

Torrance, California
December 26, 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, December 26, 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 present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 12, 1944 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mrs. Alice E. Herr, expressing appreciation for the improved bus service rendered by the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, and commending the drivers of the line for their courteous attitude toward the passengers. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Walteria Community Service Council, enclosing petitions signed by 233 Walteria residents, requesting the City Council to authorize a survey of the district served by the Quandt Pumping Company, Walteria, and to obtain an appraisal of the assets of said company.

Mayor Tolson suggested that action be deferred on this matter until a later date to allow the Council time for further discussion and to obtain legal advice from the City Attorney as to what procedure should be followed. No opposition to this suggestion being offered, it was assumed that the Council approved the plan.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that the subject of dispensing with promotional examinations for the duration of the war was discussed at a meeting of the Board held December 6, 1944. It was advised that the Board had recommended that the normal functions of civil service in regard to promotional examinations should not be interfered with, with the exception that, where a promotional examination would infringe upon the promotional rights of any City employee now in the armed forces, the vacancy should be temporarily filled until the return of the employee or employees who would have been eligible for such promotional examination. In the event a promotional examination is called for and it is found no one in the Armed Forces is eligible to compete, it had been the opinion of the Board that the examination should not be delayed, the communication stated.

Councilman Gilbert stated that it was he who had originally made the motion that all promotional examinations be dispensed with for the duration of the war, but that the point brought out by the Civil Service Board relative to infringement upon the rights of members of the Armed Forces had not occurred to him at the time. He said he felt the point is well taken, and requested that thought be given to drawing up a resolution relative to promotional examinations, incorporating therein the various conditions mentioned in the letter from the Civil Service Board.

At 8:00 P.M. Clerk Bartlett was instructed by Mayor Tolson to open bids for 3,000 ft. 6" Class 150 Cast Iron Pipe for Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, which bids were opened and read in the following order.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Price per foot</u>
American Cast Iron Pipe Company 412 West Sixth Street Los Angeles, California	\$.997
California State Use Tax of 2½% to be added to above price, if applicable. Bid was accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in the amount of \$325.00.	
United States Pipe and Foundry Company 448 South Hill Street Los Angeles, California	F.O.B. cars Bessmer, Alabama \$.68 F.O.B. trenchside Torrance, California .99
Sales tax to be added to above price. Bid was accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in the amount of \$350.00.	
National Cast Iron Pipe F.O.B. Foundry 1930 West Olympic Blvd. F.O.B. Trucks Torrance Los Angeles, California	\$.663 .97

California Sales or Use Tax to be added to above prices, if applicable. Bid was accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in the amount of \$500.00.

Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company 437 South Hill Street Los Angeles, California	\$.99
---	-------

Sales Tax to be added to above price. Bid was accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in the amount of \$300.00.

Engineer Jain arrived at 8:04 P.M. during opening of bids.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all the above bids be referred to the Manager of the Municipal Water District No. 1 and the City Attorney for examination and report. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell read a recommendation from Chief John H. Stroh that Creed V. Watts, who has completed his six months' probationary period as a patrolman, Police Department, be granted the automatic salary increase to \$210.00 per month, effective December 15, 1944, after which reading Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation be complied with. 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 Powell read a communication from Chief of Police Stroh, in which Chief Stroh called attention to the recent action of the Government in connection with the return of the Japanese to California, which action will affect Torrance, and asking that the Council meet with him for discussion of plans he has tentatively formulated to restore the Civilian Defense Organization to its original strength as a preparedness measure.

Councilman Powell stated he had requested Chief Stroh to meet with the City Council immediately upon adjournment of this meeting for discussion of the above subject.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief J. E. McMaster in which it was recommended that the following members of the Fire Department be granted salary increases in order to equalize salaries throughout the department:

Engineer Moffitt	From \$210.00 to \$225.00
Engineer Lopp	From 195.00 to 225.00
Engineer Fess	From 210.00 to 225.00
Engineer Clemmer	From 210.00 to 225.00
Engineer Held	From 175.00 to 190.00

Councilman Powell requested Chief McMaster to meet with the Council upon adjournment of this meeting for discussion of the above requested salary increases.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$99.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of a 10-ton Walker hydraulic floor jack from Shields and Harper. 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 Cucci read a communication from James Brodie, City Custodian, requesting that favorable consideration be given to the construction of a storage room, to be erected in the rear of the Auditorium, approximately 60 feet in length, for storage of equipment and janitor supplies. Also, it was requested by Mr. Brodie that two wooden trucks be purchased, size 4' x 14', for holding and conveying chairs.

Councilman Cucci said he felt the budget should be studied before action is taken on the first request. Regarding the second request, Councilman Cucci stated that there is definitely a need for the trucks and moved that they be purchased, price to be stipulated at a later date.

A short discussion ensued regarding approximate price of the trucks. As no one was prepared to furnish the figures, it was finally decided, upon Mayor Tolson's suggestion, and with the approval of Councilman Cucci, to have City Clerk Bartlett check into the matter and obtain prices, action to be taken at the time this information is furnished.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$78.50, plus tax, be made for purchase of 1000 gallons bitumuls, to be used in street repair work. 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 \$100.00 be made for resurfacing of the East gutter on Border Avenue, from Double Street to Carson Street. 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 \$950.00 be made for asphaltic plant mix material, to be furnished and placed by contractor, for repair of 218th Street between Arlington and Cabrillo Avenues. 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 Engineer Jain, in which Engineer Jain recommended that additional garage space be provided to store City equipment, which, he said, has been left out-of-doors due to the fact that the City busses require all the available space. From having been left out in bad weather, the equipment has, and is continuing to, deteriorate.

Councilman Hitchcock said he thought it would be advisable to discuss the possibility of erecting additional garage facilities at the same time the request of James Brodie for a store room at the auditorium is discussed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the entire City Council for study and discussion. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the employment of George V. Braden be authorized, Mr. Braden to make a survey of the recreational facilities of the City of Torrance for \$200.00, starting December 27, 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 stated that the request of the Western States Model Race Car Association that the City assist in obtaining a transformer for the Torrance track had been investigated, whereupon it had been found that the need is actually for a meter and not for a transformer. He said that the City can obtain the necessary priority to have the meter installed by applying for it in the interest of recreation, the meter to be installed and bills for electricity to be rendered to the City each month, but which bills will be paid by the Western States Model Race Car Association.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Electrician be authorized to apply for the necessary priority for a meter to be installed at the Torrance model race car track, this being done in the interest of City recreation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$41.00 be made for purchase of 50 3/4" Service Stops and \$54.00 be appropriated for purchase of 50 1" Service Stops, total amount \$96.00, for Torrance 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$82.82 be made for repairs to 2" Homelite Trench Pump 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 asked Chief Stroh what action had been taken relative to the request of Mr. Edsel Newton that heavy trucking on Neece Avenue in Walteria be prohibited, which matter was referred to Chief Stroh for whatever action he deemed necessary.

Chief Stroh advised that he had investigated and submitted a letter to Mr. Bartlett relative to number of signs needed to post the street against heavy trucking, together with prices of the signs. Councilman Cucci asked what had been done about preparing the necessary resolution to be passed in connection with this matter, Chief Stroh advising that, upon obtaining the signs and getting them ready to install, the resolution will then be in order. He said the official in charge of the Kern Oil Company had assured him (Chief Stroh) that the Company will keep their trucks off Neece Avenue while the signs are being obtained.

Clerk Bartlett being unable to locate the letter referred to, Councilman Hitchcock asked Chief Stroh if he recalled the price of the signs. Chief Stroh advised that the signs cost \$2.90 each, six signs being necessary. He proceeded to give locations where the signs will be posted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation be made for six signs to post Neece Avenue, Walteria, against heavy trucking. 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 Cucci stated that the resolution lowering the water rates has never been passed, due to the fact that it was never prepared properly, although, he said, it dates back to July 1, 1944 when the tax rate was being established.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare properly the resolution lowering the water rates in Water District Number 1 and present same at the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson asked Chief Stroh what had been done regarding the request of the Chamber of Commerce that angle parking be instituted on Torrance Boulevard between Cota Avenue and Border Avenue.

Chief Stroh advised that Mr. Emerson from the Southern California Automobile Club and he had investigated the matter and it was determined that the cars could be angle parked at, between a 55 or 60 de-

gree angle, but not at the usual 45 degree angle. He said it had been determined that if angle parking were instituted on Torrance Boulevard from Sartori Street to Cota Street on the North side, and from Portola to Cravens Street on the opposite side, sufficient parking facilities would thereby be provided to accommodate the business houses in the district. The balance of the street, he said would still continue using the parallel parking system.

Chief Stroh said that, incorporated in the letter which he sent Mr. Bartlett, is a request for boulevard stop signs, two-thirds of the signs having been destroyed during street repair proceedings. In addition, he said there was also a request that no "U" turns be allowed on Torrance Boulevard except at intersections, it being felt that motorists may get the impression that, since part of the street is a residential district, such turns can be made anywhere in the block. Chief Stroh advised that the Automobile Club is being allotted a certain amount of metal at this time for signs, and had advised him to get his order in as soon as possible due to the scarcity of metal for signs. He said prices were also given, in the letter to the City Clerk, for the boulevard stop signs and the "No U Turn" signs.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all the recommendations submitted by the Southern California Automobile Club, and approved by Chief of Police Stroh, in a letter addressed to City Clerk Bartlett in connection with Torrance Boulevard, be complied with. 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.

Engineer Jain read an article which was printed in the Torrance Herald December 14, 1944 relative to the Torrance Boulevard project. He said there were three things mentioned in the article, and three things were incorrect. He said the statements which were printed to the effect that the job would not be finished on schedule, is costing the City much more than the estimates, and claiming that the City is furnishing its men and equipment to help on the job, are all incorrect statements. Engineer Jain said the name of the informant was not given for obvious reasons. He said there is every reason to believe that the job will be finished on schedule, the time limit having been set as January 6, 1945, with an allowance of 10 days for rain.

Mr. Jain said that, at the time the article was written, the second estimate had not been prepared, and was not prepared until two days later. He said it had been found that on every one of the eighteen items, cost is running under the estimate and under the bid. In connection with the statement that the City is making up the difference by furnishing its own men and equipment, Engineer Jain said that this is not a true statement, as the City has not used its men and equipment except to do work not called for in the bid.

Councilman Cucci advised that he had not authorized the Torrance Herald to print the statements referred to, and suggested that the City Council should consult Mr. Whyte, Torrance Herald Editor, about what the Council expects to do next.

Councilman Powell commented that "it is a common thing for him to misrepresent in the paper - we are all familiar with that."

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Stroh advised that, upon the request of Mr. Charles Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, the curb had been painted to designate a bus zone on both sides of Gramercy Avenue where that street enters Cabrillo Avenue, the space painted on each side being 40 feet. He said it had been impossible to get the new busses to the curb in the short space allowed for the old busses, which are much smaller. In the event that complaints are received that too much of the parking space is being used at that point, he said he wanted the Council to know that the measure was a necessary one.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the fol-

lowing roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock,
Powell and Tolson. NOES: :COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN:
None.

At 8:32 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by
Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE