

Torrance, California
November 20, 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 Tuesday, November 20, 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.

Being an Adjourned Meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from O'Malveny and Myers relative to proposed improvements in the City of Torrance, to be financed by a general obligation bond issue.

An outline was given of the procedure which must be followed if it is proposed to make a number of improvements and ask for a vote upon a bond issue covering more than one project, the principle idea being that a city plan must be developed, certain hearings must be held before the Planning Commission and the City Council, and then voted upon by the people.

It was suggested that, if this is the desire of the Council, an early conference be arranged between interested city officials, representatives of the firm of O'Malveny and Myers and the engineers and architects preparing the plans for discussion of the various steps in the proceeding.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to arrange a conference as suggested. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Frank R. Bates, requesting an extension of time in which to continue occupancy of a tent house on his property, pending completion of a house on his property in WALTERIA, stating that, although the rough plumbing is complete, the sub flooring is being constructed, the cesspool is complete and the foundation finished, he has encountered many difficulties in connection with obtaining necessary materials for the house, but is proceeding as rapidly as his time and finances permit.

The question arose as to expiration date of the permit previously granted Mr. Bates for construction of his house. Engineer Jain said he believed the last permit granted him is due to expire December 25, 1945.

The Council agreed that materials have been very difficult to obtain, and that the progress made to date on the house indicates that Mr. Bates expects to complete the house whenever possible.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Bates be granted an additional ninety (90) days in which to occupy a tent house on his property pending completion of his house. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Bob Bosnyak relative to the 203rd Street Sewer System project, advising that the job was completed and accepted on November 13, 1945. He advised that this job was delayed several days by weather conditions and labor shortages, whereupon he requested an extension of time long enough to allow time still necessary to issue the bond warrants.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request for an extension of time be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Henry H. Wheeler, 2406 East Rosecrans Avenue, Compton, California, enclosing an Assignment of Diagram, Warrant and Assessment from Bob Bosnyak to H. H. Wheeler for the improvement in the City of Torrance of the 203rd Street Sewer System between the limits of Crenshaw Boulevard and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Trunk Sewer approximately 300 feet East of Arlington Avenue.

The Assignment was signed by Bob Bosnyak and dated November 16, 1945.

A short discussion ensued, during which time the signature of Mr. Bosnyak on the Assignment was compared with signature on his letter, read prior to reading of the Assignment, for authenticity. Attorney McCall advised that it is customary for the Council to act on a matter of this kind.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Assignment be approved. 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.

A communication was read from Don and Marie Frohman, Yellow Cab Company of Torrance, requesting a permit for a temporary stucco building on Lot 4, Block 5, 1600 Block on Cabrillo Avenue, with the agreement to take out a building permit for a masonry building and begin construction within sixty days from the date of issuance of the permit for the temporary building.

A discussion ensued relative to zoning restrictions. Engineer Jain advised that the area is in Fire Zone #1, and that, according to the Uniform Building Code, that type of building is not acceptable. He said that, if allowed, it will definitely be out of zone; that he would offer no recommendation but let the decision rest with the Council. However, he continued, if this request is granted, a precedent will be established which will leave an opening for similar requests in the future.

Councilman Cucci favored granting the permit, as, he said, some relief should be had of the situation complained of in a recent petition filed with the Council, bearing fifteen signatures of business men on Cabrillo and Sartori Avenues, to the effect that the taxicabs are being parked at the curb in the front of the various business houses for the purpose of carrying on the taxicab business, to the extent that it was becoming a nuisance.

Councilman Cucci moved that Don and Marie Frohman be granted a permit to construct a temporary building, for a period of ninety (90) days, on Lot 4, Block 5, 1600 Block on Cabrillo Avenue, building to be of the type described in their application.

After some further discussion, during which Councilman Gilbert expressed the thought that some standard policy should be adopted in connection with these particular requests, and during which Clerk Bartlett was asked to re-read portions of the application, Councilman Powell seconded Councilman Cucci's motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, advising that the Chamber had adopted a resolution requesting the City Council to immediately appoint an aviation committee of air-minded citizens of the community to present plans and recommendations to further the interests of Torrance in acquiring the Lomita Flight Strip as a Torrance Municipal Airport.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a meeting be arranged between the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce for discussion of this matter in an effort to arrive at some conclusions as to appointments. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full the Certificate of City Clerk on Genuineness and Sufficiency of Signatures to Petition in connection with Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria-South Torrance).

Councilman Powell moved that the Certificate as presented and read be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 365

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THE INTENTION OF SAID CITY COUNCIL OF SAID CITY OF TORRANCE TO CALL AN ELECTION UNDER THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ACT OF 1935 IN THAT PART OF THE CITY CONTAINED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, TO BE KNOWN AS "MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE", FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF SAID DISTRICT THE PROPOSITION OF AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS OF SUCH DISTRICT AND FIXING AND GIVING NOTICE OF A TIME AND PLACE OF HEARINGS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 365 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Ordinance No. 365 be adopted for first reading. 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 announced date of election, referred to by Ordinance No. 365, to be January 15, 1945.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$72.50, plus tax, be made for 29 shields for firemen's helmets. 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 moved that the salary of Russell A. Kleinhaus, bus operator, be increased from \$185.00 to \$200.00 per month, effective December 1, 1945, Mr. Kleinhaus having completed his six months' employment. 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 Hitchcock moved that the temporary appointment of a stenographer for a period of not to exceed thirty days, for the City Engineer's Office, be made, at a rate of \$.90 per hour. 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 Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$75.00 be made to defray expenses of the Walteria Christmas Party, in accordance with a request submitted by the Walteria Civic Organization that this amount be appropriated. 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.

Attorney McCall requested that he be instructed relative to license fees for taxicabs, advising that the ordinance has been drafted and that Chief Stroh had suggested \$25.00 per year per taxicab.

Councilman Cucci said he thought some consideration should be given this suggestion before setting the license fee.

Councilman Gilbert moved that action relative to the taxicab ordinance be deferred until the next meeting to allow time for the Council to confer with Chief Stroh in connection with his recommendation that the license fee be established at \$25.00 per annum per vehicle. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson presented a recommendation of Engineer Jain that the expiration dates of terms of office of members of the Planning Commission be clarified, as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Expiration date of appointment</u>
L. G. Barkdull	December 13, 1945
J. Hugh Sherfey	December 13, 1946
J. W. Crowther	December 13, 1947
John Salm	December 13, 1947
W. A. Felker	December 13, 1948
Tom McGuire	December 13, 1948

In reply to the question of Councilman Hitchcock as to why this is necessary at this time, Engineer Jain explained that, although the members had all been duly appointed by the Council, their terms of office had not been clearly established, and that it is the desire to have this matter straightened out at this time in order that it may be kept in order from this point on.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request and recommendation of Engineer Jain as above outlined be concurred in. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$113.48 be made for advertising for the Chamber of Commerce. 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 a Resolution of Condolence be written and forwarded to the family of Mr. Tom Hatfield, an employee of the Park Department, who passed away suddenly on November 19, 1945. 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.

Mayor Tolson asked whether or not it is the desire of the Council to establish the boundary lines at this time of the proposed Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance). The request previously made by Mr. Stevenson of the Moneta Water Company that the property served by his company be excluded from the new district was discussed. Councilman Cucci contended that the protest should be overruled and the property included in the district.

Mr. Stevenson declared that his company has no objection to the formation of the district, and will do whatever is possible to assist the people in the formation of this district, but that they distinctly do not want to be included therein, because of the fact that the Moneta Water Company and the people served thereby have paid for their water service and do not feel obligated, or willing,

to pay for water service for someone else. He said that exclusion of their area will in no way affect the district. He advised that overlapping of main trunk lines, which result if his company's interests are not excluded, will be highly expensive and serve no good purpose. This can be prevented, he continued, if the boundary lines are established slightly west of Crenshaw Boulevard and slightly north of 174th Street.

Mr. Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Gonner, who will be served by the proposed district if formed, objected to exclusion of the Moneta Water Company or the General Petroleum Corporation from the new district. They claimed that the companies can well afford to pay their share of the assessment for the district, and that, if they are excluded, the entire proposal might be defeated when it comes to a vote.

Mr. Stevenson said it is a simple matter of his area being already adequately served, for which the people have already paid, and therefore they naturally do not want to be included in another water district and pay for service for others, and added again that exclusion of his company's interests will in no way affect the formation of the new district or retard its development.

Councilman Cucci said it would not be equitable to exclude the Moneta Water Company property and assess the balance of the people for the entire district, and that he felt the land referred to by Mr. Stevenson should be included.

After much debate and repetition of statements by both sides, during which time Mr. Salm of North Torrance spoke, who is served by Moneta Water Company and favors exclusion of the company's property, and during which time portions of the report of Taylor and Taylor were read and re-read, and during which discussion many confusing facts and figures were discussed, Councilman Hitchcock made a motion that the south boundary of the proposed new water district in North Torrance (identified as Municipal Water District No. 2), be established at 190th Street according to the original recommendation of Taylor and Taylor, Engineers, and that all that property included in A and I District #124, in which district the property referred to by Mr. Stevenson as Moneta Water Company interests is located, be excluded from the district. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

This met with strenuous objection on the part of Councilman Cucci, who prefaced his negative vote by the statement that a concentrated effort is being made by people in North Torrance and by some members of the City Administration to frighten people into excluding certain interests on the grounds that they may not get the district at all if they try to take action contrary to the wishes of the big corporations. He claimed they should definitely be included and made to share their portion of the assessment for the district. No further vote was taken on the motion, the discussion beginning all over again with Mr. Stevenson presenting his reasons for wanting to be excluded, and the opposing side holding out tenaciously for inclusion of the entire area in the district.

Councilman Hitchcock was asked to withdraw his motion by the people opposing exclusion of Moneta Water Company, General Petroleum Corporation and others, which Councilman Hitchcock was at first reluctant to do, as, he said, it is obvious matters will not change and he felt the recommendation of the Engineers should be accepted at this time in order to provide the people the much needed water, even though it does mean excluding certain areas.

A Mr. Giani of North Torrance said it would be ridiculous for the people who are now being very satisfactorily served by Moneta Water Company, of which group he is one, and who have paid their full share for water service, to be expected to help pay for water service for some one else when there would be no benefit from it whatsoever to themselves. He said they had paid their bill, and that the others who desire service could do likewise.

Mr. Graham called attention to the fact that, in a previous, similar request for exclusion, referring to the Ellinwood Ranch which was included in Municipal Water District No. 1 over the protest of Dr. Ellinwood, the Council had seen fit to overrule the protest and should take the same position in this matter. He objected bitterly to establishing the south boundary line at 190th Street.

It was made clear that the people desiring formation of the district want the south boundary line established at 203rd Street which will take in General Petroleum Corporation and Moneta Water Company property, both these companies having voiced strong objections to inclusion in the district.

The discussion finally reached a deadlock, with neither side agreeing to the other side's demands, whereupon the people interested in formation of the district asked for additional time to work on the proposition further before definite action is taken about the boundary lines. Councilman Hitchcock asked whether or not a delay until the meeting of November 27, 1945 would help, Mr. Gonner stating that they should have much longer than that short period to settle the question.

Mrs. Gonner asked how the whole thing came up in the first place, stating that she personally is getting blamed for getting North Torrance involved in a bond issue. Councilman Hitchcock assured her that it had not first been brought up in the Council Chamber; that the first he knew about it was when he was requested to attend a meeting in North Torrance at which time a discussion was held on the subject.

It was suggested that the entire matter be delayed until settlement of the suit now pending for adjudication of the water rights in the West Basin is concluded.

Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his motion to establish the south boundary line of Municipal Water District No. 2 at 190th Street and Councilman Gilbert withdrew his second to the motion.

Mayor Tolson commented that this will always be a controversial issue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the boundary lines for the proposed water district in North Torrance be established ninety (90) days from the next regular meeting, (November 27, 1945 being the next regularly scheduled meeting). Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from Taylor and Taylor, Engineers, relative to Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria-South Torrance), in which Taylor and Taylor gave an outline of engineering fees and offering their services in connection with this water district on the basis of the schedule outlined.

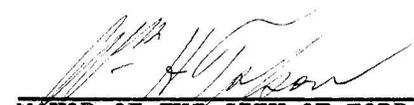
Councilman Cucci moved that Taylor and Taylor, Engineers, be employed for engineering services in connection with Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria-South Torrance), on the basis of the communication read by Clerk Bartlett and for the fees named therein. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, 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 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 10:10 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE