

Torrance, California
September 17, 1945

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 Monday, September 17, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Clerk Bartlett reported that Mayor Tolson would be absent from the meeting, this date being his wedding anniversary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Councilman Powell serve as Mayor Pro Tem at this meeting in the absence of Mayor Tolson. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell called the meeting to order.

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

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from The Metropolitan Water District in reply to Mr. Bartlett's letter of August 24, 1945 advising that the Torrance City Council had approved an application of General Petroleum Corporation for a connection to the District's pipe line in Crenshaw Boulevard, and requesting the District to make the connection up to the General Petroleum Corporation's property line.

It was advised that the District's Board of Directors had authorized the proposed connection subject to the terms of the District's established policy relative to supplementary connections in member cities, namely that the city pay for the connection, that ownership and control of the facilities up to and including the meter be vested in the District, and that specifications for the construction of the connection be approved by the District's General Manager and Chief Engineer.

It was stated that the District will deal with the City entirely, and that the City may make appropriate arrangements with the General Petroleum Corporation for payment of the connection.

Further detail followed relative to the method of installation, ownership and control, easement deed to be executed by General Petroleum Corporation, and advising that a detailed drawing will be furnished for the City's approval before installing the connection.

It was requested that the Council advise how soon the installation should be made, and whether or not the procedure outlined is acceptable to the City of Torrance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to Water Superintendent Stanger, City Attorney McCall, and City Engineer Jain for recommendation at the earliest possible date. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Water Superintendent; Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer; and J. E. McCall, City Attorney, recommending that the contract for construction of a Workshop for the Water Department be awarded to Oppert & Forsberg, the low bidder, for the sum of Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty-six Dollars (\$8,356.00) less Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) for acid wash on wall and Fifty-four Dollars (\$54.00) for glazing angles in steel sash, making a total contract sum of Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars (\$8,227.00).

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract be awarded to Oppert and Forsberg in the amount of \$8,227.00 as recommended, and that all other bids be rejected and checks returned. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

A communication was read from Dr. L. M. Ellinwood, 2424 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California, requesting that the pending proceedings for the formation of a municipal water district which would include the Ellinwood ranch be deferred until certain litigation shall have been determined and the owners of said ranch may know the extent of their rights and the rights of other users of water from the basin of which the ranch is a part.

The litigation referred to, it was stated, will be started by the Redondo-Hermosa Water Company, the present source of water supply of the Ellinwood Ranch, to determine and adjudicate the water rights in the basin and to enjoin improper and unreasonable water drafts therefrom.

It was pointed out that, until the availability of water from this source can be determined, the owners of the ranch are at a loss to know whether to decide upon inclusion or exclusion in the proposed municipal water district.

Councilman Hitchcock commented that, although it is the desire of the Council to conclude this matter to the satisfaction

of everyone concerned, he would not favor holding up the entire proceedings while awaiting settlement of the suit referred to, due to the fact that litigation of that nature sometimes lasts over a period of years.

Mr. Walter Bennett, Attorney for Dr. Ellinwood, introduced himself at this time and made a plea on behalf of the Ellinwood Ranch owners, declaring that it is the sincere hope that action will be withheld until such time as factors which should enter into the owners' decision are made available. If the matter is to be concluded immediately, he said he had been authorized by Dr. Ellinwood to request that the Ellinwood Ranch be left out of the proposed water district.

Councilman Hitchcock said that the Council had already complied with Dr. Ellinwood's request to grant thirty days before starting action on this matter, the thirty days having expired. He said it is by no means the intention of the Council to act in an arbitrary manner, but that, in view of the great need of the community, he would favor proceeding with the matter. He added that it was his understanding the Engineers had recommended including the Ellinwood Ranch in the proposed district. Clerk Bartlett verified this.

Mr. Bennett expressed surprise at this development, declaring that there appears to be a conflict between information furnished him and information furnished the Council by the Engineers. He said he understood, distinctly, that the owners could elect to either be included or excluded from the district.

A general discussion followed, it finally being decided to wait until the next regular meeting before making a decision in the matter. Councilman Powell commented that, although no unnecessary delay is to be encouraged, he felt that one week, until the next regular meeting, should be granted out of fairness to the owners of the ranch in order to clarify the point upon which there appears to be a conflict.

Mr. Bennett expressed appreciation for this delay and said he would contact the Engineers immediately and try to ascertain which understanding is correct. He said he could well appreciate that the proceedings cannot be held up if an emergency exists.

Clerk Bartlett addressed the Council at this time, stating that there is no action anticipated at this meeting which would have any bearing on the question of whether or not the Ellinwood Ranch is included or excluded in the district, it being the intention to do nothing more at this meeting than to employ the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers to handle the proceedings.

He announced that it has been found that another petition must be circulated within the proposed water district, due to the fact that the Act of 1935, under which the election is to be called, defines a certain form of petition, which sets forth the amount of the bond, describes the district, and sets the date of the election. This petition, he said, is to be prepared by the lawyers, for presentation and approval at the meeting of September 25, 1945, which will allow time for settlement of the Ellinwood Ranch question, and the petition drawn according to decision reached.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1743

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE FIRM OF O'MELVENY AND MYERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CALLING OF AN ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE ACQUISITION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF A MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM IN A PORTION OF SOUTH TORRANCE AND ALL OF WALTERIA.

A short discussion ensued relative to the portion of South Torrance affected, Clerk Bartlett advising that the district is more particularly described in the Engineers' report.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1743 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1744

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1744 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$125.00 be made for 44 ft. 17" x 30" 14 ga. Arch Pipe Culvert and Coupler, to be installed at the intersection of 238th Street and Hawthorne Avenue, payable from 1/4¢ Gas Tax Funds. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$135.00 be made for 88 ft. 11-3/4" x 17-1/4" 14 ga. Arch Pipe Culvert and two bands, for Crenshaw Boulevard, south of Carson Street. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$950.00 be made for the resurfacing of 222nd Street, between Martina Avenue and Arlington Avenue, and between Border Avenue and Cabrillo Avenue; work to be done with plant-mixed surfacing. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$2100.00 be made for road materials for the resurfacing of Neece Avenue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the tire contract for the Municipal Bus Lines with the B. F. Goodrich Company be renewed for a period of one year, effective October 1, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Kermit L. Pruitt be employed as a bus operator, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective September 9, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the salary of Durward L. Bollin, bus operator, be increased from \$185.00 to \$200.00 per month, effective October 1, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Powell moved that the salary of L. J. Beal, police officer, be increased from \$170.00 to \$190.00 per month, effective September 15, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

Councilman Powell moved that the salary of Paul Bien, police officer, be increased from \$170.00 to \$190.00 per month, effective September 15, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Joel Hagberg asked what type of water system had been decided upon for WALTERIA stating that three different types had been discussed; (1) creation of a new water district, (2) purchase of the Quandt water works, or (3) entrance into the Metropolitan Water District system. He said he was of the impression that the people prefer the latter method.

It was pointed out by the Council that a competent firm of engineers has been employed to recommend to the Council and the people the best and most suitable manner of providing water for the community, and that the method decided upon will be the one which most adequately meets the requirements. It was further stated that any system decided upon would have a tie-in with the Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Paul Slonecker brought up the matter of the renewal of the tire contract with the B. F. Goodrich Company stating that the company pays a certain individual 10% of the amount paid by the City under this contract for changing the tires on the busses, this compensation being in addition to that city employee's regular salary paid by the City. He said he thought this practice should be discouraged, and the employees who receive regular city salary should be expected to perform their duties without added compensation.

Mr. Bartlett was asked to check the terms of the contract to determine whether or not this is embodied therein, which he did, there being no clause in the contract making reference to such an arrangement.

Mr. Slonecker said he did not contend that it is or is not a term of the contract, but that it is an arrangement which started sometime ago by someone with the B. F. Goodrich Company. He said it is extremely difficult to get anyone else to change tires when Mr. Treloar receives compensation from the Goodrich Company for so doing, especially when the other employees are aware of this fact. He said he personally would not see that the tires are changed when someone else receives additional pay for doing the work.

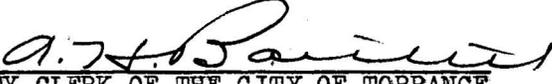
After a short discussion, during which Councilman Gilbert advised that he had made the motion to renew the contract as a matter of form, having been requested to do so in Councilman Cucci's place, it was decided to submit the matter back to the Council for further study.

Councilman Gilbert made a motion to rescind his action to renew the tire contract for the Municipal Bus Lines with the B. F. Goodrich Company for a period of one year, effective October 1, 1945, the renewal motion having been made earlier in the meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion to rescind the action, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCIL-

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

Councilman Powell moved that Judge Willett and Chief Stroh be authorized to attend the Peace Officers Convention to be held at Salinas October 8, 9 and 10, 1945, expenses paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Tolson.

At 8:42 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ATTEST:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE