

Torrance, California  
November 28, 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, November 28, 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 Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held on November 14, 1944 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, signed by Duncan K. Kennedy, President, expressing appreciation for the attendance of Glenn M. Jain at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Conference held at Fresno, California, during the first week of October. It was urged that the participation of Mr. Jain in the work of the organization be supported by the Council through authorizing his attendance at committee meetings, district meetings and the annual sessions, and through appropriating the necessary funds to defray expenses of this participation. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Joel Hagberg, 24241 Neece Avenue, WALTERIA, requesting installation of a street light at or near the center of Neece Avenue between 242nd and 244th Streets, WALTERIA.

This matter was deferred until Oral Communications are called for, Mr. Hagberg being in the assemblage.

A communication was read from G. M. Bumpus, Attorney at Law, registering a complaint against a driver of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, claiming that the particular driver in question has on several occasions caused alarm among passengers because of his pre-occupation in conversation with girl passengers who crowd the driver's compartment and also asserting that the driver in question charges 10¢ fares from Vermont Avenue to 165th Street, whereas other drivers charge a 5¢ fare for this particular portion of the route.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to Mr. C. Z. Ward for immediate action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Loyal Order of Moose, Torrance Lodge No. 785, advising that the Lodge is planning a huge Christmas party for the children of Torrance and the children of Service Men and Women from WALTERIA, LOMITA, PALOS VERDES ESTATES, HARBOR CITY, ROLLING HILLS and GARDENA. It was advised that the Torrance Herald, the Lomita News, Lomita Progress, San Pedro News-Pilot, Long Beach Press Telegram and Morning Sun (newspapers) will all carry running accounts of this event until the date of the observance, Christmas Eve. It was stated that a canvass is being made by the Lodge of the municipality, industries, commerce and citizens to contribute to the cause and it was, therefore, requested that the City allocate funds for a proportionate share of the fund. It was requested that the Lodge be given authority to use the Civic Auditorium all day Sunday, December 24, 1944 for this event.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to arrange a meeting with the committee of the Loyal Order of Moose and the City Council for discussion in detail of the plans for the Christmas party for children. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Federal Works Agency, signed by Frank G. Morrison, Field Representative in charge of War Public Service, advising that there is an increasing demand for the establishment of additional child care facilities for the care of children between the ages of two and five years of age, whose mothers reside in Torrance and are employed in vital war production. It was stated that the Agency has the intention of constructing a nursery school

building to accommodate sixty children at the Torrance Elementary school, building to be 114 ft. in length by 32 ft. in width, frame construction, with exterior panels of Cemesto Board, a patented composition. It was requested that the matter be presented to the City Council and their concurrence with the plan asked.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Council concur in the plan, subject to approval of the City Engineer as to type and construction of the building. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from C. B. Bagnall, requesting a refund of \$22.50 paid to the City for a connection to the sewer at 1505 Border Avenue, since it was discovered when workmen started the work that the connection was already installed.

Councilman Gilbert commented that there are a number of cases of this kind where the connection has been made to the property lines and apparently paid for by the former property owner.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to the City Engineer for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from F. J. VanCise, advising that, due to poor health, he had been compelled to discontinue business operations, having had the electrical appliance repair shop at 1639 Cabrillo Avenue, and requesting a refund of the business license issued in March, 1944.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be complied with. 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 addressed to Dale Riley, Superintendent, Recreation Department, was read from Mrs. Hillman R. Lee, expressing appreciation on behalf of the Girl Scouts and their leaders for the improvements made to the Girl Scout house. It was requested that the interior of the building be painted.

A recommendation was read from Dale Riley, advising that the material cost for this job would amount to approximately \$35.00 and suggesting that favorable consideration be given the request.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to have the painter paint the interior of the Girl Scout building as requested. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd., recommending the enactment of an ordinance by the City Council to adopt a Uniform Electrical Code, which Code would standardize wiring methods throughout the State of California. Three copies of the suggested ordinance were enclosed.

Councilman Cucci moved that this matter be referred to the entire City Council for thorough study of the ordinance, for recommendation and action at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, recommending that the members of the City Council meet with the City Planning Commission and work out a list of proposed construction projects for the post-war period; and the priority which each one should have in the matter of preparation of plans and the necessary field work. It was stated that the December meeting of the Planning Commission has been scheduled for December 11, 1944, and it was urged that the Council arrange to attend this meeting.

Councilman Gilbert commented that the Council had arranged to meet with the Planning Commission on December 4, 1944, and suggested that inasmuch as the Commission has delayed its meeting until the 11th, the Council meet with the Commission on that date as suggested by Mr. Jain.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the City Engineer that the Council meet with the Planning Commission December 11, 1944 be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Fire Department Association, advising that the Association is holding a Benefit Dance in the Civic Auditorium on Saturday night, December 16, 1944, and requesting permission to continue dancing on that night until 1:00 A.M. instead of the usual 12:00 M.

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

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1700

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM GEORGE P. FULLER AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD SAME IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1700 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 A. K. Hill, patrolman, who has completed his probationary period, be granted an increase in salary to \$210.00 per month, effective November 12, 1944, as recommended by Chief of Police John H. Stroh. 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 Cucci moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for 3000 feet 6" Bell and Spigot Class 150 Cast Iron Pipe for Municipal Water District No. 1. 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 Mrs. Marjorie Lane be appointed a trustee on the Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Juanita Thompson. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Veterans of Foreign Wars be allowed to use the Civic Auditorium as a regular meeting place, at a rate of \$10.00 per meeting, the meetings being monthly. 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 not to exceed \$500.00 be made for construction of concrete gutter on the east side of Sartori Avenue and the south side of Engracia Avenue, to handle drainage from the culvert across Sartori Avenue. 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 not to exceed \$55.00 be made for construction of sidewalk and bus loading area at the triangular park at Engracia Avenue and Sartori Avenue.

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 have the Edison Company install a sodium vapor street light at 190th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard at a cost of \$5.50 per 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 Hitchcock moved that Marion G. Stark be employed as a Mechanic at the City Garage, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$225.00 per month, effective November 8, 1944. 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 Rufus A. Tarwater be employed as a laborer in the Street Department, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective November 7, 1944. 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.

Upon being asked whether or not the budget allows this extra man, Councilman Hitchcock stated that the budget allowed 23 men, but that the crew had consisted of seventeen or eighteen men.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$250.00 be made for gunniting the headwalls of the corrugated pipe culvert at Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue. 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 \$1250.00 be made for purchase of lumber for side forms and stakes for the placing of asphaltic concrete on Torrance Boulevard, this amount included in the City's estimate, City to furnish material and contractor to perform necessary labor of installing the forms. 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 not to exceed \$300.00 be made for purchase of a Marquette 200 Amp Arc Welder for use in the City Garage, to be used in conjunction with the City's lighting plant to make a portable arc welder. 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 read a recommendation from Engineer Jain that Fred W. Ernst, who has been honorably discharged from military service, be reinstated to his former position as Senior Street Maintenance Man commencing November 20, 1944, at a salary of \$190.00 per month.

Councilman Cucci commented that, although he favors returning the man to his former position, he feels it should clear through the Civil Service Board. Councilman Powell pointed out that he is automatically entitled to return to his position and that it makes no particular difference through which channel the reinstatement clears. Councilman Gilbert said he favored referring it to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of Engineer Jain that Fred W. Ernst be reinstated to his former position be referred to the Civil Service Board for recommendation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be made for installing a hoist on the new Dodge Truck for the Street Department. 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 moved that Mrs. Emma Middleton be employed as assistant at the Recreation Center, on a temporary basis, at 65¢ per hour, effective November 16, 1944 to replace Mrs. Florence Hall, who is ill. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell questioned the rate in connection with this matter, claiming that 65¢ is not the base pay of the City and he feels it should be adjusted.

Councilman Gilbert stated that Mrs. Hall had contacted him relative to an increase and that he had recommended to Mr. Riley that a request be made by him, at which time action can be taken by the Council.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$315.30, plus tax, be made for 1000 feet 2½" reconditioned water pipe to be installed at the WALTERIA Park, Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, having recommended that the work be started during November, as that month begins the slack season in the Park 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 Hitchcock asked what plans had been formulated for the new park and was advised that rough sketches had been made but no final plans adopted as yet. He advised further that the City cannot take actual possession of the property until some date in February, 1945. He added, however, that the pipe which will be laid is on City property entirely.

Councilman Gilbert reported that Mr. Packard, a representative of the Associated Assessment Engineers, had advised the Council to withhold action in connection with the property in Hollywood Riviera donated to the City for Park purposes, due to the fact that there are various restrictions and assessments attached to the property; that Mr. Packard had suggested getting a new deed with provisions to specifically eliminate the restrictions and assessments.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a new deed be obtained with the restrictions eliminated.

A short discussion ensued, after which, and upon Mayor Tolson's suggestion, Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Attorney be instructed to enter into negotiations with the Hollywood Riviera Community Association, requesting the Association to furnish the City with a detailed account of the restrictions and assessments attached to the property in question and to endeavor to obtain a new deed with provisions to specifically eliminate the restrictions and assessments. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$65.00 be made for advertising the new schedule and routing of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines in the Torrance Herald. 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.

Mayor Tolson stated that there are two appropriations scheduled for the Bus Lines covering materials ordered by Mr. Charles Koors, being (1) \$289.63, including tax, for a Generator and Cylinder Assembly for Ford Bus #102, and (2) \$201.84, including tax, for a Spring Assembly for Ford Bus #102.

A discussion followed as to whether or not these materials have been received, Clerk Bartlett advising that he is of the impression that they have been installed in the busses for some time, but that there has been no authorization for the expenditure of the above sums.

Mr. Ward advised that he believes that when the old motor was removed from the bus in question, the above motor was installed, representing a replacement. He said the transaction was between Mr. Koors and Mr. Pickett, mechanic.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, for thorough investigation and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that, in compliance with the request made by Councilman Cucci at the last meeting, committees of the City Council be rearranged as follows: Councilman Cucci to assume Chairmanship of the Transportation Committee, the other two members of the committee being Councilmen Powell and Gilbert, and that the Committee handling Water Department matters be transferred to Mayor Tolson's Committee, Councilmen Hitchcock and Powell being the other two members of the committee. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert asked what had been done relative to the request of the Retail Merchants Association that the Council endorse the plan of erecting a monument to the veterans who lost their lives in World Wars I and II.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to arrange a meeting with the Retail Merchants Association and the City Council for discussion of this matter.

Councilman Cucci addressed Mayor Tolson, advising that it had not been his desire to be appointed as Chairman of the Transportation Committee; that he felt Councilman Gilbert would be better qualified to act in that capacity due to his experience and familiarity with the subject, and that he, Mr. Cucci, wished only to serve as one of the members of the Transportation Committee. Mayor Tolson suggested that the three committee members could arrange the chairmanship in accordance with their own wishes, and that the manner of handling the adjustment in committees had been used to eliminate the necessity of setting up an entirely new committee.

Councilman Cucci stated that he is satisfied with the committee he has been chairman of.

Mayor Tolson replied that the motion has passed and asked Councilman Cucci whether or not he would suggest that it be rescinded. Councilman Cucci suggested that Mayor Tolson review the committees further and make whatever changes are desired at the next meeting. Mayor Tolson agreed to study the committee arrangement further and report at the next meeting.

Councilman Cucci reported that since Greenwood Avenue has been paved, upon which street the busses travel, there are several dips, or depressions, in the pavement which are too sharp for the busses to travel over without doing serious damage to the equipment. Councilman Gilbert said that when the busses cross the dips at Greenwood Avenue and Sonoma Street and at Greenwood Avenue and Eldorado Street, there exists only a five inch clearance between the pavement and the bus chassis. Councilman Powell stated that, in the interest of the City and the general public, everything possible should be done to assist in conserving scarce automotive equipment.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Engineer consult with Mr. C. Z. Ward relative to the above-mentioned matter and proceed with whatever work is necessary to remedy the condition mentioned. 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 a Resolution of Condolence be adopted by the Council and forwarded to the family of William T. Klusman, deceased, Mr. Klusman having been a mayor of the City of Torrance, in former years. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Joel Hagberg, who presented a request for a street light at or near the center of Neece Avenue between 242nd and 244th Streets, WALTERIA, addressed the Council, stating that the illumination is insufficient, the block being approximately 750 feet long, leaving the center of the block very dim.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Electrician be authorized to investigate this matter and make a recommendation at the next regular meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved 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.

Judge Willett, Pro-Tem City Attorney, requested the use of the Civic Auditorium, free, on the evening of December 7, 1944 for the showing by the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of a film recently completed by Clark Gable, Cinema celebrity, and serving as a Captain in the United States Army, (the film having been made during his service with the Army and recently released) the showing of the film to be done on the date above-mentioned for obvious reasons, with no admission charge.

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

At 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE