

Torrance, California
October 3, 1944

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, October 3, 1944, at 2:00 P.M.

A quorum not being present Mayor Tolson called a recess until 2:15 P.M.

The Council reconvened at 2:15 P. M., and Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from M. H. Pingle, in reference to a meeting with the City Council to discuss the offer to purchase the North Torrance Water Well, and suggesting that this meeting be held on Wednesday, October 4, at 10:00 A.M.

As this hour was not convenient for some of the Councilmen, after some discussion the City Clerk was requested to communicate with Mr. Pingle by telephone and endeavor to arrange a meeting for Thursday, October 5, at 4:00 P.M.

A communication was read from the Torrance Area Democratic Club, requesting permission to hang banners across certain intersections in the City of Torrance.

Mayor Tolson stated there was another request for the same privilege. Whereupon, Mr. Jack Miller, who was in the audience, made a verbal request, on behalf of the Torrance Republican Committee, to hang five banners across certain street intersections.

Councilman Cucci said he thought this was something that had never been done before and it would be setting a precedent, and besides he didn't think City property should be used for political campaigns; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that both requests be denied.

Councilman Powell seconded the motion; stating that he felt signboards, buildings, etc. should be used for this purpose, and was not in favor of posting political banners across City streets for either party.

Councilman Gilbert said he believed that political signs or banners at certain designated intersections, as far as looks are concerned, would be no worse than banners for other doings, such as rodeos and other programs; provided they were removed after the election.

After some further discussion, Mayor Tolson called for a roll call vote on Councilman Cucci's motion, which was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert then moved that the requests of both the Democratic Club and the Republican Club be granted; and that the banners shall be hung under the supervision and direction of the Chief of Police and the City Engineer, who shall see that these banners are removed after the election. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson stated that the awarding of bid for the improvement of Torrance Boulevard was now in order.

Councilman Powell stated that the low bid exceeded the Engineer's estimate by approximately seven percent, which he thought was quite an excessive amount, and inquired if the Engineer had requested the approval of the bid, or discussed the reasons for this excessive cost.

Councilman Cucci said no explanation had been given as to why the bids should be so much over the Engineer's estimate; whether it was due to increased cost of labor, or materials, or otherwise; and thought the public might be interested in knowing why there should be so much difference between the estimate and the amount bid.

Councilman Hitchcock said it was probably due to the fact that it is pretty hard to estimate exactly what a job like Torrance Boulevard would cost, and he didn't feel that seven percent was an excessive amount to run over. He further stated that the City had been advised by the State Highway Department that the State had approved the awarding of the contract to the Tomei Construction Company, if the City can raise the necessary funds.

Whereupon, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract for the improvement of Torrance Boulevard, between Border Avenue and Madrid Avenue, be awarded to the Tomei Construction Company, on the basis of the unit prices stated in their bid of September 25, 1944; and all other bids be rejected, and their deposits refunded; and that the amount necessary to pay for this improvement work, over and above the Engineer's estimate, shall be drawn from the Motor Vehicle Fund. 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 Council, and all those appointed by the Council, be authorized to attend the meeting of the League of California Cities, to be held in Los Angeles on October 13, 1944, with expenses paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci objected; stating that he thought a limit should be placed on the number of appointments to be made by the Council, as the motion as made covered too much territory, and after some discussion Councilman Cucci offered an amendment to the motion, that the City Council and those appointed by the City Council, provided they are members of the City family, be authorized to attend the meeting of the League of California Cities on October 13, 1944, with expenses paid.

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

Councilman Cucci stated that there had been considerable discussion lately in regard to busses, and that after inquiry it was learned that some of the other motor coach companies could give service about as soon as the Crown Coach and Body Corporation; that it was his understanding the reason for placing the order with the Crown Company was primarily to get immediate service, but since then we have discovered that busses have been built and delivered elsewhere; and suggested that the City Council write a letter to the Crown Coach and Body Corporation demanding a definite delivery date, or that the contract be cancelled. He said he had prepared such a letter, which he then read, advising said Company that delivery of the six busses must be made not later than December 15, 1944; and requesting the Company to advise the City immediately, if they are unable to make delivery by this date, so that the order may be cancelled and placed elsewhere.

It was agreed that a definite delivery date should have been established at the time the bid was awarded; and after some discussion Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the letter which he had prepared, and that it be forwarded to the Crown Coach and Body Corporation at once in order to find out what their plans are, and to establish a date for the delivery of these busses. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Police Chief Stroh advised that he had received a letter from the State Civilian Defense, a few days ago, in regard to telephones still being used for Civilian Defense purposes; stating that the State will discontinue payment for such telephones after October 15; but that the Commander of the Naval District had objected to the discontinuance of this service.

He further stated that the Telephone Company was badly in need of telephones and was anxious to get as many released as possible, and suggested a meeting with the Council to decide how many telephones it might be possible to release.

After some discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to use his own judgment as to the disposition of the telephones in the civilian defense work. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Charles Elman, of Los Angeles, advised that he had made two trips to Torrance in an effort to see the City Judge, and each time he was away, and inquired whether the City Judge was employed full time or on a part-time basis.

Mayor Tolson advised Mr. Elman that the City Judge was not employed full time.

Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, advised that a request had been received to line the Nursery School Buildings at the Municipal Park with celotex; that the necessary work would be donated if the City would supply the material, the cost of which would not exceed \$100.00.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be authorized for the purchase of celotex for the Day Nursery buildings. 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.

At 3:00 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE