue north from the intersection of the Redondo road would be quite a costly piece of work especially through the wash near the north limits of the City; that it was just a question of drift sand and about all that could be done, without paving, was to fix it the same as the south end had been fixed where the present detour is on account of the laying off of Carson Street; that it would have to be oiled and rolled down several times and thus make it comparatively passable.

The Engineer stated that the motor power at the septic tank was inadequate; that the tank was running over at times; that a large pump should be installed and the present equipment kept as a standby, and that the sludge would have to be cleaned out again before long.

City Attorney Briney reported that action should be taken with regard to advising the County not to collect taxes on the streets, lettered lots, etc., in the City of Torrance.

Trustee Gilbert moved that the Attorney be authorized to send a description of the property as outlined to the County Authorities, requesting that no municipal taxes be collected on said property. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The matter of licensing outside Laundry wagons, etc. was referred to the Ordinance committee on motion by Trustee Proctor, seconded by Trustee Stone and a majority vote.

Farming of the Sewer farm was discussed pro and con, it being pointed out that feed for the City animals, and some besides, might be raised, also helping the sewage disposal problem. Irrigation of the whole area would not be feasible the first year, but a good deal of leveling could be accomplished and the ground put in very good shape eventually.

Trustee Proctor moved that the Street Foreman be instructed to commence operations along these lines. Trustee Stone seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Proctor, Stone and Fitzhugh.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustee Nash. (Nash was called out for a moment)

A change in the meeting hour of the Board was suggested as it was thought that the meeting might be called earlier during the winter months; that from October until April, the Board might very well meet at 7:00 P.M. instead of 8:00, thus giving a chance for a good five hours work for the evening, as was computed by Trustee Stone.

Trustee Proctor moved that the matter be referred to the Ordinance committee and the change made as suggested. Trustee Stone seconded the motion which was duly carried.

As to paving different sections of the City, such as 220th and Anapola, Gramercy, etc., President Fitzhugh suggested that the City Engineer make a tentative survey of the different streets needing such improvement as residents did not know just how to go about it to get such work done; that the approximate cost together with the 10 year contract under assessment proceedings be put into a letter form and broadcasted through the City so as to give each citizen a chance to educate himself along these lines, and be able to procure such improvements if desirous of so doing.

Mr. Gascoigne was instructed to make a survey of the trees of the City as they were again in distress on account of bugs, scale, etc. and to take proper measures to relieve them.

A proposal for electrical work was submitted by the Torrance Electric Shop for the light to be installed on Carson near the School house. The consideration was \$73.50 with the proviso that the City furnish part of the necessary material and labor.

Trustee Stone moved that the City Engineer be instructed to go ahead with the work of installing said light. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Gilbert, Nash, Proctor, Stone and Fitzhugh.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustees: None.

At 11:58 P.M. Trustee Stone moved that the meeting be adjourned until 12:01 A.M. Wednesday October 18, 1922. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Albert H. Bantlett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance.

Approved:

James M. Fitzhugh
President of the Board of Trustees
of the City of Torrance.