

Torrance, California  
May 9, 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, May 9, 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 April 25, 1944 be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, reporting that for the twelve months preceding April 30, 1944, no receipts or earnings were received from the transportation of oil under Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1014.

Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mrs. Dean Snyder, 1604 Date Avenue, inquiring whether it is necessary to obtain a license to read tea leaves for the customers of a local beauty shop.

Mayor Tolson inquired if there was an existing ordinance which might prohibit this.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the ordinance provides for a license fee of \$50.00 a year, and also that the City Council shall make an investigation before issuing a license.

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

A communication was read from Katz and Pine, relative to the construction of the service road on the east side of Arlington Avenue, south of Plaza del Amo, for which they contributed a right-of-way of 35.5 ft.; and advising that the City had agreed to pay one-half of the cost of constructing this service road, the estimated cost of which was \$1500.00. However, the total cost of the project, including the curbs, gutters, sidewalk, grading and surfacing, and the construction and planting of the parkway, amounted to \$2912.75, of which they had contributed \$1712.75 and the City \$1200.00.

It was requested that the City contribute the difference between the amount already paid by the City and 50% of the total cost, exclusive of the cost of planting of the parkway and construction of the sprinkler system; the total cost of the parkway and sprinkler system to be paid by the City. As the total cost of the project, including curbs, gutters, sidewalk, grading and surfacing, amounted to \$2567.89, the additional portion which the City was requested to pay was the difference between the amount already paid, i.e. \$855.14, and 50% of the above figure (\$2567.89), which difference amounts to \$428.80.

In reply to an inquiry from Councilman Hitchcock, Mr. Pine stated the understanding was that the City would pay one-half the

cost, but nothing was said about the planting of grass and shrubs, which amounted to \$345.00, but that he understood the Park Department would pay for that.

After some discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the City contribute the difference between the amount already paid (\$855.14) and fifty per cent of the total cost of constructing the Arlington Avenue Service Road and Parkway, exclusive of the cost of planting and construction of the sprinkler system, which amounted to \$2567.89; making the additional sum to be contributed by the City, \$428.80. 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 any future agreements of contracts entered into between the City and any builder or contracting firm be put into writing.

Councilman Cucci stated that he believed this should be put in the form of a resolution instead of a motion, and suggested that action be deferred until the next Council meeting.

Councilman Powell consented to Councilman Cucci's suggestion and withdrew his motion.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles Plumbing Corporation advising that eight Sewer Permits had been issued to their company during the months of December and January, for which they had paid a fee of \$22.50 each, or a total of \$180.00; that included in the cost of each permit was a charge of \$21.00 for labor and materials for making the installations; that they subsequently decided to make these sewer installations at their own expense, and were therefore making application for a refund of \$168.00, covering the eight permits issued.

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

A communication was read from Attorney Frank L. Perry, of Redondo Beach, in reference to the five lots in Walteria, which are being leased by the City from the Venable Estate; offering to sell these lots to the City for the sum of \$1250.00, with the understanding that the City accept a deed from the Executor of the Estate and clear the title at its own expense.

After a short discussion, Councilman Powell moved that the Council take the matter under advisement until the next adjourned meeting, to be held on May 16. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Alda Moore, 711 Amapola Avenue, advising that she was interested in starting a child's Sanatorium at the above address, and inquiring if it would be necessary to secure a permit to conduct such a Sanatorium.

During the following discussion it was decided no permit from the City was necessary, whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the communication be referred to the County Health Department for investigation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, submitting his resignation as Chairman of the present Youth Commission, and recommending the termination of this Commission as being too cumbersome to accomplish the desired results; and suggesting the creation by the City Council of an official Recreation Commission, with full authority to plan and develop recreational facilities, subject to the approval of the Council.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Rev. Wheeler's resignation, as Chairman of the present Youth Commission, be accepted; and that Rev. Wheeler be thanked for his services. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A petition, bearing approximately three hundred signatures, was read, requesting that a "Stop and Go" signal be installed at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Avenue.

A discussion followed, in which it was unanimously agreed that there was definite need of a traffic signal at this intersection.

Engineer Jain advised that he had taken the matter up with the State Highway Department, and they had recently advised that their Traffic Department will make an investigation at this intersection within the near future.

Mayor Tolson stated that he would personally call at the offices of the State Highway Department in an effort to obtain prompt action on the installation of this traffic signal, and invited any and all interested persons to go with him.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, with a memorandum attached, from Mr. Dale Riley, recommending that an employee be hired for the Municipal Park to serve as watchman; to take care of the watering of lawns in the Park at night, to clean up and arrange tables and handle incidental duties around the picnic area; and to perform any other duties which might be necessary to handle recreation during the summer months. Engineer Jain concurred in Mr. Riley's recommendation, and requested authority to hire a man at once, on a temporary basis.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be taken under advisement until the adjourned meeting to be held next week. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, regarding the recent appointment of Mr. Charles F. Koors as "Bus Counselor to the City Council", and calling attention to Sec. 6, of Rule XXI, of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which provided that when new positions are created the Personnel Board shall allocate same; and advising the Council that when an appointment is made it will be necessary for the Council to outline in detail the duties expected to be performed by the appointee so that a proper classification may be created by the Civil Service Board; and that a competitive examination may then be held for this newly created position.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study and report. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada is holding a "Western Regional Conference" at the Hotel Mayfair, in Los Angeles, on Monday and Tuesday, May 22 and 23, 1944; and recommending that the Council pay the expenses, including loss of time from their regular employment, of all the members of the Board who are able to attend this Conference; and that the Secretary of the Board also be authorized to attend these meetings.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the members of the Civil Service Board, including the Secretary, be authorized to attend the Western Regional Conference in Los Angeles, on May 22 and 23, 1944, with expenses 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.

A communication was read from the Busy Bee Cafe, requesting that a loading zone be established in front of their place of business, at 1401 Sartori Avenue. Councilman Cucci moved that the communication be referred to the Chief of Police for investigation and such action as may be required. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that a meeting of the Civilian Defense Council was held on April 25, at which meeting a resolution was passed

recommending that the barriers be removed from the Control Center and the Post Office; that the telephones now located at the Control Center be removed, and the War Council telephone and two additional telephones be installed in the Police Department, and two telephones installed in the Fire Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendations of the Civilian Defense Council be concurred in. 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 that the present contract with the Associated Assessment Engineers will expire in a few days, and that a new contract had been prepared; recommending that this contract be referred to the City Attorney for checking.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract be referred to the City Attorney for checking and approval. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci advised that he was of the belief that a Legislative Act had recently been passed prohibiting municipalities from selling tax-deeded property for the duration of the war, and if that was a fact there would be no need of renewing the contract with the Associated Assessment Engineers.

Mayor Tolson requested Attorney McCall to investigate as to whether such an Act had been passed by the Legislature.

Mayor Tolson called for a vote on Councilman Hitchcock's motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1655

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 Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1655 be adopted. 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 and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1656

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

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1656 be adopted. 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. 1657

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING THE 1943, OR  
REVISED EDITION OF THE PACIFIC COAST  
BUILDING OFFICIALS' CONFERENCE, UNI-  
FORM BUILDING CODE.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1657 be adopted. 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1658

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
AND THE CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE APPLICATION  
AND AGREEMENT FOR ALLOCATION OF STATE AID.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1658 be adopted. 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 City Attorney, enclosing claim of the City of Los Angeles for \$53.47 for damage done to a Los Angeles City Ambulance in a collision with a Torrance Bus; and recommending that this claim be denied and referred to the City's insurance carrier for action.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the City Attorney be complied with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that an expenditure of \$402.95 be authorized for the purchase of four 2" disc Meters, and twenty-four 1" lead goosenecks complete, by the Torrance Municipal Water District. 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 reported on the communication of Messrs. Vernon Reden and M. W. Collins, 618-B South Elena Avenue, Redondo Beach, (read at the Council Meeting of April 25) requesting the privilege of renting the Civic Auditorium every Saturday night beginning April 22, for the purpose of conducting an Old Time Dance.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Messrs. Vernon Reden and M. W. Collins be granted, with the following provisions: (1) That the City Council reserve the right to use the Auditorium at any time, for any occasion, upon giving two weeks' prior notice; (2) That in case of a war emergency, or other disaster, all agreements are automatically cancelled; (3) That the applicants comply with the rules governing the use of the Auditorium. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci advised that he had received a request for the use of the Civic Auditorium for the purpose of conducting a series of revivals on May 19, 20, and 21, and inasmuch as these dates conflict with the request of Messrs. Reden and Collins, stated above, Councilman Cucci moved that unless other dates are selected, this request be denied. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci asked the City Attorney if any action had been taken in regard to furnishing transportation for the Boy Scouts from and to neighboring cities, which matter had been brought up at the last Council meeting.

Councilman Gilbert advised that they were investigating the matter and requested additional time, promising to report at the adjourned meeting to be held next week.

Councilman Cucci reported that at the meeting of April 12, a communication was read from Mr. Hallanger, requesting an increase in salary; that since that time a survey had been made and it was felt that not only Mr. Hallanger, but a number of other employees were entitled to a salary adjustment, due to increased duties; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the following employees be given an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective May 1, 1944:

|                 |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| I. J. Hallanger | Maude Deininger | Ernest Treloar   |
| June Whitt      | Cora Bohrer     | Lucille Lewellen |

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 read a communication from the City Engineer requesting authority to employ a man to work full time at the City Dump, as the present caretaker, Albert Ernest has been off duty for over two months with an injury and rubbish is being hauled in from San Pedro, the Shoe String Strip and the County area.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to employ a full-time caretaker at the City Dump, on a temporary basis. 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 employ a painter, during the absence of the City Painter, Amos Denney, for the painting of traffic crossings, etc. 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 expenditure of \$310.00, plus tax, be authorized for the purchase of road material for the resurfacing of Walnut Street. 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 \$59.90, plus tax, be made for the purchase of six dozen Bassine Street Brooms, and two dozen extra handles for same. 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 additional appropriation of \$369.22 be authorized, for the purchase of two 1942 Dodge Dump Trucks, with Eaton Axles. 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 Gilbert moved that Mrs. Vera Parry be employed, on a temporary basis, as Attendant at the Auditorium, for the recreation period, replacing Mrs. Smith. 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 Miss Wilma Lambert be employed, on a part time basis, at the recreation center in Walteria, at a salary of sixty-five cents an hour, effective May 1, 1944, replacing Walter Wagner. 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 Tom Hatfield be employed on a temporary basis at the City Park, to take care of the baseball diamonds and other recreational facilities, effective May 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.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to write a letter to the State Highway Commission, requesting that automatic stop signs be installed at Hawthorne Avenue and Highway 101. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council establish a Recreation Commission, to act in an advisory capacity to the Council, consisting of the following persons: Mr. H. C. Barrington, Mrs. M. J. Edwards, Mr. Geo. Thatcher, Rev. Paul M. Wheeler, Mrs. L. F. Watson, Mr. Robert Lewellen, and himself. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$52.50, plus tax, be made for repairs to generator and voltage regulator on Bus 105. 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 moved that an appropriation of \$50.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 1000 ten-ride commutation books for the Bus 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.

Mayor Tolson advised that a request had been received from Mr. Palmer that a bus be provided to transport the Cub Scouts from Walteria to and from the Civic Auditorium on Mothers' Day, May 14; whereupon Mayor Tolson moved that this request be granted, and that the Manager of the Bus Department be notified. 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 announced the appointment of the following committees:  
STREETS: Councilman Hitchcock, Chairman; Councilmen Cucci and Tolson.

POLICE AND FIRE: Councilman Powell, Chairman; Councilmen Hitchcock and Tolson.

INSPECTION, AUDITORIUM, WATER DEPT. & PUBLIC LIBRARY BLDGS.: Councilman Cucci, Chairman; Councilmen Powell and Gilbert.

PARKS & RECREATION: Councilman Gilbert, Chairman; Councilmen Cucci and Hitchcock.

FINANCE: Councilman Tolson, Chairman; Councilmen Powell and Hitchcock.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Committee appointments be approved. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci stated that there had been some discussion as to whether the action of the Council in reducing the amount of the charge to the Thrifty Building Service for engineering work, required a motion. He explained that the Thrifty Building Service had agreed to pay the engineering cost at the time the work was authorized, but as it was necessary to survey several of the adjacent streets he thought the Council was justified in making this reduction, but in fairness to the Engineering Department he believed a motion should be made stating that this was not a revised bill, but that the Council had agreed to pay one-half of that portion of the expense required to survey the surrounding streets.

Whereupon, Councilman Cucci moved that the City pay for that portion of the engineering work which was required to survey the outlying streets in order to take care of the Thrifty Building project in Block 12, Tract 4070, and that they be charged for that portion of the cost which directly benefited them.

Councilman Hitchcock disagreed with Councilman Cucci, stating that the Council had agreed to revise their bill as it was a little too high.

Councilman Powell remarked that it was only fair to the builders that the City make this reduction.

Mayor Tolson stated that a motion was unnecessary and Councilman Cucci's motion was lost for want of a second.

Engineer Jain inquired whether the motion which had been passed to remove the barricades around the Control Center was intended to include the removal of the barricades from the windows of the Civic Auditorium.

Chief Stroh replied that he believed it would be better to leave them on for the present.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Roy Palmer advised that next Sunday, being Mothers' Day, the community at large, sponsored by the Moose, were going to have a Mothers' Day program at the Civic Auditorium starting at 7:45 P.M. and requested that if anyone knew of any "Gold Star Mothers" who had not received an invitation, to report their names to Mr. Geo. A. Evans.

Mr. Evans extended an invitation to the City Council as a whole to occupy the stage with the Gold Star Mothers, at this program.

Mayor Tolson thanked Mr. Evans, in behalf of the Council.

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 9:00 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, May 16, 1944, at 7:30 P.M.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE