

Torrance, California  
October 10, 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, October 10, 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 an Adjourned Regular Meeting held September 25, 1944; of a Regular Meeting held September 26, 1944; and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 3, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Peace Officers Civil Service Association of California, advising that Chief of Police, John Stroh, had been elected State Grand President. Matter of record.

A request was submitted, from the WALTERIA Boy Scouts, for the use of the Library lots on October 15, for a pet show.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Messrs. D. E. Chase and Geo. M. Gray, requesting permission to establish a used car sales lot on the property thirty feet directly north of the Plymouth Agency, on Cabrillo Avenue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be granted, subject to the terms of Ordinance No. 297. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Parent-Teacher Association of the Torrance High School, urging the City Council to employ a trained recreational director to take charge of the recreational facilities in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Gilbert stated that there has been considerable discussion on that subject and said he would like to delay any action until such time as the Council and the Superintendent of Recreation had an opportunity to meet with the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Recreation Commission for their recommendation; and that a meeting be arranged between the Council, the Recreation Commission and the Superintendent of Recreation, at a date to be set later. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised he had a similar communication from the Parent-Teacher Association of the Torrance Elementary Schools. Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be referred to the Recreation Commission. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, commending the City Council on their recent action in acquiring the five acre tract in WALTERIA for recreational purposes. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the State Compensation Insurance Fund, advising that on October 2, 1944 a survey was made of the various operations of the City, with a view of reducing accidents, and making eight recommendations for certain improvements, to prevent possible injury to employees.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer, with the request that the recommendations contained therein reach the heads of the various departments, to correct the conditions referred to; and a report made to the City Clerk on the work done. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Bert S. Crossland Post #170, American Legion, Department of California, requesting that facilities be set up in the City Hall at least once a week, under the direction of Jack Hallanger, where Veterans of World War II could come, between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 P.M., and secure assistance in preparing their applications for the various benefits due them for War-time Services. City Clerk Bartlett offered the use of his outer office for this purpose.

After a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that this request be granted, and that space be made in the City Clerk's outer office for this purpose. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Doak Aircraft Company, advising that it will be necessary for them to install approximately 290 feet of 8-inch water main on the Abalone Avenue side of their plant, in connection with the installation of a sprinkler system; that this main would run parallel with the front face of their buildings and would be located on City property between the sidewalk and the property line; and requesting permission to install this water line, subject to the same conditions, by which said Company was granted permission, on September 14, 1944, to install approximately 400 ft. of 8-inch water main on City property along Border Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Doak Aircraft Company be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the J. C. Penney Company, requesting permission to extend their present store building, at 1259-61 Sartori Avenue, back to their rear property line on the alley, in line with other buildings in the same block.

Councilman Powell advised Mr. Hillman R. Lee, Manager of the J. C. Penney Company, who was present in the audience, that the proper procedure would be to file a petition for a zoning variance with the City Planning Commission, and that the necessary application forms could be secured from the City Engineer's office.

A communication was read from the Retail Merchants Division, suggesting that some type of memorial be erected in the City of Torrance as a monument to the veterans who lost their lives in World Wars I and II, and outlining plans for such a monument.

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

A communication was read from the City Engineer, recommending that the small amount of firewood at the City Yard be disposed of at a price of \$20.00 per cord.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to dispose of the remaining firewood at the recommended price of \$20.00 per cord. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, advising that Mr. Lester D. Winland, on May 8, 1944, had filed a Petition for a zoning variance and paid the required fee of \$15.00; that this Petition was returned to the applicant for further information and was never refiled; and therefore recommended that the \$15.00 fee be refunded to Mr. Winland.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of the City Engineer be concurred in by the Council, and the City Clerk authorized to refund the \$15.00 fee to Mr. Lester D. Winland, 18653 South Western Avenue, Gardena, California. 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 Mr. W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising that he had obtained estimates on the cost of making an appraisal of the Quandt Water Company, from two engineering firms, which were submitted therewith.

Joseph E. Bonadiman, Civil Engineer, Halliburton Building, Los Angeles, offered to make a complete appraisal of the Quandt Water System for the sum of \$1000.00.

The Engineering firm of Taylor and Taylor, 725 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, offered to make a complete appraisal of the waterworks owned and operated by Charles H. Quandt for the sum of \$600.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that these communications be turned over to the City Council for further study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting that the Southern California Telephone Company be authorized to pay to Carl E. Marsteller the 15% commission for collections from the public telephone station on the premises at 1014 South Hill Street, as per the terms of his contract; and that the receipts for September, amounting to \$6.80 and already paid to the City, be repaid to Mr. Marsteller.

Mayor Tolson moved that Mr. Ward's request 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.

A communication was read from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising that he was perfectly willing that the charge made against his Department for accounting services performed by Mr. Hallanger be increased from \$25.00 per month to \$50.00 per month.

Also, a communication was read from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, stating that he was satisfied that \$50.00 per month, for services rendered by Mr. Hallanger in keeping the books of the Bus Department, is a just and fair amount.

Councilman Cucci moved that the sum of \$50.00 per month be charged to the Water Department and the Bus Department for accounting services rendered by the City Clerk's office, effective 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.

A communication was read from the Columbia Steel Company, advising that complaints had been received from several of their employees regarding the accumulation of sand on the sidewalk opposite their Plant on Border Avenue, and also the accumulation of sand on the alley which runs parallel to Border Avenue on the west.

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

Clerk Bartlett presented a Petition, bearing the signatures of eighteen property owners, requesting that repairs be made to the alley between Andreo Avenue and Gramercy Avenue, from Carson Street to 218th Street, by lowering the grade so that the surface water will not drain into their homes.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this petition be referred to the City Engineer with a request that a report be submitted to the Council as soon as possible. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Health Department, advising that a number of complaints had been received from residents of the City of Torrance concerning rat infestation, and outlining the procedure necessary to obtain the services of the County Health Department to exterminate the rodents.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a meeting be arranged between the Council and Messrs. Bumiller and Walters of the Bureau of Sanitation in regard to this matter. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1692

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED TO SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF LOT 15, MEADOW PARK TRACT AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1692 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. 1693

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 Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1693 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1694

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. 1694 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the expenditure of \$1108.00, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of fire hose for the Fire 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 a fire hydrant be installed at the southwest corner of Plaza del Amo and Abalone Avenue for fire protection in that location; and that the Water Department be authorized to make the installation. 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 Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$1244.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of a 1942 Model Studebaker Champion Coupe for use by the City Electrician for electrical and plumbing inspections and general electrical maintenance. 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 moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$240.00 be made for the purchase of electrical material for use by the Electrical 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 Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$237.80 be made for the purchase, by the Water Department, of one Gorman-Rupp trench pump, to replace the 2" Homelite purchased in 1937. 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 Cucci moved that the Water Superintendent, Mr. Stanger, be authorized to attend the A.W.W.A. Water Works Convention at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, on October 23, 24, 25 and 26, 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 Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$361.83 be authorized for rental of a road roller from August 20, 1944, to September 30, 1944, inclusive. 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 an appropriation of \$112.50, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of 50 feet of 9" cast iron pipe for culverts, in connection with the improvement of 171st Street. 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 stated that at the last meeting of the Council a request was submitted by the Gardena Cab Company, for a City license; whereupon he moved that this request be denied. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council authorize the appointment of John Waugh to the position of "Acting Foreman of Maintenance" in the Park Department, pending a promotional examination for that position, and that he be paid Foreman's wages, effective as of September 15, 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.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council recommend to the Civil Service Board that there be no promotional examinations given

for the duration of the war, with the exception of those examinations already called for; explaining that he had discussed this matter with the Civil Service Board at their meeting held October 4. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that a transfer of \$60,000.00 be made from the General Fund of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, to the General Fund of the City of Torrance, to carry the City over until the tax receipts came in. 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 Cucci asked Engineer Jain if he had any report to submit on the 203rd Street Sewer Project.

Engineer Jain replied that his Department had completed plans on this project and was awaiting the pleasure of the Council in regards to the limits of the project; that if this was to be an assessment district, the contractor would have to know this in advance; and recommended that the project be held off until after the rainy season as this project is located in adobe soil.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be instructed to withhold the advertising for bids until further instructions from the Council on this project. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Paul Wheeler addressed the Council in regard to the letters received from the Parent-Teacher Associations on the matter of the City employing a trained supervisor of recreation; stating that this was a matter which affects the Recreation Commission. He stated that during the past three months the Recreation Commission had made various recommendations to the Council but had not had the courtesy of an answer from the Council. He further stated that the Council had agreed, some time ago, to employ a trained recreational director, but no one has been hired to date; that he had understood from Mr. Dale Riley that he would work with such a trained recreation man, and then to his surprise he was informed that if such a man was employed the City would have another "Bus situation" on their hands.

Considerable discussion followed, and Rev. Paul Wheeler was assured that Mr. Riley would be more than willing to cooperate, and that the Council would employ a trained recreation man, if one could be found.

Mr. Bernard Lee, representing the Torrance Merchants, advised that a letter had been submitted to Councilman Gilbert in regard to the formation of an organization to be known as the "Torrance Athletic Club", and requested that he be permitted to read this communication; which he proceeded to do after obtaining same from Councilman Gilbert.

This letter outlined plans for the formation and financing of the activities of the Club, as well as the activities which it planned to promote, the equipment needed, etc.; and requested that the sum of \$500.00 be advanced by the City, to complete their plans and programs, until such time as the Club Treasury can repay the sum, provided a donation could not be made.

Councilman Powell expressed himself as being in favor of this program, and suggested that the sum of \$500.00 be transferred from the promotion fund allotted to the Chamber of Commerce.

Quite a lengthy discussion followed, and Councilman Gilbert said he thought the recommendation should come through the Recreation Commission, and as they will hold a meeting on October 18th, he suggested that action on this matter be deferred until after they had met and discussed the matter and submitted their recommendation.

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.

Engineer Jain advised the Council that Mr. Bunde, City Engineer at Redondo Beach, had died and suggested that a resolution of condolence be sent to his family and to the members of the Redondo Beach City Council.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a resolution of condolence be sent to the family of Mr. Bunde, and to the City Council of Redondo Beach. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 9:45 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE