

Torrance, California  
September 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 Tuesday, September 12, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Cucci, 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 August 22, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. L. Floyd Windbigler thanking the Mayor, Park Commissioner and the City of Torrance for the courtesy shown, and the cooperation given the Townsendites at the Municipal Park on Sunday, September 3rd. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Agreement, between the City of Torrance and Carl E. Marsteller, for the maintenance and operation of a bus depot, ticket office and waiting room for the passengers of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines at 1014 South Hill Street, in the City of Los Angeles.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor be authorized to enter into the Agreement with Carl E. Marsteller as of September 1, 1944. 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.

A communication was read from the Army Service Forces, 1008th Engineer Refinery Battalion, thanking the citizens of Torrance for the kind consideration and courtesies shown to the officers and enlisted men of that organization. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mrs. Frank Church and Mrs. John Kirsch, Co-Directors of the Girl Scout Day Camp, thanking the City of Torrance for the use of Torrance for the use of the City Park for their Girl Scout Day Camp. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Carleton B. Bell, 2233 Cabrillo Avenue, requesting the removal of a dead tree from in front of the property at the above address.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be turned over to the Park Department for action, inasmuch as the Park Department was taking over the management and supervision of street trees.

Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Clifford F. Reid, Real Estate Broker, 124 Via Monte D'Oro, Hollywood Riviera, petitioning the City Council to vacate that certain alley, lying southerly of Redondo-Wilmington Road, northerly of Vista Del Mar and easterly of Elena Avenue, as shown on map attached to his letter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be turned over to the City Engineer for report at the next meeting of the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State Highway Department, in reply to a letter from Engineer Jain requesting that traffic signals be installed at the intersection of Redondo-Wilmington Blvd. and Hawthorne Avenue, advising that on completion of the necessary investigation a report with their recommendation will be forwarded to the Sacramento office. The City will be informed as to what disposition is recommended. Matter of record.

At 8:00 O'clock P.M., Clerk Bartlett announced the opening of bids for furnishing and delivering to the City of Torrance, one 8 to 12 ton variable weight tandem road roller; and proceeded to open bids, as follows:

- (1) Bid from Brown-Bevis Equipment Company, 4900 Santa Fe Ave., Los Angeles, to furnish: 1 - 8 to 12 ton variable weight tandem road roller, manufactured by Galion Iron Works, Galion, Ohio, as per catalog attached, giving full specifications.  
 Price, delivered to City of Torrance Yard \$ 4750.00  
 Sales tax, 2½% extra . . . . . 118.75  
\$ 4868.75  
 Less 2% disc. on \$4750.00 for cash if paid within 20 days after delivery to and acceptance by the City . . . . . \$ 95.00  
\$ 4773.75

- (2) Bid from Crook Company, 2900 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, to furnish: 1 - only, Model KT-24 8-12 ton Buffalo-Springfield roller, per detailed specifications enclosed, f.o.b. City of Torrance.  
 Price, delivered . . . . . \$ 4480.00  
 State sales tax additional  
 Cash discount - 2%, 30 days.

- (3) Bid from Smith Booth Usher Company, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, to furnish: 1 - New Austin-Western 8 to 10½ ton tandem roller, gasoline engine driven, as per specifications attached.  
 Price, f.o.b. City Yard, Torrance . . . . \$ 4661.00  
 Sales Tax additional (State)  
 Terms: Net 30 days, or extended terms may be arranged.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that these bids be referred to Clerk Bartlett, Ralph Perkins, Acting Street Superintendent, and Herman Pickett, Chief Mechanic, for study and issuance of Purchase Order, subject to the approval of the Council, so Application (Form 1319) can be transmitted to the War Production Board at once, for authority to make the purchase.

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.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$22,000.00 for the improvement of Torrance Boulevard. Matter of record.

A bill was presented from the Pacific Electric Railway Company for additional costs incurred by said Company in relocating tracks at Border Avenue and Plaza del Amo, in the sum of \$51.77, which bill had been approved by the City Engineer.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this bill be paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Road Department, submitting five copies of a Contract with the County Road Department for the painting of traffic stripes on certain streets within the City of Torrance. Also a communication from Engineer Jain approving the Contract.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Contract with the County of Los Angeles Road Department for the painting of traffic stripes.

Councilman Cucci 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.

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company, advising that approval had been received from the War Production Board for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system, for fire protection; and requesting permission to install approximately 400 ft. of 8" water main on City property, along Border Avenue, about four feet from the easterly boundary line of said Street.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Doak Aircraft Company be granted, with the understanding that should it become necessary to move this line at any time in the future, the Doak Aircraft Company will stand the expense thereof; and that the City Clerk be authorized to notify them to that effect.

Councilman Cucci 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.

A communication was read from Mrs. Dorothy Cantrell, owner of Aliso Angora Farms, 20360 Hawthorne Avenue, requesting permission to erect a permanent building on her property for retail sales in connection with her commercial rabbitry; and advising that she had been informed that inasmuch as that area was zoned as agricultural her request could not be granted.

After some discussion, Councilman Powell moved that Clerk Bartlett be authorized to send Mrs. Cantrell a copy of Land Use Ordinance No. 316, and inform her of the proper procedure to take. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. V. D. Hancock, advising that she owns a Service Station at 24060 Hawthorne Avenue; and requesting permission to move a house trailer on the property for the duration.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the Council for a decision, which will be given as soon as possible. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Lucille Lee, Area Chairman for the Torrance Girl Scouts; requesting that the building belonging to the City, located in the City Park at Plaza del Amo and Carson Street, be put in good repair so it may be used by the six Girl Scout Troops, and the Navy Mothers, who are also using it.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be turned over to the Superintendent of Recreation and the City Engineer for action. 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented eight Petitions, bearing the signatures of approximately 200 persons, requesting the City Council to immediately start proceedings for the installation of a sanitary sewer system to serve the district in which they live.

Mayor Tolson advised that he and Councilman Gilbert went down to South Torrance last Wednesday and looked over the district in question; that he talked with the City Attorney about it, and was advised there are two procedures which might be followed: (1) the Council could call for a special election of their own initiative, to determine whether it was desired by the necessary three-fourths majority; or (2) - the residents within the district could secure the signatures of 51% of the property owners within the district to request such an election.

Councilman Cucci inquired if it was necessary to call an election when a majority of the property owners had already signified that they were in favor of it.

The City Attorney stated that a survey must be made to determine the assessed valuation of the property within the district to be served by the proposed sewer system, and an estimate made of the cost, and a distribution of the costs over the district; that there is no way to do this except through an election, and that it takes a three-fourths majority of the votes cast at such election to carry it.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the Associated Assessment Engineers be employed to do this preliminary work, inasmuch as it is in their line of work.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the Associated Assessment Engineers were down and went over the district and they advised that before they could give an estimate of any kind the City Engineer must define the boundaries of the district, and when this has been determined, they could tell us what the cost would be.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to define the boundaries of the district to be served by the proposed sewer system in South Torrance, as well as the boundaries of the proposed sewer system on 203rd Street.

Councilman Powell stated that inasmuch as it will cost in the neighborhood of four or five thousand dollars to make the survey and call a special election, he thought the best policy would be for the people in South Torrance, or the City, to ascertain if 75% of the property owners were favorable to creating an assessment district before spending the money for the election.

In reply to an inquiry from the Mayor, Attorney McCall advised that it would require three-fourths of the votes cast at the election and not three-fourths of the property owners, to carry the election.

Mayor Tolson suggested that the Associated Assessment Engineers be authorized to prepare the estimate, and in the meantime the City Clerk check the names on the petitions to determine how many are qualified voters.

Councilman Gilbert offered an amendment to Councilman Hitchcock's motion, by adding that the City Clerk be authorized to check the names of the petitions to determine how many were qualified voters. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented, for first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 359

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE  
NO. 346 AND PARTICULARLY SECTIONS 1 AND  
2 THEREOF.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Ordinance No. 359 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Cucci 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 and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1685

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING BUDGET AND  
APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR  
EXPENDITURE OF 1/4 CENT GAS TAX ALLO-  
CATED FOR STREETS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1685 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.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, submitting plans and specifications for the improvement of Torrance, Boulevard,

between Sartori Avenue and Madrid Avenue, and requesting that a resolution be passed approving these plans and specifications.

Clerk Bartlett then presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1686

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING PLANS  
AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPROVE-  
MENT OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1686 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 and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1687

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING BIDS  
FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1687 be adopted. Councilman Cucci objected, stating that he didn't think these lots had been put up for auction.

Clerk Bartlett replied that these properties had been put up for sale at public auction.

Councilman Cucci contended that it wasn't possible to sell any tax delinquent property at public auction, as according to the relief act for soldiers and sailors, it is not possible to sell a piece of tax delinquent land at public auction until June, 1945 or 1946.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that if Councilman Cucci was sure it is not according to law to sell these properties he would withdraw his motion.

Councilman Cucci said it may be according to law, but it is not according to the soldiers and sailors relief act.

"Then my motion still stands" said Councilman Hitchcock.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the ownership of these lots had been investigated, and it was ascertained that it was not the property of a serviceman.

Councilman Gilbert inquired who makes the investigations as to whether or not the property belongs to an individual in the service.

Clerk Bartlett said Mr. Packard, of the Associated Assessment Engineers makes the investigations.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Clerk Bartlett if any property belonging to a serviceman had been sold.

Clerk Bartlett replied that no such property had been sold.

Councilman Gilbert stated that since there has been no second to the motion of Councilman Hitchcock, he would like to request that the matter be referred back to the Council for further study.

Attorney McCall advised that the law requires, that before any property can be offered for sale for delinquent taxes, an affidavit must be made stating that it does not affect any serviceman's property.

Councilman Cucci said he was not willing to take any chances.

Mr. Plumert, addressed the Council from the audience, stating that no property belonging to a serviceman can be sold; that there are Federal and State laws to protect the serviceman; and in the event such property was sold it would not be legal, and the serviceman, upon his return, could claim and redeem the property. He stated, however, that it was incumbent upon the City Council to see to it that tax delinquent lands are restored to the tax rolls as soon as possible; that it is a duty the Councilmen owe to the taxpayers, and it is a very important factor to see that every piece of property is paying its share of taxes to the community.

Mr. Plumert further stated that any applicant who makes a request that any piece of property be put up for sale at public auction has to subscribe to an affidavit that to the best of his knowledge or belief it does not belong to any serviceman, or his dependents.

Council Cucci stated that he did not feel justified in taking any action on that ground.

Councilman Gilbert stated that he would like to do a little more checking on this particular property, and suggested that the Council withhold any action.

This was agreed to and no action was taken on Councilman Hitchcock's motion.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1688

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD SAID DEED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1688 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 and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1689

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ACCOUNTING TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR SALES MADE PURSUANT TO AN EXISTING OPTION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SAID CITY AND SAID COUNTY.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1689 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 advised, as a matter of record, that the City had received a warrant in the amount of \$139.06; being reimbursement, under agreement between the City of Torrance and the State Director of Finance, for Civilian Defense Aid.

Clerk Bartlett presented "Decision No. 37314" "Before the Railroad Commission of the State of California" in the matter of the Application of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, a corporation, for authority to construct, maintain and operate a track across Oak Avenue in the City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

The Application of the Railroad Company was approved, and permission granted by the Railroad Commission to construct spur track at grade across Oak Avenue. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented Statement of 2% of the gross receipts of Union Oil Company of California, for the year ending June 30, 1944, 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 Union Oil Company of California, describing certain streets now included in the City of Torrance; amounting to \$54.77.

Also, Statement of 2% of the gross receipts of Union Oil Company of California, for the year ending June 30, 1944, arising from the use, operation and possession of the franchise granted by the County of

Los Angeles, by Ordinance No. 1501 (N.S.) to Pan American Petroleum Company and assigned to said Union Oil Company of California, insofar as it relates to certain streets now included in the City of Torrance, amounting to \$7.65. Matter of record.

Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police, John Stroh, be authorized to attend the three-day conference of the Peace Officers' Association of the State of California, to be held at Fresno, on October 9, 10 and 11, 1944, with expenses paid. 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 advised that Fire Chief McMaster recommended that Robert Moffitt, who has served 18 months on the Fire Department be given an increase in salary of \$5.00 per month, effective August 16, 1944, bringing his salary up to \$195.00 per month; and moved that this recommendation be granted.

Councilman Cucci 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 stated that at a conference recently held by the Councilmen and the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments, it was agreed that the Captains of these two Departments should receive a higher salary; whereupon Councilman Powell moved that the salaries of the two Captains in the Police Department and of the two Captains in the Fire Department, be increased \$10.00 per month in addition to the increases granted at the last Council meeting; these increases to be effective as of July 1, 1944.

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.

Councilman Cucci advised that at the last meeting of the Council a request was received from Homer Wood to rent the Municipal Auditorium every Saturday night; that he has consulted with Mr. Wood, and that he is agreeable to the use of the Auditorium on the first Saturday night of each month; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that Homer Wood be permitted to rent the Auditorium on the first Saturday night of each month. 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.

Councilman Cucci stated that "Job's Daughters" have requested the use of the Auditorium on the night of September 22nd, at the same price which they formerly paid to the Womens' Club, which auditorium is not available to them at the present time; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Job's Daughters be granted. 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.

Councilman Cucci stated that he had been informed, by reliable sources, that the gambling interests in Torrance are planning to operate in spite of Council action; that they are trying to intimidate some of the Councilmen by threats of recall action. He stated he had previously expressed his opinion in regard to this matter, but to reassure everyone beyond a doubt as to his sentiments in regard to gambling, Councilman Cucci moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 360, which prohibits the playing of certain games and amusements, and specifically "Draw Poker"; whereupon he requested the reading of this Ordinance.

Clerk Bartlett presented, and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 360

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, PRO-  
HIBITING CERTAIN GAMES OR AMUSEMENTS.

Councilman Gilbert seconded Councilman Cucci's motion, that Ordinance No. 360 be adopted for first reading, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock stated there were State laws covering these matters; that this was the first time this ordinance had come to his attention; and he didn't think it was necessary for the City of Torrance to enact ordinances to cover matters already governed by State Laws.

Councilman Cucci said he agreed with Councilman Hitchcock; that practically every game known is covered by the Penal Code, but incidentally draw poker is not, and this ordinance specifically prohibits draw poker.

Council Cucci stated there had been considerable discussion throughout the City concerning the management of the Bus Department; and also as to whether the City Council can employ anyone without the application of Civil Service rules. He stated this must be confusing to the Civil Service Board as well as to our other City Employees who are under Civil Service.

"However", said Councilman Cucci, "the fact remains that according to municipal law the Council has the right and power to hire expert professional service for any project that they deem necessary. The fact that the Legislative Act does not stipulate any time element doesn't mean that the Council can hire such services indefinitely."

"I have reference to Mr. Koors" said Councilman Cucci. "Mr. Koors has been employed by the City for the past seven months, as Transportation Engineer. Within this period he has received \$1910.63 of the taxpayers' money. He promised to increase the efficiency of the Bus Department, and assured us delivery of the new busses by now, which was the primary reason for his contract. This he has failed to do. I feel there is a division of authority and as a consequence a lessening of efficiency and harmony."

Councilman Cucci thereupon moved that the contract with Mr. Koors for professional services be terminated one month from this date, which he stated was in accordance with the terms of said contract. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, stating that he was acting in the interests of the majority of the people concerned.

Councilman Powell said he wished to state his stand on this matter before the motion is put to a vote.

"I have tried to cooperate on all measures that I felt was for the best interest of the community," said Councilman Powell, "and perhaps I have made some mistakes. But I feel at this time, and I felt at the time Mr. Koors was hired (and the members of the Council were well aware of my feelings) that we were making a mistake, as this little bus system we have does not justify two heads. It doesn't stand for good business, and I think it is a responsibility we owe to the people of this community. Conditions haven't been satisfactory to us and I think it is our duty as representatives of the City to see to it at once that conditions are straightened out in that Department and that it functions for the benefit of the community. I am in sympathy with the motion as made tonight as I cannot see any sense in going on as we are, under the present set-up."

Mayor Tolson stated that apparently the situation has changed, and that he can now see that Councilman Powell was right, although he did not think that the action being taken at this time was the proper move to make. He stated that the Bus Department has made more profit during the time Mr. Koors was employed than it ever made before, but as for getting the new busses, they are being built and will be delivered shortly, and the delay in getting delivery is no fault of Mr. Koors' as that is up to the War Production Board and the Office of Defense Transportation. He said he knew there hadn't been harmony in the Bus Department but didn't think it was on account

of Mr. Koors; that it was hard to work over a department that has been operating for four or five years; and thought the rest of the Councilmen would agree that it was inefficient. He further stated that at the time Mr. Koors came to Torrance there was a lot of talk and criticism of the Bus Department, and that the Council at that time wouldn't do anything about it; and that if it is thrown right back in the same category now, it was questionable whether anything will ever be done about it.

A vote was then taken on Councilman Cucci's motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert stated that through fairness to Mr. Koors, he did not think he should be obliged to remain on the job during the next thirty days, but that he be paid in full as of tomorrow, September 13th, and all records, plans, etc. be turned over to Mr. Ward or to the City Council at that time; and offered this as a motion. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci stated that Mr. Stanger, Superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Water District, had promised a cut in water rates at the last meeting; that he had received a resolution proposing the new rates, but there must be some misunderstanding as it would appear to be an increase rather than a decrease; and stating that he would like to see Mr. Stanger before going further into the water rates.

Councilman Gilbert suggested that the Council meet with Mr. Stanger and discuss the resolution, and after consulting with the other members of the Council regarding the time, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council meet with Mr. Stanger on Tuesday, September 19th, at 7:00 P.M., if this time is agreeable with him. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Harry Logan be employed in the Engineering Department as Engineer-Assistant, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$250.00 per month, effective September 8, 1944. 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.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to advertise for bids for the improvement of Torrance Boulevard, from Border Avenue to Madrid Avenue. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to enter into negotiations for the purchase of a five acre tract of land in WALTERIA for park and recreation purposes, said property being located at the northeast corner of Ocean Avenue and 242nd Street, for a sum not to exceed \$6500.00. 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 Gilbert moved that the maintenance and care of street trees, planted in City parkways, be transferred from the supervision of the Street Department to the Park Department; and that the Park Superintendent be authorized to employ two additional men for this purpose. 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.

Mayor Tolson stated that the City Planning Commission has been short three members for some time and that Engineer Jain had submitted the names of three men with the recommendation that they be appointed

on this Commission. Whereupon, Mayor Tolson moved that Mr. Grant Barkdull, Mr. J. Hugh Sherfey and Mr. Otto Willett be appointed on the City Planning Commission, and the City Engineer authorized to designate their term of office. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that the following persons be employed as Bus Drivers, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month:

Ral Triplett	Effective August 25, 1944
Wilson A. Friend	" September 1, 1944
Milo Gilbert	" " 8, 1944
Harold Dinsmore	" " 9, 1944
Don Baugh	" " 12, 1944

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.

Councilman Gilbert advised that the Boy Scouts have been carrying on a paper drive, and the City has cooperated by furnishing a truck to haul the paper; stating that the Boy Scouts would soon have more papers to haul and asked if it would be agreeable for the City truck to continue this service.

Mayor Tolson replied that the City would be glad to continue to cooperate with the Boy Scouts in the hauling of their papers.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. James O'Toole, 1225 Madrid Avenue, addressed the Council at considerable length in regard to Ordinance No. 360, prohibiting the playing of draw poker, within the City of Torrance, and made a strong plea in favor of draw poker, claiming that this game was not gambling but a game of skill; that it had been declared legal by two Attorney Generals and the Governor of California.

Mr. O'Toole declared that the Veterans of Foreign Wars had already spent a lot of money in fixing up their new club rooms in North Torrance and had formed a corporation to operate as a Country Club, for which they had taken out a City License; that he had personally put in a great deal of time and money in fixing up their building; that he felt Ordinance No. 360 was aimed directly at the Veterans of Foreign Wars and that it would put them out of business.

Mr. O'Toole further stated that the profits to be derived from the operation of their Club were to go entirely to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and the only way for them to get help is through the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Disabled American Veterans.

Councilman Cucci advised Mr. O'Toole that Ordinance No. 360 was not directed against the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but applies to any person who indulges in the game of cards, for which a fee or compensation is charged; and that the Veterans of Foreign Wars should not have to rely on money raised in this manner.

Councilman Gilbert stated that he did not believe this Ordinance was being passed for the purpose of hurting the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but that he personally did not think a five-man Council has the right to make a decision on a matter of this type, which affects some twelve or fourteen thousand people; that as far as he is concerned, he is not opposed to gambling, but he did know a large number of people in Torrance are opposed to gambling; and advised Mr. O'Toole that if they can sway the majority of people at the next election to vote in favor of it, he would be agreeable.

Mr. O'Toole further stated that the purpose of operating this Country Club was to raise money for the Veterans of Foreign Wars; that they acquired this building which is located about five miles from the center of Torrance, and that it has personally cost him over \$300.00.

Councilman Powell asked Mr. O'Toole who the trustees are and who has the authority to decide where the revenue goes.

Mr. O'Toole replied that they had incorporated, at an expense of approximately \$250.00, and that the trustees are Mr. Lee Baalam, Mr. Judge and himself; that the revenue goes into the Chapter's bank account, and the only way it can be expended is by a vote of the members on the floor.

Mr. Joel Hagberg, of WALTERIA, addressed the Council briefly, commending them on their stand in regard to gambling; and also spoke in behalf of Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Department, stating that if he received a little more cooperation there would have been more harmony in the Bus Department.

Mr. George Thatcher, of WALTERIA, addressed the Council, stating there are about forty students in WALTERIA who attend the Narbonne High School; that there is only one school bus to carry the students to the High School, with a capacity of 72 passengers; that apparently 52 students are picked up at Rolling Hills, leaving room for only twenty to be carried from WALTERIA; so it was decided that the girls should ride the School Bus and the boys take the Torrance Municipal Bus, which lets the boys off at Narbonne Avenue and Highway 101, and they have to walk the rest of the way, which is not very satisfactory especially during rainy weather; and requested the Council to take the matter up with the Los Angeles Board of Education in an endeavor to secure additional transportation. He also stated that at the close of school the boys have quite a long wait for the Torrance Bus to take them back to WALTERIA and wondered if this service could be improved.

A discussion followed, and in reply to an inquiry, Mr. Ward stated that the whole system is ready for a complete change in schedule and that it may be possible to remedy this situation.

Mr. Corter, of WALTERIA, made a plea for better transportation for the High School students going to Narbonne High, and said that unless some means of transportation was furnished it would be necessary for him to keep his daughters home from school.

Mr. Corter was assured that everything possible would be done to provide adequate transportation.

Mr. J. M. Wright, 1024 Arlington Avenue, called attention to restrictions contained in the original deeds covering property within the Torrance Tract, prohibiting the sale of liquor; stating that these restrictions were permanent and could not be repealed.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the City Attorney look into these restrictions and see where we stand.

Councilman Powell moved that Councilman Hitchcock be appointed a committee of one to look into it and report to the City Council. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. James O'Toole inquired if it was legal to place City employees on the Planning Commission, which is supposed to be for the welfare of the people.

Mayor Tolson asked Mr. O'Toole if he had any objections to City employees being on the Planning Commission, to which Mr. O'Toole replied that he did object; stating that it is the policy of all cities to pick citizens who were not employees of the City to serve on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Charles F. Koors urged the Council to give their full support to the Manager of the Bus Department; stating that the Torrance Bus System has definite possibilities, and recommended that the Department, from the Manager on down, be given the whole-hearted support of the Council. If this was done, he believed conditions in that Department would be much better in the future than in the past. He said he knew that some of the difficulties that have confronted Mr. Ward in the past have definitely been a lack of interest, or lack of knowledge, of past Councils; and he recommended that Mr. Ward be listened to very carefully and his recommendations taken very seriously; and further stated that he enjoyed working in Torrance, and thanked the Council for courtesies extended him while he was here.

Mr. Charles Elman, of Los Angeles, addressed the Council briefly, in favor of permitting the playing of draw poker in the City of Torrance.

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

At 10:25 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned to September 19, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

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

APPROVED:

H. H. Tolson  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE