

Torrance, California  
April 25, 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 Tuesday, April 25, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 12, 1944; and of the Adjourned Meetings held April 17 and 18, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation submitting statements showing 2% of gross receipts in accordance with the requirements of Torrance Franchise Ord. No. 92, and Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1358, covering the period from January 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943; and enclosing check for \$164.02.

Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, calling attention to the existing hazard along Western Avenue, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest Homes project; and recommending that the City construct a walkway of decomposed granite so that pedestrians may not be obliged to walk in the Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Vernon Reden and M. W. Collins, 618-B South Elena Avenue, Redondo Beach, requesting that they be permitted to rent the Torrance Civic Auditorium every Saturday night, beginning April 22, 1944, for the purpose of conducting an Old Time Dance.

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

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Health Department, advising that Los Angeles County had been given an award in the National Health Honor Roll contest for 1943, conducted jointly by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Public Health Association; and attaching copy of a news release.

On motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the communication was ordered filed.

A communication was read from the National Safety Council, congratulating the City of Torrance for completing the year 1943 without a fatal motor vehicle traffic accident within the municipal limits; and enclosing an Honor Roll Certificate, with the suggestion that it be suitably framed and hung in a prominent place in the City Hall, following its formal presentation to the Mayor.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Chief Stroh of the Police Department be extended a vote of thanks from the City Council, and that the Chief be authorized to have the Certificate framed and placed in the City Hall.

Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the California Police Radio Association, advising that the Association will hold a joint business meeting with the Northern California Police Radio Association, at Fresno, on May 5 and 6, 1944, and urging that Torrance be represented at this meeting.

Councilman Powell suggested that Chief Stroh meet with the Council immediately following the Council meeting to discuss the advisability of his attending; and the Mayor so instructed the Chief.

A communication was read from F. E. Dine, Regio Engineering and Manufacturing, Santa Monica, California, submitting a bid to maintain the main Police Radio Station and the Mobile Radio Equipment of the Police and Fire Departments, at a cost of \$35.00 per month for the maintenance of the main station and two units, plus \$7.50 per month for each additional unit; such maintenance to include service calls, when necessary, frequency monitoring; but would not include the cost of parts and materials, or the installation of any new equipment.

After a short discussion the Mayor referred the communication to the Chief of Police for further consideration.

A communication was read from the Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, advising that the Gardena Municipal Bus Lines has requested that the City of Torrance enter into an agreement with them for a transfer system between their bus line, which crosses our route at Redondo Beach Boulevard and Figueroa Street.

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 Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting authority to revise the present bus schedules, due to the over-crowded conditions on some of the runs and lack of adequate schedules on Sundays.

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

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1654

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. 1654 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for second and final reading, and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 355

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

Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of the Ordinance be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 355 be adopted for second and final reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation be made of not to exceed \$225.00 to purchase a new motor for model 1941 Plymouth automobile, for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that George Strong, emergency engineer in the Fire Department, be given an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective April 8, 1944; stating that this increase was recommended by Fire Chief McMaster, who advises that Mr. Strong completed one year's service with the Fire Department on the above date. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Ernest Lopp, temporary engineer in the Fire Department, be given an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, from \$170.00 to \$180.00; advising that this increase was recommended by Fire Chief McMaster, as he did not want to lose this employee who has proven very satisfactory. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Nolan Robison, who has completed six months service with the Police Department, be paid the Patrolman's salary of \$195.00 per month, effective April 16, 1944; explaining that this increase was recommended by Police Chief Stroh. Council-

man Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci advised that the Boy Scouts, including the Cub Scouts, have to go to Redondo Beach, and sometimes to San Pedro, to receive instructions and they have no means of transportation, and inquired if there was anything to prevent the City from providing the Scouts with transportation, either by bus or in City trucks.

After some discussion of the matter, Councilman Cucci moved that the question of providing transportation for the Boy Scouts be referred to the City Attorney for report at the next meeting.

Councilman Hitchcock offered an amendment to the above motion, by adding that Councilmen Gilbert and Cucci be instructed to look into this matter, along with the City Attorney.

Councilman Cucci accepted the amendment to his motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to sell the team of horses, owned by the City, at the highest possible price obtainable. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$125.00 be made for the purchase of road materials for Abalone Avenue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$1931.33 be authorized, for the purchase of one new  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton Dodge truck, with ten ply tires and Eaton axle, at a price of \$1731.33, plus \$200.00 for a truck body. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$1598.50 be authorized, for the purchase of one new  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Ton Dodge truck, with eight ply tires, plus \$200.00 for a truck body. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$250.00 be made for the purchase of a two-gang hydraulic-lift disc for use on streets and parkways and lot cleaning. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to advertise for bids for the improvements of Crenshaw Avenue, between 190th Street and Redondo Beach Boulevard, at an estimated cost of \$28,000.00. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to apply to the War Production Board for authority to begin construction on Torrance Boulevard, under present plans and specifications, of concrete gutters and new curb returns, with surfacing of the entire eighty (80) foot street width with asphaltic concrete, at an estimated cost of \$42,000.00. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which

was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that the funds for these street improvements will be available from the gasoline tax fund.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Charles F. Koors be appointed as Bus Counselor to the City Council, at a salary of \$275.00 per month, on a temporary appointment.

Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Quite a lengthy discussion followed; it being the opinion of Councilman Gilbert that the matter should be discussed further with Mr. Koors and Mr. Ward before taking any action, as it was his belief that it was unnecessary to create a new position as Mr. Ward was fully capable of handling these matters. Councilman Hitchcock stated it was very necessary that something be done at this time or it would not be possible to obtain Mr. Koor's services. Councilman Powell agreed with Councilman Hitchcock, and explained that Mr. Koors had been employed to make a survey of an expanded bus system, as recommended by the Industrial Committee, which he had done to the complete satisfaction of all concerned, but there was considerable work yet to be done and he felt that Mr. Koors should be retained.

Mayor Tolson called for a vote on the motion before the house, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson: NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Gilbert. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that it had been reported by Engineer Jain that Arlington Avenue and Crenshaw Blvd. have both become practically impassible to passenger traffic and are beyond repair except for complete resurfacing; and that Chief Stroh advises that he can no longer justify sending the police equipment on regular runs over either street in their present condition.

Chief Stroh advised that the portion of Arlington Avenue referred to was in North Torrance, and that this street was in such bad condition that in his opinion it should not be open for traffic at all.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the matter be referred to the City Engineer for investigation.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Plomert, addressed the Council, stating that he is Chairman of the Torrance Industrial Tax Committee, and on behalf of this Committee he welcomed the new members of the Council, and assured them of the support and cooperation of his Committee. He stated that four members of the Committee were present, whom he introduced to the Council, as follows: Mr. Frank Coverse, Mr. Durkee, Mr. Bates and Mr. Hixon.

Mr. Charles Elman, of Los Angeles, addressed the Council briefly.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:35 P.M., on motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED: .

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE