

Torrance, California  
October 24, 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 24, 1944, at 7:55 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Cucci moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 10, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that there seemed to be some doubt about the legality of the recent appointment of the City Clerk to the position of Purchasing Agent, and suggesting that the City Council obtain a court decision as to the legality of this appointment; also recommending that the position of "Purchasing Agent" be made a full-time job, in the Classified Service of the City.

Councilman Cucci stated that this matter had been previously discussed by the Council, at which time some of the Councilmen expressed the desire to have this matter taken into the courts; and stated that he was in favor of obtaining a court decision to determine whether it is legal or illegal that this position be held by an elective officer; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the Civil Service Board be authorized to obtain a court decision as to the legality of the position of Purchasing Agent being held by an elective

officer of the City; both from the standpoint of the Civil Service Ordinance and the Municipal Corporation Act; and that the sum of \$300.00 be appropriated for the use of the Civil Service Board for this purpose.

Mayor Tolson stated that while he was perfectly willing to have this matter cleared up, he did not feel that any particular amount of money should be appropriated as there must be decisions on the matter and that the decisions of competent attorneys could probably be obtained.

Councilman Powell stated that there is no record of any test of a case of this kind in the courts, and as far as individual opinions are concerned, they don't mean anything; whereupon he seconded the motion of Councilman Cucci, 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. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Municipal Bus Lines, advising that the bus drivers have now purchased uniforms, and making the following recommendations:

(1) That the system be re-routed to go through Gardena, and the City of Gardena requested to grant a franchise for this route;

(2) That a local service be operated to Lomita, WALTERIA and possibly Harbor City;

(3) That the office of the Bus Department be moved into the offices now occupied by the City Attorney;

(4) That the contract with the Crown Body & Coach Company for six new 44-passenger busses be cancelled, and a new order be placed with the White Motor Company for four 44-passenger busses; for the reason that, in the opinion of Mr. Ward, the Crown bus is under-powered and inferior to the White Bus.

Councilman Gilbert asked Attorney McCall if he had any objection to the suggested change in offices.

Attorney McCall replied that any office the Council gives him will be satisfactory, provided there was sufficient room for his equipment.

Mayor Tolson stated that in his opinion it would be impossible to get new busses now, and so far as the Crown busses being inferior, and being under-powered, he said there are more busses in Los Angeles with 135 and 140 h.p. motors than with the larger ones; and he believed any competent engineer would say that the up-keep on the Crown bus will be much lower than on any other bus; and that inasmuch as there is a prospect of the City selling the system, he suggested that these recommendations be held up until after the adjourned meeting of the Council, to be held next week.

Councilman Cucci said he believed the trouble with the Bus Department in the past has been that the Council has not paid sufficient attention to the recommendations of the Bus Manager, and he would like to see these recommendations acted on now.

Councilman Gilbert also expressed himself as being in favor of immediate action on the recommendations made.

Some discussion followed, as to the legality of cancelling the contract with the Crown Body and Coach Corporation.

Clerk Bartlett then read a letter from the Crown Body and Coach Corporation, in which they advise that they expect to commence delivery of the six busses on or about the first of November.

Attorney McCall stated that if it was desired to cancel this contract, he would advise obtaining a letter from the Crown Body and Coach Corporation releasing the City of any liability, as it might save a lawsuit later on.

Following some further discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Ward be authorized to proceed with the improvements recommended in his letter of October 24; excepting that instead of requesting the City of Gardena for a franchise, a request be made for a six months' temporary permit to operate busses through that City; and that the City Attorney be requested to communicate with the Crown Body and Coach Corporation and request a release from the contract for the purchase of six new busses. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Clerk Bartlett presented a resolution, signed by seven labor organizations, requesting the City Council to oppose the enactment of Proposition No. 12, on the California State Ballot November 7, 1944.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Council adopt the resolution submitted by the labor organizations, to be known as Resolution No. 1695. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Gilbert stated that if any individual wanted to know how he is going to vote on Proposition No. 12 he would be glad to tell them, if they would see him after the meeting, but as a public officer he did not feel he had any right to go on record on such a matter.

