

Torrance, California  
May 22, 1945

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 22, 1945 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 Hitchcock moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 8, 1945 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held May 15, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from William Looney, requesting refund of Business License No. 539, stating that said license will not be used due to the fact that Mr. Looney is leaving town.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request be granted and the refund made. 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 Civil Air Patrol, requesting a slight revision in the Municipal Bus Lines schedules for the benefit of a large number of Cadet Students from the Torrance area in attending evening classes at the Lomita Flight Strip.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager, Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to operate a special bus for this purpose. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication, signed by seven residents, was read, requesting installation of a boulevard stop on Eldorado Street and Crenshaw Boulevard, and requesting that a caution sign be placed on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Chief of Police for recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the War Manpower Commission, advising that the Midnight Curfew, established effective February 26, 1945, has been abolished effective May 9, 1945. Matter of record.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to check and determine whether or not the courts had handed down decisions that it is illegal for cities to enact and enforce Juvenile Curfew Ordinances, and that, if this is found to be so, steps be taken to repeal the City of Torrance Juvenile Curfew Ordinance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, expressing appreciation for approval by the Council of a recent request made by the Post concerning the dedication of a plot in El Prado Park for memorial purposes, and requesting the Council to participate in the memorial services scheduled for Sunday, May 27, 1945.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Clerk be authorized to direct a communication to the Post, stating that those Councilmen who are available on the day above-mentioned will participate in the services. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Tolson announced opening of bids for a tractor-loader. Clerk Bartlett opened the one bid received, being as follows:

Smith Booth Usher Company, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

1 New International Model TD-9 Diesel Tractor, 38.88 drawbar horsepower, 60" C/C tread, 15" flat track shoes, 5 roller track frame, oversized front idler, electric starter, blow type fan and standard equipment, total weight, 17,000#. Price . . \$6249.00.

ALTERNATE: 1 New International Model TD-9 Diesel Tractor, 38.88 drawbar horsepower, 60" C/C tread, 15" flat track shoes, 5 roller extended rigid track frame, oversize front idler, blower type fan, electric starter and standard equipment, including -

1 New Hough Cable Controlled Front End Shovel, 3/4 Cu. Yd. capacity, with all standard equipment, mounted on above tractor, total weight, 15,500#. Price . . . . . \$5803.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a five minute recess be declared for the purpose of allowing the Engineer and Council to consider the bid as submitted.

Upon being informed that an Adjourned Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 1945, Councilman Hitchcock withdrew the above motion and moved that the bid be referred to the City Engineer and Council as a whole for report and action at the Adjourned Meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Helen Miller and her committee, on behalf of the Torrance Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, expressing appreciation for cooperation and assistance rendered by Mr. James Brodie and Mr. Frank Davies in making the reception held April 26, 1945 for Mrs. A. E. Kerber, Grand Ruth of the Grand Chapter, State of California, a success.

A communication was read from Frank R. Bates, requesting permission to live in a house tent on his lot at 24241 Ward Street, WALTERIA, until such time as he can complete a house on the lot. He stated that he has applied for and received a building permit, and is now awaiting necessary priorities before proceeding with construction of the house.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not a specific date should be agreed upon. It was pointed out that, in other instances, 90-day permits had been granted. Attorney McCall advised that, if a 90-day permit is granted this individual and he fails to build during the time, he can be compelled to move out of the tent upon expiration of the permit.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Frank R. Bates be granted a temporary permit of 90-days beginning June 1, 1945, to live in a house tent on his lot at 24241 Ward Street, WALTERIA. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. R. Wing and W. I. Barnard, describing the method of operation of a proposed light manufacturing business to be located on 213th Street east of the Construction Material Company for the manufacture of plastic items.

It was stated that there will be no odors, dirt or dust, and very little noise.

Engineer Jain reported that he had talked with the gentlemen interested in this enterprise, and could see no objection to granting them a license if they will agree to enclose any machine or machines which prove to be a nuisance later on.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a license be granted to W. R. Wing and W. I. Barnard for light manufacturing of plastic items on 213th Street east of the Construction Material Company, subject to all the terms and conditions contained in their letter, and subject to the condition mentioned by Engineer Jain relative to agreeing to enclose machines which may prove to be a nuisance at a later date. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Boy Scouts of America, requesting use of the facilities of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines to transport Boy Scouts to Travis Field for a week-end camping trip the week-end of May 19 and 20, 1945.

Councilman Cucci stated that a definite operation cost has been arrived at for trips of this nature, and moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Alice Benner, proprietress, Alice's Beauty Salon, 1215 El Prado, requesting that steps be taken to correct the highly unsanitary and unsightly condition of the alley adjacent to her place of business. She stated that garbage is dumped over the ground from the restaurant and nearby apartments, causing disagreeable odors and many flies.

Councilman Gilbert stated that he had investigated this condition and found it to be highly offensive and disagreeable and moved that it be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and recommendation at the next meeting.

Engineer Jain reported that letters had been written to the owners of the apartments, and personal approaches made, but that no satisfaction had been gained. He said the apartments are leased and that there is no way to control the tenants. He said the condition had existed for several months and has reached the point where City trucks cannot possibly handle it. He said he felt it to be a police matter, as the ordinance is being violated.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the owners of the apartments be requested to meet with the City Council at 7:00 P.M. June 5, 1945, preceding the Adjourned Meeting, for discussion of this matter with the Council and Chief of Police with the view of arriving at some satisfactory solution to the problem. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. A. Evans, Owner of Evans Gift & Stationery Shop, substantiated Mrs. Benner's statements regarding this unsanitary condition.

A communication was read from the Torrance Recreation Commission signed by Winifred P. Watson, Secretary, advising that, at a meeting of the Recreation Commission held May 11, 1945, it was decided to recommend to the City Council that the City purchase from the Los Angeles School Board the parcel of land known as the Fern Avenue Annex, to be used permanently as a park and neighborhood playground. It was advised that the property is 300 x 500 and can be purchased for a total price of \$6,000.00, and that the recommendation as submitted is in conformity with the recommendation given by Major George Braden as a result of the Recreational Survey recently made by him.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that, in compliance with instructions given him at the last meeting to obtain prices for placing an advertisement in the Labor Herald special edition to be published approximately June 15, 1945, he had been informed as follows:  $\frac{1}{2}$  page, \$100.00;  $\frac{1}{8}$  page, \$50.00 and  $\frac{1}{16}$  page, \$25.00.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Clerk be authorized to purchase a  $\frac{1}{16}$  page space in the Labor Herald special edition. 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 a communication from the County of Los Angeles Health Department, together with four copies of the contract for public health services in the City of Torrance for the fiscal year 1945-46

Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement with the County of Los Angeles Health Department for public health services in the City of Torrance for the fiscal year 1945-46. 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. 1728

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING AND PROVID-  
ING FOR THE RECORDING OF BILL OF SALE.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1728 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. 1729

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING EASEMENT  
FROM CHANSLOR-CANFIELD MIDWAY OIL COM-  
PANY, A CORPORATION, TO CERTAIN REAL PROP-  
ERTY AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1729 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.

Several petitions were presented, protesting the granting of a license or franchise to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company which will permit the construction, maintenance and operation of spur tracks connected with the present main line of said company which now runs through the City of Torrance, and giving specific reasons for entering the protest.

The petitions were accompanied by a communication requesting return of said petitions in the event of unfavorable action or delay by the Council.

Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that, regardless of what action the Council may take, the petitions should be retained by the Council, whereupon Mr. Hughes, seated in the audience, advised that the Council may retain a copy.

Clerk Bartlett read one of the petitions in full, stating that the others are carbon copies.

It was decided to defer discussion on this matter until oral communications are heard.

Councilman Cucci moved that \$60.07, plus tax, be appropriated for shifting gear assembly for Busses #101 and #102, Municipal Bus Lines. 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 moved that an appropriation of \$269.50, plus tax, be made for one air driven power wrench and sockets, Municipal Bus Lines. 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 moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$225.00 be made for painting and lettering Bus No. 103, Municipal Bus Lines. 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 asked Councilman Cucci if he would obtain estimates from various painters or paint concerns and determine

whether or not this figure is high, which Councilman Gucci agreed to do before authorizing painting of the two remaining unpainted busses.

Councilman Gucci moved that the employment of William M. Brand be authorized as a bus operator, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective May 12, 1945. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gucci read a recommendation from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Municipal Bus Lines, that Clayton R. Smith be employed as a Bus Mechanic, Grade "A". He said, however, that he would like to first determine whether or not Mr. Coleman expects to resign his position as Bus Mechanic before acting on this recommendation.

Councilman Gucci moved that Robert L. Garner be employed, on a temporary basis, as a Bus Operator, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective May 12, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gucci moved that Clyde P. Goodwin and Russell A. Kleinhaus be employed as Bus Operators, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective dates being May 18, 1945 and May 22, 1945 respectively. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gucci moved that an appropriation of \$172.60 be made for payment to Joseph Shafer, being for expenses in connection with checks made on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines April 28 and 29 and May 5 and 6, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gucci moved that an appropriation of \$64.70 be made for new book stacks for the library. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

In reply to an inquiry from a gentleman in the audience as to whether or not the Bus Operators employed represent replacements, Councilman Gucci answered in the affirmative. He added that a report will be rendered at a later date regarding the latest developments in the Bus Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$406.18, plus tax, be made for pre-mix paving material for repairing the alley approaches in the downtown area. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an additional amount of \$59.71 be made for Vickers Pump and Valve Assembly for the Hough Loader, Street Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$200.00 be made for second-hand structural steel for a building at the City Yard, Street Department. 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 Gilbert moved that Tom Mann be employed as a War Emergency Employee, Park Department, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective May 9, 1945, replacing Gerald Bliss. 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 not to exceed \$67.45, plus tax, be made for 200 "Advance", monthly Chamber of Commerce bulletins. 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 not to exceed \$2185.75 be made for payment to Oppert and Forsberg for general contract work on the warehouse, Municipal Water District #1, being Payment No. 2. 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$1040.91 be made for payment to Harold A. Barnett, Civil Engineer, for engineering work on the 203rd Street Sewer Project. 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 asked whether or not the money paid Mr. Barnett in connection with the sewer project, which he understood will be under a bond issue, will be returned to the City automatically, Attorney McCall's reply being in the affirmative.

Mayor Tolson moved that there be placed on the ballot at the next regular election in April, 1946, the question of whether or not the City will adopt the State Retirement Plan. 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.

Attorney McCall reported that he has not as yet completed the ordinance he was instructed to draft in compliance with a request of Mrs. Davison, Poundmaster, her request having been read at the May 8, 1945 meeting.

Engineer Jain reported that he does not have the estimate for resurfacing Grenshaw Boulevard between Sepulveda and Carson Street, this request having been presented by the Chamber of Commerce at the May 8, 1945 meeting. He added that he will probably have it by the next meeting.

In connection with the letter read at the May 8, 1945 meeting from the Civil Service Board, relative to the Police Matron examination, it was decided to study the matter further and report at the June 5, 1945 Adjourned Meeting.

At this time, the question of the application of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for a franchise for trackage to serve the Navy Storage Base was presented. Attorney McCall reported that he had held consultations with the attorneys of the Railway Company, and that they are quite willing to accept a permit.

A discussion began as to the terms of the permit, it being the thought that the permit should be similar to the permit on which the company is operating the main line, i.e., for the duration of the present war and six months thereafter.

During the ensuing, lengthy and involved discussion, many interested citizens participated, among them being Mr. A. L. Elder, Mr. W. G. Hughes, Mr. James O'Toole, Mrs. Martha Riggle, Mrs. Schooley, Mr. Raymond P. Shafer, Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Bartlett, Mr. Fay Parks, and Mrs. Cecilia Young; also participating were all members of the City Council, the City Attorney, City Engineer and Mr. Lapman, representative of the Railway Company.

The citizens, all of them signers of the petitions read earlier in the meeting, expressed a keen interest in this matter, as the main line on Madrid Avenue is adjacent to many of their homes and they stated it had been the sincere desire and hope to have the line moved to Madrona Avenue six months after the war.

They emphasized the fact that, if a permit or license is granted as applied for, the Council will estop itself and its successors in office from any action in the future which may have for its object the removal of said tracks of said railway company from Madrid Avenue and other right of way which the expired franchise of said railway company permitted the company to use, because by granting the company the right to construct and operate the spur tracks from its present main line, the Council tacitly consents to the operation of the main line, without which the spur track would be useless.

The Council clearly indicated a willingness to hear all the arguments and to endeavor to reach a decision which will be satisfactory to the majority of the people, but it was also clearly indicated that no action will be taken to satisfy the demands of the signers of the petitions at the risk of placing the property of other citizens in jeopardy.

In reply to an assertion made by the citizens that the best action in connection with the permit would be to refuse to grant same, in which event the Navy would proceed to have the spur track constructed without a permit, Mr. Lapman and Engineer Jain explained that, in so doing, the Navy would take the property by a "Declaration of Taking", which would require an act of Congress to ever compel the Navy to abandon the property. On the other hand, if the permit is granted to the Railway Company, certain terms and conditions can be incorporated therein, and mainly, a time limit, which will give some promise of, by enforcing the terms of the permit, eventually being able to start proceedings toward accomplishing the desired result.

After much more debate and continued discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the officials of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and the City Engineer be authorized to notify the officials of the Navy, that a meeting is desired with them at the earliest possible date, May 23, 1945, if possible, and that the citizens interested in the subject of the Santa Fe Railway Company trackage question appoint a committee of three to be in attendance at the meeting, together with the entire City Council. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

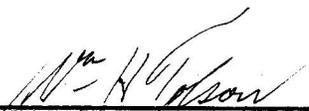
More discussion ensued relative to the attitude of the City Council in connection with the question of moving the tracks from Madrid Avenue to Madrona Avenue, whereupon Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to offer assurance to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company that the City Council of the City of Torrance is willing to cooperate with the Railway Company in the matter of securing a right of way or franchise in the Madrona Avenue district to serve the Navy Storage Base with desired spur tracks. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be 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.

At 10:43 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to June 5, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ATTEST:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE