

Torrance, California
August 22, 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, August 22, 1944, at 7:55 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Hitchcock.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 8, 1944 and of the Adjourned Regular Meetings held August 11 and 16, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Chief of Police John H. Stroh, submitting a report of an automobile accident between a Plymouth Sedan Police car and a car driven by Mr. Glen Edward Hall. Chief Stroh stated that he had personally investigated the accident and was convinced that the officer driving the police car was not to blame. He mentioned that the cost of repairing the police car would amount to \$215.00, and requested that the case be turned over to the City Attorney for collection.

Councilman Powell moved that the report of the accident between a police car and one driven by Glen Edward Hall be referred to the City Attorney for any action he may deem necessary. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from State, County and Municipal Workers of America, Local No. 360, protesting any wages paid to present or future minors hired by the City being lower than the standard wages set up for any job.

Councilman Cucci said he would like to reconsider the action of the Council taken at the meeting held August 11, 1944, when a wage rate of 40¢ per hour was established for boys eighteen years of age or under. He was of the opinion that the boys should receive the regular minimum rate of pay applicable to the position they fill in the Street Department.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the action taken by the Council at the meeting of August 11, 1944 establishing a wage rate of 40¢ per hour be rescinded; that no minor under sixteen years of age be employed by the City; and that those minors over the age of sixteen employed by the City be paid the prevailing wage rate for the position they fill.

Councilman Powell explained that if these boys were capable of performing men's work, they should be entitled to the minimum rate of pay paid by the City.

Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Lillian S. Miller, Acting Secretary, Torrance U.S.O., advising that the Junior and Senior hostesses of the U.S.O., in recognition of their services and efforts in making the Torrance U.S.O. a truly great success, were entitled to pins. The General Committee of the Torrance U.S.O. requested the City Council to assume the responsibility of paying for these pins which would amount to \$65.00 - 100 Senior Hostess pins at 50¢ each and 100 Junior Hostess pins at 15¢ each. The Committee also requested that the Council, or any representatives it would select, make the presentation of the pins in a ceremony of recognition.

After some discussion on whether it would be legal for the City to make such an appropriation, Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for study and recommendation at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was received from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company acknowledging the request of the City of Torrance that trains be broken at the intersections of Torrance Boulevard, Sonoma Avenue and Carson Street while switching in the Torrance Yards, and advising that they will try to improve the situation. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. Carl E. Marsteller, Ticket Agent, requesting some action from the Council on his contract which had been promised by July 1, 1944.

Councilman Cucci expressed the opinion that the matter had been neglected for some time and believed that something binding should be drawn up to assure Mr. Marsteller of the City's good faith.

Councilman Powell declared that he had confidence in Mr. Marsteller's ability and that he would prove a valuable man in his position as Ticket Agent.

After some further discussion, Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Marsteller be notified to meet with the Council and the City Attorney at 8:45 P.M., August 25, 1944, for the purpose of drawing up an acceptable contract. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. William Yount, Deputy Director, California State War Council, addressed to Chief of Police John H. Stroh, advising that Application No. 221 from the City of Torrance in amount of \$2,407.27, being 50% of compensable items listed as expenditures by the City in civilian defense matters, had been approved. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. Homer Wood requesting permission to rent the Civic Auditorium every Saturday night for the purpose of holding dances.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to Councilman Cucci for report at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Metropolitan Water District setting the rate of taxation at 43¢ upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation of taxable property. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Chamber of Commerce advising that the Community Service Committee, Rotary Club and other civic organizations had requested them to petition the City to have the area in the vicinity of the Pacific Electric Freight Depot beautified by the planting of trees and shrubbery, the particular section they had in mind being Western Avenue and Border Avenue, on Torrance Boulevard. They mentioned that if there were no City employees available for this work, the Chamber of Commerce would endeavor to have the Boy Scouts and/or other youth organizations handle the work.

City Engineer Jain explained that the City had only a 2' easement on either side of the right-of-way so that only a small hedge could be planted.

Judge Willett, President of the Rotary Club, said a few words in favor of this project.

Councilman Powell commended the Chamber of Commerce and the different organizations for their civic interest, but believed that greater effort should be made toward cleaning up the Pueblo District.

Mr. Lynch, President of the Chamber of Commerce, explained that he had visited the Pueblo District, accompanied by Mr. Sam Levy and Mr. H. B. Lewis, for the purpose of obtaining Mr. Isenstein's signature to a petition for an assessment district for the installation of sewers in that district. He reported that Mr. Isenstein would be glad to cooperate.

After considerable discussion on the installation of the sewer, Engineer Jain reported that the cost of the trunk line, together with lateral house connections, would be approximately \$9,000.00.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of the Chamber of Commerce for beautification of the area in the vicinity of the Pacific Electric Railway Depot be referred to the Park Superintendent for study and recommendation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the International Derrick and Equipment Company expressing appreciation for the cooperation given them by the Recreation Department, and particularly Mr. Riley, on August 6, 1944, at their Ideco Picnic. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the State of California, State Employees' Retirement System setting forth the average approximate contribution which would be required by the employees of the City of Torrance for participation in the system. Matter of record.

A petition, bearing nine signatures of property owners, was read requesting the City Council to vacate 20 feet on either side of 244th Street, between Madison Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard, WALTERIA.

City Engineer Jain explained that this street was 100 feet wide and was in the residential section of WALTERIA.

Following discussion on procedure of vacating, Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare the necessary ordinance for vacating a portion of 244th Street to be presented at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 357

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CATALINA AVENUE (HOLLYWOOD-PALOS VERDES PARKWAY) IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS A PART OF THE COUNTY SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS.

Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 357 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 357 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci stated he had received a recommendation from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager, Water Department, that the tax rate for the Water District be reduced from 35¢ to 25¢ upon each one hundred dollars of the assessed value of property.

In answer to Councilman Cucci's request for an explanation, Mr. Stanger explained that a reduction in water rates would benefit only the water consumers, whereas, a reduction in the tax rate would be of greater benefit to the taxpayers of this district.

Councilman Cucci moved that the reduction in tax rate from 35¢ to 25¢ on each one hundred dollars of the assessed value of property for the Water District as recommended by Mr. Stanger, be concurred in. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 358

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
FIXING THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1,
1944.

Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 358 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 358 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$125.40 be made for painting of signs in the City Hall. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

A communication was read from Mr. R. I. Plomert, Jr., Chairman Torrance Industries' Tax Committee, expressing appreciation for the cooperation and courtesies extended them by the City Council and City Clerk in connection with their studies relating to the City's 1944-45 budget. Matter of record.

Councilman Powell moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the Torrance Industries' Tax Committee for their assistance. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell commented on the 1944-45 budget for the City, saying the Council was interested in civic improvements, the expenditures for which would have to come out of the budget. He mentioned the improvement to the Fire Department Building and the need of a Recreation Center with a building adequate to house the different recreational activities. He also thought that a roller skating rink in conjunction with a recreation center would greatly help in retarding juvenile delinquency. He hoped that the City of Torrance would be able to put these projects into effect within the next few years.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$500.00 be made for the purchase of decomposed granite to construct sidewalks along the west side of Western Avenue, from 204th Street to connect with the existing sidewalk on Torrance Boulevard at the viaduct, and along the south side of 220th Street, between Abalone Avenue and

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

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$850.00 be made for traffic paint. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$600.00 be made for glass beads for traffic striping. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain submitting "Second Monthly Estimate" of work performed by the Olympic Contracting Company on the Crenshaw Boulevard Project, which includes all work performed up to and including August 7, 1944.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$15,093.34 be made for payment to the Olympic Contracting Company for work performed on the Crenshaw Boulevard project. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be authorized to make application to the War Production Board for purchase of 8 to 12 ton Tandem Road Roller with hydraulic steering apparatus for Street Department, bid price being \$5100.00 F.O.B. Los Angeles. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to make application to the War Production Board for purchase of 1½ ton truck, as originally submitted and denied. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to advertise for bids on the Road Roller and Truck as soon as approval had been received from the War Production Board. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell advised that he had compared salary schedules of other cities, and he was of the opinion that a differential salary rating should be created between the officers and regular members of the Police and Fire Departments, and moved that the salaries of the Chief of Police, Captains and Sergeants of the Police Department be increased \$20.00 per month, and that the salaries of the Fire Chief and Captains of the Fire Department be increased \$20.00 per month, it being understood that \$5.00 of the above \$20.00 constituted an adjustment in their salaries; and that all other employees' salaries be increased \$15.00 per month, the increases effective July 1, 1944. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$563.75, including tax, be made for the purchase of one set of bowls complete for replacement on No. 2 Well, for the Water Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that the salaries of the employees of The Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 be increased \$15.00 per month, effective July 1, 1944. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that the tentative budget for the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 for the fiscal year 1944-45 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Gilbert asked that Curfew Ordinance No. 346 be modified as it affected minors over sixteen years of age. He believed that if these boys were capable of working in defense plants, they should be entitled to their freedom in the evening.

Chief Stroh stated that the issuing of passes to minors had not served their purpose and for that reason had revoked them. He also stated that the Police Department did not bother the children who were out after ten o'clock P.M. as long as they behaved themselves.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Attorney be authorized to write an amendment to Curfew Ordinance No. 346 as it affects minors over sixteen years of age and submit such amendment at the next Regular Meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that the budget for the City of Torrance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, as presented, be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor Tolson moved that the employment of C. T. Kuhn as Bus Operator, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective August 19, 1944, be authorized. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

A communication was read from Chief of Police Stroh stating that since Crenshaw Boulevard has been paved it has become a speedway making it unsafe to cross, and recommending that the City have two boulevard stop signs installed at each of the following cross streets: 164th, 166th, 174th and 182nd.

Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to install the necessary stop signs at the designated streets. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the employment of Jack Ulrich as a Park Maintenance Man, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective August 16, 1944, be authorized. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief of Police Stroh be authorized to employ four crossing guards for the school term starting September 5, 1944, at the same wage rate paid last term. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Cecil Smith, Manager of Thrifty Homes, Inc., asked what the City was doing about furnishing transportation to their district. Mayor Tolson informed him that as soon as busses and men were available, his request for transportation would be taken care of.

Mr. Stevenson, a resident and property owner of Beech Street, said he had heard that apartment houses were to be built on Beech Street, which was zoned for single dwellings, and he requested the Council to make a positive statement that there have been no variations in the zoning restrictions as established for that section.

Mayor Tolson assured him that no apartment houses were being built, except one at the corner of Beech and Carson Streets.

City Engineer Jain said that permits for single dwellings only had been issued and that there had been no change in the zoning restrictions.

Mr. Fahr asked if the City could not approve the plans of proposed new dwellings so that they would conform in size and value with the rest of the houses on the street. Engineer Jain informed him that the Engineering Department has no control over the size or appearance of a building provided it meets structurally the building code requirements.

Mr. Thatcher asked what action had been taken in regard to having a signal installed at Hawthorne Boulevard and 101 Highway.

Engineer Jain replied that an application for a permit had been made, but that to date no reply had been received.

Chief Stroh stated that sometime ago a man had been killed on Western Avenue between 203rd Street and Torrance Boulevard because that portion of Western Avenue had no sidewalks or street lights; and that for lack of these conveniences it made that portion of Western Avenue very hazardous for people in that area who were using Western Avenue as a sidewalk.

Mayor Tolson informed him that the installation of decomposed granite sidewalks had been authorized for that portion of Western Avenue running from 204th Street to Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Cucci moved that a communication be addressed to the Los Angeles City Council asking if lights could be installed on the east side of Western Avenue between 203rd Street and Torrance Boulevard. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

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

At 9:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE