

Torrance, California  
September 11, 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, September 11, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 28, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Miss Marie Bruce, 2142 - 238th Street, Lomita, applying for permission to operate three taxicabs in the City of Torrance instead of one as originally applied for.

A short discussion ensued with reference to the taxicab ordinance which is in the process of being prepared, and particularly with reference to the license fees to be assessed.

Councilman Hitchcock expressed the opinion that this matter should be held in abeyance until the ordinance is completed and can be used as a guide in arriving at a determination in this matter, and so moved. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors, signed by Raymond V. Darby, Supervisor, Fourth District, enclosing a copy of the Report of the Refuse Disposal Committee on Elimination of Smoke Nuisance from Rubbish Dumps in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. An extra copy was also submitted for the City Engineer.

The report being somewhat voluminous, it was not read in full.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested obtaining additional copies.

Councilman Cucci moved that the report be referred to the City Engineer for study and recommendation as to appropriate action.

Engineer Jain advised that he had helped prepare the report and proceeded to explain some of the details, particularly scope of the plan and cost. He added that no action is necessary at this time.

Councilman Cucci withdrew his motion in view of the fact that Engineer Jain's participation in preparation of the report has acquainted him with it without further study.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the press be furnished copies of the report, to which Engineer Jain replied that this had already been done.

It was suggested that Engineer Jain obtain additional copies for the Council.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Tolson announced opening of bids for a workshop for the Water Company, which bids Clerk Bartlett opened and read as follows:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT OF BID</u>
Oppert and Forsberg 3861 West Vernon Avenue Los Angeles, California	\$8,356.00
Bid Bond in the amount of \$1,000.00 accompanied the bid.	
C. B. Bagnall 1505 Border Avenue Torrance, California	\$11,225.00
Bid Bond in the amount of \$1500.00 accompanied the bid.	

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bids be referred to the City Engineer, City Attorney and Water Superintendent for checking and report at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A copy of a communication addressed to Mr. B. P. Weston from the Walteria Civic Organization was read, complaining that a smoke nuisance has been created by burning of materials in the abandoned sandpit on the Weston Ranch, and requesting that the matter be given prompt attention.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, and Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, relative to the request of Mr. George Schwartz, 1920 Judson Street, Los Angeles, for permission to engage in the business of plumbing, supplies, pipe and salvage, at the corner of Llewellyn Avenue and Torrance Boulevard.

It was stated that the writers were of the opinion that any salvage yard or second-hand yard of any type should be licensed only in a heavy manufacturing zone, completely away from more restrictive business, and away from any main approaches into the City.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Mr. George Schwartz for permission to engage in the business above-mentioned be denied. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary, Torrance City Planning Commission, requesting that the City Council arrange a meeting with the Planning Commission for discussion of the tentative master plan of shoreline development, prepared by the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles. It was stated that this matter had been discussed at length at the regular meeting of the Planning Commission held September 4, 1945, and action had been deferred until the joint meeting could be arranged and held.

Councilman Cucci moved that a meeting be arranged for September 24, 1945 at 7:00 P.M. between the City Council and the City Planning Commission.

Upon Engineer Jain's suggestion that the Council wait and meet with the Planning Commission at the next regular Planning Commission Meeting, Councilman Cucci withdrew his motion, and Engineer Jain's suggestion was accepted.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary, Torrance City Planning Commission, advising that at a public hearing held before the Torrance City Planning Commission on September 4, 1945, the Petition for Variance and Conditional Permit of Inter-

national Derrick and Equipment Company to extend their office building at the southeast corner of Carson and Oak Streets was approved. It was recommended by the Planning Commission that the City Council sustain this action.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission in approving this petition. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary, Torrance City Planning Commission, advising that at a public hearing held before the Torrance City Planning Commission September 4, 1945, the Petition for Variance and Conditional Permit of the Shell Oil Company to construct a single unit wash rack in conjunction with their proposed super-service station, at the southeast corner of Carson Street and Cabrillo Avenue, was approved. It was the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the City Council sustain the Commission's action on this petition.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Council sustain the action of the Planning Commission as recommended. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that as a result of the public hearing held August 29, 1945, as requested by Mr. H. C. Callihan in order to clarify, if possible, the charges filed by Councilman Cucci against Mr. Callihan, there had been established, without question, the existence of very deplorable conditions in the management and operation of the Bus Department. It was indicated that there exists conflict between the City Council, the management, the drivers and their Union; and questioned how this department could operate satisfactorily under these conditions.

It was suggested that steps be taken to investigate and correct the situation as outlined, adding that it is one which demands the attention and advice of the Council.

Councilman Cucci declared that he, as administrative head of the Bus Department, would assume no responsibility for the inefficiency of the Department, inasmuch as he was not sustained in his action in dismissing Mr. Ward and Mr. Callihan, and especially in view of the fact that the public hearing in connection with the Callihan dismissal had substantiated his claim of inefficiency in the Department.

Mayor Tolson advised that his principle reason for reaching the decision he had made in connection with this matter was that the purchasers of the Municipal Bus Lines had requested that everything be left as it was at the time a majority of the Council voted to sell the Line; at least until such time as the matter can be concluded.

Councilman Cucci pressed the matter, asking Mayor Tolson if he would be willing, after it has been determined whether or not the Line is sold, to proceed to rid the Department of inefficiency, Mayor Tolson's reply being in the affirmative.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from the Civil Service Board be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Disaster Relief Authority enclosing four copies of the Mutual Aid Plan for assistance between cities and the County during a disaster or potential disaster period. It was stated that the County Board of Supervisors has approved a mutual aid plan on a county-wide basis. It was requested that the Council study the plan and approve and accept the plan if desired.

Chief Stroh was asked to explain various phases of this plan, which he proceeded to do, advising that the system is the one used in the Civilian Defense program, except that it is broken down into Counties in this plan instead of branching out from the State. He said that all except about seven cities throughout the County have

passed resolutions approving and accepting the plan. He stated he believed the plan is a good one, and one which might provide much needed help in the future.

One or two questions were asked, one being whether or not, in the event of a major disaster extending throughout the area, the City would be compelled to send whatever assistance for which they might be asked. Chief Stroh replied that this had been one of the main concerns, and it had been definitely established that cities would be under no compulsion to send any more assistance than could be spared, especially in time of wide-spread disaster. He also pointed out that men and equipment would be protected when out of the city the same as though they were rendering service within their own city limits.

Another question was raised about the fire equipment, the question being what the result would be if fire equipment were sent out of the city on a call and another fire within the city developed while the equipment was out. Chief Stroh replied that, in no event would the fire chief ever send out all the equipment at one time; that there would always be sufficient equipment kept available for fire emergencies within the City.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the document indicating the approval of the City Council of the Mutual Aid Plan.

Councilman Hitchcock commented that, although the plan appears to be satisfactory, he felt the City Attorney should study it and offer his recommendation, at which time Councilman Cucci withdrew his motion and moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for checking and recommendation as to whether or not the City Council should approve and accept this plan. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title, and portions of:

RESOLUTION NO. 1741

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING WATER  
RATES FOR CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL USES.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1741 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1742

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ACCEPTING  
ADMINISTRATOR'S DEED FROM E. G. CHAPMAN;  
AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE  
THE CITY'S WARRANT IN PAYMENT THEREFOR;  
AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD  
SAID DEED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY  
RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1742 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that the contract with Linde Air Products Company for acetylene and oxygen be renewed for a period of three years, effective August 15, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$62.65 be made for purchase of equipment from O.C.D. for the Fire Department. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$305.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of one 20" Holt Polishing machine for use in city buildings from Easterday Supply Company. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$148.53, plus tax, be made for purchase of sanitary supplies for the Bus Terminal in Los Angeles from Easterday Supply Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci moved that Willard O. Morgan be employed on a temporary basis as a Bus Operator at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective August 31, 1945, to be a part-time employee. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$18.25 be made for purchase of one 24 ft. extension ladder from the O.C.D. for the Custodian Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Gordon Wright be employed on a temporary basis as a Park Maintenance Man to replace Dave Morris, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective September 4, 1945. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$49.98 be made for 1 14-ft. ladder, 1 24-ft. extension ladder, 7 square point shovels and 400 ft. 3/4" rope for the Park Department from O.C.D. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$18.25 be made for purchase of 600 ft. 1 1/2" hose from O.C.D. for the Recreation Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$416.27 be made for purchase of 300-ft. 2 1/2" hose, 300-ft. 1 1/2" hose, 400-ft. 3/4" rope and 1 500 G.P.M. Skid Unit Fire Pump from O.C.D. for the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the obtaining of priorities for and purchase of, two Ford 1 1/2-ton dump trucks be authorized at a cost of \$1826.30 each to replace one 1930 Model A which cannot be repaired, and one 1941 Dodge which was transferred to the Park

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

In reply to Councilman Hitchcock's question relative to the hoists, Engineer Jain explained that they will be asked for later as separate items at a cost of \$680.00 each.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that John Patrick be employed as an Engineer, Engineering Department, on a temporary basis until such time as a Civil Service examination is given for Assistant City Engineer at a salary of \$250.00 per month, effective September 4, 1945, to replace Mr. Theodore Stohr. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$75.51, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 987 gallons bitumuls from American Bitumuls Company. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Mayor Tolson moved that a transfer of funds in the amount of \$60,000.00 be made from the Water Department General Fund to the City of Torrance General Fund. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be made for purchase of meteorological equipment for the City which will give the city prominence in daily news releases on weather information by the Los Angeles Weather Bureau. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Mayor Tolson announced that plans are under way to give Louis Zamperini, Star Athlete and citizen of Torrance, a public home-coming welcome, it having recently been disclosed that the popular young athlete is returning home after being held captive by the Japanese over a long period of time. Mayor Tolson asked that "Lou's" friends and acquaintances watch for the announcement of this event, the date of his arrival being yet indefinite.

Attorney McCall, indicating the Alternative Writ of Mandamus served earlier in the meeting, stated that it constitutes a summons to appear in court September 17, 1945 at 9:00 A.M., and said he assumed the Council would authorize him to handle the matter.

Councilman Cucci said it is not necessary to do so, as Mr. McCall has already been authorized to take care of this matter.

Mr. McCall read the portion of the Writ of Mandamus setting the date and hour for the court appearance.

Engineer Jain called attention to a letter read at the last meeting from Raymond V. Darby, asking what progress is being made on the Western Avenue extension, and suggesting that it be made an immediate project now that the war is ended.

Mr. Jain recommended that the County be asked to give a commitment on this project the same as they gave on Crenshaw Boulevard since the County is vitally interested in the subject.

Engineer Jain also commented that the Supervisors had recommended that Western Avenue be made No. 1 post war project. Mr. Jain said that the City of Torrance had already placed Western Avenue as the first and most important post war project.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to direct a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, with a copy to Raymond V. Darby, Supervisor, Fourth District, asking the County to give a commitment on the Western Avenue project similar to the commitment they gave on the Crenshaw Boulevard Job. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Michaels asked what had been done about re-advertising for bids for the Walteria recreation building.

Councilman Cucci replied that Mr. Bartlett had been authorized to re-advertise for bids for the building.

Mr. Bartlett, addressing his remarks to the Mayor, Council and ladies and gentlemen of the audience, declared that, shortly after he was instructed to re-advertise for bids for the Walteria recreation building, members of the Council had held a meeting and determined that, inasmuch as bonds will be floated to take care of other projects coming up, a much more suitable building adequate for all the community's needs could be provided for Walteria by the inclusion of this project therein, whereupon he, Mr. Bartlett, had been authorized to remove the \$24,000.00 originally set up in the budget for the building, and had been instructed not to re-advertise for bids.

A short discussion followed relative to Mr. Bartlett's failure to comply with a minute order, Councilman Cucci claiming that he should have re-advised for the building in accordance with Council action.

Clerk Bartlett asked what he, Councilman Cucci, would have done under similar circumstances, and pointed out that the reduction of the budget in the amount of \$24,000.00 had enabled the City to reduce the tax rate 2¢.

Councilman Powell said he thought Mr. Gilbert, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, should have been notified of this procedure, to which Clerk Bartlett and Mayor Tolson replied that Councilman Gilbert was at the meeting at which time the change in plans had been made.

Mr. Michaels insisted that he will attend every Council Meeting until the building is provided.

Clerk Bartlett then announced that he will re-advertise for bids for the Walteria Recreation Building Thursday of this week; but where the money will be obtained for it is another matter, as, he repeated, it has been taken out of the budget.

Councilman Cucci pointed out that, unless the action of authorizing Mr. Bartlett to re-advertise for bids is rescinded, he has no alternative except to re-advertise.

Mr. Michaels commented that, with the election so distant, being April, 1946, it is possible that the issue will be defeated. Mayor Tolson replied that the thought is to call a special election in October, if possible, and submit the matter to the electorate at that time. He said the architect is working on the plans now.

It was agreed that, out of fairness to Mr. Bartlett, and as the sensible solution, the motion authorizing Mr. Bartlett to re-advertise for bids should be rescinded. Councilman Cucci asked whether or not Councilman Gilbert is agreeable to this procedure, Mayor Tolson replying in the affirmative.

Councilman Powell said that he is firmly convinced that the building which will ultimately be constructed under bond will be so much more adequate, and will serve the community's needs so much better than one which could be put up now and added to as funds are available, that everyone concerned will be satisfied with the result.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the motion made authorizing Clerk Bartlett to re-advertise for bids for a Walteria Recreation Building be rescinded. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. George Thatcher of Walteria brought up the subject of the smoke nuisance created by burning of rubbish in the abandoned sand pit on the Weston Ranch, and asked if some relief from this condition might be had.

Councilman Cucci moved that a copy of the ordinance relative to dumping be forwarded to Mr. Weston, with the explanation that he must comply with the terms of the ordinance or the Council will issue him an order to abate the nuisance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain commented that he was under the impression that nothing was being burned in the pit.

Mr. Thatcher asked what progress is being made on the proposed Water District for WALTERIA. Mayor Tolson advised that an adjourned meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 17, 1945 for the purpose of calling an election on this matter.

Councilman Cucci asked what the program is for repairing alleys, stating that he had a number of complaints regarding condition of the alleys.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that the alleys are being repaired as rapidly as possible.

Engineer Jain advised that \$14,000.00 set up in the budget is sufficient to repair the alleys, but that with the present crew and equipment, it will be practically impossible to get to all of them this fiscal year.

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

At 9:10 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned to Monday, September 17, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ATTEST:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California