A communication was read from the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, thanking the Council for permitting Mr. Butterfield to attend their annual meeting in Santa Cruz. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Girl Scouts, Los Angeles Council, thanking the Council and the Park authorities for the splendid cooperation they received this summer; and requesting that four more latrines be installed in the Park, to meet the minimum standards of the National Organization of Girl Scouts.

Councilman Cucci moved that this request be held up for further consideration and report at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Groff's United Shows, requesting permission to play in Torrance from November 13 to 18 inclusive, at the same location occupied by them a few months ago.

Councilman Cucci moved that this request be granted, provided the space is available. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Walter J. Bobritzky, 2880 West 166th Street, requesting permission to raise hogs on his ranch, at the address stated.

Councilman Powell moved that the applicant be referred to the Planning Commission, and the City Clerk instruct him as to the necessary procedure to follow. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain advised that a meeting of the Planning Commission was held the preceding evening; it being the first meeting since the new members had been appointed on the Planning Commission and that they decided to meet on the First Monday of each month hereafter.

A communication was read from the Torrance Recreation Commission \* petitioning the City Council to employ a competent recreation authority to make a survey of the recreational needs of the community, the cost of such survey not to exceed \$200.00; and recommending the employment of Walter F. Hansen to make this survey.

Also, a communication from the Torrance Recreation Commission, advising that they have delayed all action on proposals before it, pending the action of the City Council on their request for a survey.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Walter F. Hansen be employed to make a survey of the recreational needs of the community, at a cost of not to exceed \$200.00; said survey to be made in conjunction with the City's Recreational Director, and the Recreation Commission.

In reply to a question from Councilman Powell, as to Mr. Hansen's qualifications, Mr. Thatcher, of Waleria, stated that Mr. Hansen had been with the U.S. Government for many years, handling the recreation for the Federal Security Administration, and is now Recreation Director for the City of Santa Ana. The motion was then seconded by Councilman Powell, and 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 Robert Gillen, Manager of the Wilshire Service Station in WALTERIA, requesting permission to park a house trailer on the lot adjoining the Service Station, as it is necessary for him to live close to his business.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be rejected. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain advised that a similar condition exists at another service station in WALTERIA, where a house trailer is parked, and he has been unable to make them move; and recommended that some action be taken to compel these people to move.

After a short discussion, Councilman Gilbert moved that the Chief of Police be authorized to take the necessary action to compel the removal of the house trailer mentioned. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the National Supply Company, advising that they wished to rebuild the front of their Division Warehouse, facing on Carson Street; and requesting permission to build a barricade 7' high, extending 100' along the front of the warehouse, and serve as an enclosure for the building when the front is removed.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the request be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Joseph Lisa, 2709 West 82nd Place, Inglewood, requesting a refund of \$15.00, which he had paid as a fee for a Variance Permit filed with the City on September 21, 1944, but later withdrawn.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted and the money refunded to Mr. Lisa. 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 W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of the Water Department, requesting authorization to purchase a Trailer for the Water Department, at a cost of \$189.38.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation be authorized for \$189.38 for the purchase of a trailer for the Water Department. 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 W. H. Stanger, Superintendent of the Water Department, requesting authorization to purchase twelve 1" Water Meters, at a cost of \$272.88.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$272.88 be authorized for the purchase of twelve 1" Water Meters for the Water Department. 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 the City Engineer be authorized to employ a Chainman and Rodman, on a temporary basis, during the construction of Torrance Boulevard, at the prevailing rate of \$1.25 per hour, commencing October 11, 1944, until this job is completed. 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 the City Engineer be authorized to obtain the use of a private automobile, at a cost of \$1.00 per day, for use of the Engineering Department, on Torrance Boulevard, when the regular Engineering Department's car is not available. 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 the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, advising that their supply of maps of the City of Torrance is exhausted, and requesting authority to order the reprinting of 3000 of these maps, at a cost not to exceed \$160.00, to be paid for by the City.

Councilman Cucci moved that the expenditure of not to exceed \$160.00 be authorized for the printing of 3000 Industrial Maps of the City of Torrance. 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.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, in regard to the beautification of the east entrance to Torrance, and requesting that the City appropriate the sum of \$160.00 for the installation of water pipe for the irrigation of this park area.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the expenditure of \$160.00 be authorized for the purchase of water pipe for the beautification of the Western Avenue entrance to the City. 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 Clerk be authorized to employ an assistant accountant, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, commencing October 30, 1944.

Councilman Gilbert requested the City Clerk to notify this assistant accountant, when employed, that this employment is for the war emergency period only; whereupon he 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 called attention to the street lighting at the corner of Carson Street and Arlington Avenue; stating that the lights being used are on opposite corners from the boulevard stop signs, which are hard to see in foggy weather; and suggested that all four lights should be in use at that intersection.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Engineer be authorized to make alterations to the building formerly used as a stable, at a cost not to exceed \$250.00; to be used for City Paint Shop. 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 the expenditure of not to exceed \$400.00 be authorized for the erection of partitions in the main office of the City Clerk's Department. 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 Mr. Harold A. Barnett, Engineer, be employed to make a survey of the sewer project on 203rd Street, at a cost of \$300.00. 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 moved that the City Clerk be notified that in all cases where appropriations are required, no payments shall be made in excess of the amount appropriated without further authority from the City Council. 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 that he believed Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Department, should receive a salary sufficient to distinguish him from a driver, and if the Council expected him to improve the system and manage the department, he should be entitled to a salary comparable to a manager's position; whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Ward's salary be established at \$300.00 per month, and that he be allowed \$25.00 per month additional for automobile expenses. 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 asked if there was anything further to report on the request that was made some time ago for an appraisal of the Quandt Water System.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council meet with Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, and that the City Clerk notify Mr. Stanger to be present at the adjourned meeting of the Council, to be held on Monday, October 30, 1944. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson asked if there was any report on the request of the Retail Merchants Division, that a 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 suggested that the Council meet with a committee of the Retail Merchants to discuss the matter.

Councilman Gilbert said he would like to see a memorial in the form of a building, designed for recreational purposes, with a meeting place for the veterans.

Mayor Tolson requested the City Clerk to notify the Retail Merchants Association that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

The Mayor advised that numerous requests have been received regarding the Boy Scout Camp that had been donated to the City in the Hollywood Riviera Tract; and requested the City Clerk to contact the Associated Assessment Engineers regarding the delinquent taxes on this property.

Mayor Tolson asked for a report on the sump hole ordinance. Following a short discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney and the Ordinance Committee prepare on oil drilling ordinance and present it at the next regular meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Stroh inquired why Crenshaw Boulevard had not been striped, when the rest of the streets were striped, and stated that numerous complaints had been received, due to the fact that in foggy weather it is very difficult to see the street.

Engineer Jain advised that the Street Department had intended to place a seal coat on this street, which had just recently been resurfaced, but it has been impossible to obtain the oil, so he would order the traffic striping done at once.

Chief Stroh also suggested that directional signs be installed at the intersection of Crenshaw Blvd. and 190th Street, directing traffic to Torrance.

Councilman Cucci asked Chief Stroh if he had any objections to the black-out curtains being removed from the windows of the Civic Auditorium.

Chief Stroh replied that he had no objections, and didn't think there was any further danger of an enemy attack.

Councilman Cucci moved that the black-out curtains be removed from the windows in the Civic Auditorium. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sam Levy asked if any of the merchants in Torrance had been given an opportunity to bid on the uniforms for the bus drivers.

Mayor Tolson advised Mr. Levy that the bus drivers had individually purchased their own uniforms, at their own expense, and the City had nothing to do with them.

Councilman Gilbert 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, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

At 9:45 P.M., on motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned until October 30, 1944, at 7:30 P.M.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE