

Torrance, California
January 8, 1946

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, January 8, 1946 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 December 26, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from R. H. Parkin, Chairman, Aviation Commission, requesting the City Council to authorize the Mayor to accept, on behalf of the City of Torrance, either the permanent lease on the Lomita Flight Strip to be used as a municipal airport, or the interim permit to use, which ever may be granted first by the interested Governmental authorities.

Mayor Tolson stated that, in a recent letter from the Civil Aeronautics Authority, he had been advised that it is possible a temporary permit may be offered to the City until such time as the proper procedure is applied for officially and permanently turning the air strip over to the City.

Mr. Plomert explained that this action would simply give someone authority to accept the temporary permit in the event it is offered within the next few days, thus eliminating possible delay in acceptance until another Council meeting is held.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Aviation Commission be concurred in and that the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of the City of Torrance, to sign and accept the temporary permit for use of the Lomita Flight Strip as a municipal airport in the event such temporary, or interim, permit is offered. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci objected, stating that he would not favor granting any one person such broad authority, for the reason, he said, that there might be large sums of money involved. Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that there is no money involved, which

Mr. Plomert had also stated, and added that it is generally understood that the Mayor would not accept responsibility for expending any large sum of money based on a motion of this kind. However, he agreed to re-word his motion as follows, and proceeded to do so:

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Aviation Commission be concurred in and that the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of the City of Torrance, to sign and accept a temporary permit for use of the Lomita Flight Strip as a municipal airport in the event such temporary, or interim, permit is offered, with the stipulation that no unusual sums of money are authorized by this motion. 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 Shell Oil Company, advising that no new installations, abandonment or alterations were made or pipe line laid under terms of Ordinance No. 328 for the period ending December 31, 1945. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place by Richfield Oil Corporation during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1945 under Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance Nos. 1358-1361 N.S., now within the limits of the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place by Richfield Oil Corporation during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1945 under City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 92. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Union Oil Company of California, enclosing supplemental reports and payment for the two years ending June 30, 1945, pursuant to the terms of the franchises granted by Ordinances Nos. 1010 (N.S.) and 1501 (N.S.) of the County of Los Angeles, authorizing pipe lines to be placed in certain county highways now included in the limits of the City of Torrance.

A check in the amount of \$6.21 was enclosed in payment of the amount shown to be due by said supplemental reports. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Union Oil Company of California, advising that no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued and that no such pipe lines or conduits were constructed in the City of Torrance during the six months' period ending December 31, 1945 under Franchise Ordinance No. 1010 (N.S.) of the County of Los Angeles now included in the limits of the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Union Oil Company of California advising that no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued and that no such pipe lines or conduits were constructed in the City of Torrance during the six months' period ending December 31, 1945 under Franchise Ordinance No. 1501 (N.S.) of the County of Los Angeles now included in the limits of the City of Torrance, which franchise rights were assigned to Union Oil Company by the Pan American Petroleum Company on November 19, 1930. Matter of record.

A communication was read from General Petroleum Corporation of California, enclosing check in the amount of \$513.51 in payment of franchise tax for year ending October 31, 1945 under Franchise Ordinance No. 179 of the City of Torrance and Franchise Ordinance No. 781 of the County of Los Angeles. Matter of record.

A communication was read from The American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium on Friday nights after the first of the year (1946) for the purpose of conducting weekly dances.

Councilman Cucci advised that, at the last meeting, a motion had been made to grant use of the auditorium to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for four consecutive Friday nights for the purpose of holding dances, but that, upon checking the auditorium schedule, it had been found that Jobs Daughters hold a dance once monthly on a Friday night. He said he had not realized there would be a conflict at the time the action was taken.

Councilman Gilbert suggested that the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization meet with the Jobs Daughters organization and endeavor to work out a combination agreement for that one particular Friday night during the month reserved for Jobs Daughters.

Mr. Webb of the Veterans of Foreign Wars advised verbally that this had already been done, and a satisfactory agreement had been reached, namely, that the VFW would turn over proceeds of Jobs Daughters dance night to the latter.

It was pointed out that the communication read at this meeting is from The American Legion, another organization, and that there will undoubtedly be many requests in the near future by various groups for use of the Civic Auditorium. Councilman Gilbert suggested that, in order that all organizations who may desire to use the building may have an opportunity to do so, the various interested organizations meet and endeavor to work out a schedule suitable to their own needs and plans, for presentation to the City Council for study. This idea seemed to meet with the approval of the other members, there being no objection voiced against it.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Clerk Bartlett be authorized to notify The American Legion, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, that, by a prior motion, the Council granted use of the Civic Auditorium to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for four consecutive Fridays (one month) and that, also by a prior motion, Jobs Daughters has a Friday night reservation for one Friday each month, and that it is the opinion of the Council that it would be of benefit to the various organizations, and also assist the Council in arriving at a fair determination in the matter of auditorium reservations, if the various organizations interested in conducting regular functions at the auditorium would meet and endeavor to work out a schedule between themselves and present same to the City Council for study and consideration. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Evelyn L. Carr, Torrance Parents Association, asking whether or not Attorney McCall will soon make a recommendation to the City Council relative to the charter question, a letter having been presented at the November 13, 1945 meeting urging the writing and adoption of a Charter and which question was subsequently referred to Mr. McCall.

Attorney McCall reported that he will render a report soon, probably at the next meeting.

A communication was read from the Torrance-Lomita District Realty Board, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by the Board which resolution was read in full by Clerk Bartlett.

The resolution requested that the Council appoint a member of the Realty Board to membership on the City Planning Commission, first, until a vacancy arises, as an advisory member, with membership, and, second, to fill the first vacancy in membership on the Planning Commission with a member of said Real Estate Board.

Engineer Jain advised that, although there exists no vacancy on the board either in the six non-city membership class or in the three City-employees membership class, eliminating possibility of an immediate appointment to membership of any one, he would be glad to send notices to the Realty Board of Planning Commission meetings in order that the Board could send a representative to all the meetings. However, he added, this representative would have no vote, but could make suggestions to the Planning Commission.

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

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Secretary of the Planning Commission be instructed to send notices of Planning Commission meetings to the Torrance-Lomita District Realty Board, with the invitation to send a representative to all meetings. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Bell Studio, requesting refund on unused portion of Business License No. 190 issued July 17, 1945.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the unused portion of Business License No. 190 be refunded. 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 Mary M. and L. V. Wade, requesting refund on unused portion of Business License No. 330 issued October 15, 1945.

Councilman Cucci moved that the unused portion of Business License No. 330 be refunded. 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.

A communication was read from Dr. Milford J. Robinson, requesting refund on unused portion of Business License No. 398 issued November 30, 1945.

Councilman Cucci moved that the unused portion of Business License No. 398 be refunded. 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 Dodd and Reese, Electrical and Radio Service, requesting refund on unused portion of Business License No. 270, dated September 17, 1945, due to the fact that an electrical contractor's license, No. 416, dated December 7, 1945, was secured to cover all activities of the business.

Councilman Cucci moved that the unused portion of Business License No. 270, issued September 17, 1945, be refunded. 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 City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that Mr. Tom Babbitt's term of office as a member of the Civil Service Board will expire January 15, 1946, and requested either his re-appointment or appointment of his successor for a term of six years.

Councilman Powell stated that, inasmuch as Mr. Babbitt has rendered such excellent service while serving on this Board, he would favor seeing him re-appointed.

After some discussion as to who should make the appointment, Mayor Tolson moved that Mr. Cecil Smith be appointed to membership on the City of Torrance Civil Service Board to fill the vacancy which will be created by expiration of Mr. Babbitt's term, Mr. Smith's term to begin January 15, 1946 for a period of six years, and that Clerk Bartlett be instructed to write a letter to Mr. Babbitt expressing appreciation of the Council for the fine service Mr. Babbitt has rendered the City while a member of the Board. 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.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles F. Koors, requesting that the City immediately return the \$65,000.00, or the checks deposited by him, in connection with his offer to purchase certain busses and parts from the City of Torrance, which offer was made on July 24, 1945. Mr. Koors stated that, in exchange for the return of the \$65,000.00, he would authorize the refund of the certificates of ownership of the busses and the bill of sale, which documents were deposited by the City in the Torrance National Bank in accordance with terms of the Conditional Sales Contract approved and signed by the City Council at the time of the offer, deposit of said documents being part of the escrow proceedings, and thereby

restore each party to the position that prevailed prior to establishing the escrow, each relieving the other of any liability in respect to this matter.

Mr. Koors further related that it is his intention with the approval of the City of Torrance to permit the bid and the Conditional Sales Contract to remain in effect except as hereinabove modified as to the escrow.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of Mr. Koors for return of the \$65,000.00 deposited by him in connection with his offer to purchase certain busses and parts from the City of Torrance be granted, and that refund of the money be authorized, with the understanding that Mr. Koors is to return to the City the certificates of ownership of the busses and the bill of sale now on deposit in the Torrance National Bank. 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 John E. McCall, City Attorney, referring to the William B. Hughes vs. City of Torrance, et al, suit involving proposed sale of busses and parts of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. It was advised that the motion of December 28, 1945 for new trial had been denied, and that the notice of appeal will be filed within the time required by law. Mr. McCall stated that, although he had stated to the Court that the City Council had no intention of selling anything under the contract in question except the personal property set out in the inventory attached to the contract, the court had considered the contract as selling property rights not mentioned in the inventory. The Court had further stated, he continued, that if the City wished to sell the personal property consisting of busses and parts, all it has to do is to withdraw them from public use and sell them.

Councilman Cucci commented that the Bus Lines is a public utility and, as such, cannot be sold except by vote of the electorate. He said if it is the intention of the Council to attempt another method of selling the bus lines, i.e., by the "piecemeal" method, it will still involve litigation, which, he said, he felt the Courts would not particularly like, since it has already been tried once and an appeal for new trial denied.

Mayor Tolson replied that there will be no attempt to sell it in another manner, as there is only one thing to sell, namely, busses and parts, which is what was offered for sale before, and which is what will be offered for sale. He said that, so far as the franchise is concerned, the Court having held that the proposed sale involved sale of certain intangible rights, Mr. Koors cannot obtain the franchise through the City of Torrance, but must apply for it through the State Railroad Commission. Therefore, he said, the City has only busses and parts to offer for sale.

A communication was read from Dale Riley, Superintendent, Recreation Department, again urging purchase of the block of land lying between Greenwood Avenue and Fern Avenue, known as Fern Avenue School Annex, for recreational purposes.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Attorney and City Clerk be authorized to begin negotiations with the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles for purchase of the property known as the Fern Avenue Annex, for recreational use.

Councilman Gilbert advised that this property comprises over three acres of land, and is offered for \$6,000.00. He said the above-motion is not intended to appropriate funds, but is for the purpose of obtaining further details and opening negotiations.

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 W. H. Haslam, President, Torrance Revolver Club, and John H. Stroh, Treasurer, requesting that steps be taken to return the communication equipment to the Torrance Revolver Club and install it as it was at the time it was loaned for Civilian Defense purposes.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to the City Engineer for compliance with the request. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1757

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ENACT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AND THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, CALIFORNIA STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1757 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1757 be adopted. 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.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1758

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, EMPLOYING SPECIAL COUNSEL.

Upon completion of the reading of Resolution No. 1758, being a resolution to employ special counsel to assist Attorney McCall in the law suit to determine legality of the proposed sale of busses and equipment of Municipal Bus Lines, a discussion ensued, during which Councilmen Cucci and Powell objected strenuously to any further expenditure of taxpayers' money for continued law suits in this matter, claiming that it will amount to a needless outlay of more money in a matter which has already been settled by the courts. Councilman Cucci commented that the Conditional Sales Contract between the City and the prospective purchaser of the busses and parts had been termed fraudulent, which should be conclusive evidence that the entire matter of sale of the bus lines is questionable.

Councilman Powell declared that Resolution No. 1758 is an illegal attempt to appropriate funds from the City Treasury.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1758 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell remarked that, for the benefit of those people who are unable to attend meetings regularly and keep informed as to all City government proceedings, this is not the first time certain city officials have been involved in law suits to compel them to abide by the law and uphold the oaths they took when they were sworn into office.

Councilman Powell presented a recommendation from Chief Stroh that boulevard stop signs be installed on Carson Street for east and west bound traffic, and so moved. 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 moved that L. Benton be employed as a War Emergency police patrolman, at a salary of \$175.00 per month, effective December 26, 1945. 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 reported that Swayne Johnson, who has been on Military leave of absence, has returned to his position as a police officer as of January 4, 1946, and that this fact has been reported to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$100.00 be made for rental of palm trees for the Civic Auditorium for two months, December 20, 1945 to February 20, 1946, from The Tabery Corporation. 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 stated that he had had several inquiries relative to the North Torrance proposed water district, and stated that he felt authentic figures as to the actual tax value of all that land north of 203rd Street should be obtained. He said that some of the people feel that the tax value of the land is not sufficient to provide an adequate water system for the community.

Councilman Cucci moved that Clerk Bartlett be instructed to request Associated Assessment Engineers to obtain authentic figures on the actual tax value of all that land north of 203rd Street, including General Petroleum property, the figures to show the tax value of industrial and agricultural land separately.

This subject was discussed for several minutes, during which the water system serving the Pueblo community (203rd Street) was discussed, and during which time Mr. Plomert of General Petroleum Corporation entered the discussion. He suggested that, as a means of obtaining this information without cost to the City, Mr. Horton, Assistant Assessor of the County of Los Angeles, be contacted and asked for the figures. He said this is the logical way to obtain the figures, since it is the only office doing this particular business.

Councilman Powell seconded Councilman Cucci's 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 City Clerk be instructed to also obtain figures from the County Assessor's office of the tax value of all that land north of 203rd Street, including General Petroleum Corporation property, figures to be segregated as to industrial and agricultural zones, and that the figures obtained from the Associated Assessment Engineers and figures obtained from the County Assessor be compared in order to erase any doubt which may exist as to correctness of the information. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$160.87, plus tax, be made for 2159 gallons bitumuls for the 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 Hitchcock moved that eight only four thousand candle-power street lights, pole suspension type, be ordered installed by the Edison Company in the Park Knolls Tract on Border Avenue, Cabrillo Avenue, Andreo Avenue and Gramercy Avenue, at a cost of \$2.88 per month each for electric current. 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 the City Engineer be authorized to investigate to determine whether or not a light is needed

at the corner of Newton Street and Ocean Avenue, WALTERIA, and to proceed to install same if it is required. 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 \$500.00, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing the east and west alley, south of 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 not to exceed \$600.00, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing of the North and South Alley, between Arlington Avenue and Martina Avenue. 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 \$400.00, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing the north and south alley, between Cabrillo and Border Avenues, south of 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 not to exceed \$650.00, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing the north and south alley, between Andreo and Gramercy Avenues, south of 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 not to exceed \$350.00, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing of the east and west alley, north of Plaza del Amo. 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, plus tax, be made for rock and oil for resurfacing the east and west alley, north of 218th Street, between Arlington Avenue and Martina Avenue. 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 the City Engineer be authorized to rent the necessary crane equipment, complete with crew, to remove and handle the two hundred feet of five foot corrugated metal pipe which is being removed from the old flood control channel on Arlington Avenue, north of 174th 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 Gilbert moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be made to erect four lights on the Recreation Building and Catholic Church in Pueblo for the purpose of lighting the playground. 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 moved that an appropriation of \$225.50 be made for White Birch trees for El Prado Street.

He advised, prior to a second on the motion, that the property owners would reimburse the City for the cost of these trees, to which Councilman Cucci objected, stating that, since they will be planted on City property, presumably, the City should pay for them. Engineer Jain advised that it has always been the policy of the City to have an understanding with property owners, when they request the City to remove a healthy tree for the purpose of replacing it with another species, that the property owner pays for the new tree. He said, of course, that in cases where the City voluntarily removes a dead or diseased tree and places another in its place, the City bears the cost of the tree. Councilman Gilbert stated that it is immaterial to him whether the property owners reimburse the City or not, so long as the appropriation is made. No distinct understanding was reached in this matter of who should pay for the trees.

Councilman Powell seconded Councilman Gilbert's motion to appropriate \$225.50 for White Birch trees for El Prado Street, 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 \$3546.41 be made for library services, payable to Los Angeles County Public Library, for a period of six months, July 1 to December 31, 1945. 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 \$884.41 be made for a Class 6300, Super Speed Typewriter Keyboard, Electric Graphotype for Municipal Water District No. 1, subject to delivery in 7 to 12 months. 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 moved that an appropriation of \$300.00 be made for meter repair parts for stock, 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 \$270.96 be made for 24 - 5/8" x 3/4" meters for stock for Municipal Water District No. 1. 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$297.60 be made for 12 - 1" meters for stock 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$164.00 be made for 50 - 3/4" goosenecks lead for stock 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$114.24 be made for 24 - 1" goosenecks lead for stock 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$84.00 be made for 100 - 3/4" stops for stock 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$53.50 be made for 50 - 1" stops for stock 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$496.80 be made for 12 hydrant heads for stock for Municipal Water District No. 1. 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 \$52.90, plus tax, be made for 50' - 1/2" hose with fittings and one swivel gun complete and miscellaneous parts, for shop equipment for 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.

Mayor Tolson moved that Lloyd L. Crowther and Claude R. Barton be restored to their positions as Bus Operators, at a salary of \$200.00 per month each, effective January 1, 1946, these men having been on Military leave of absence. 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 the employment of Nelson P. Hawks as a Bus Operator, effective January 1, 1946 at a salary of \$200.00 per month, be authorized. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

A controversy ensued at this point between Councilman Cucci and Councilman Gilbert, with Councilman Powell adding a few statements. Councilman Cucci contended that a service man is being discharged from the Bus Department to make a position for Mr. Hawks, a former city bus driver, who, Councilman Cucci said, resigned his position with the city during the war to accept more lucrative employment at the shipyards, and now, he continued, that business at the shipyards is slack, he wishes to return to his position with the City. Councilman Cucci said he could not conscientiously vote to re-employ Mr. Hawks in view of these facts.

Councilman Gilbert reproached Councilman Cucci for speaking of Mr. Hawks, or any person, in the above manner, stating that it is not the privilege of any Councilman while acting in his official capacity as such, to criticize anyone so severely without knowing all the true facts. He added that, if a service man is being discharged from the Bus Department, Manager Ward undoubtedly has good and just cause for doing so.

Councilman Powell urged that returning service men be given full cooperation and understanding by employers, with the realization that it will take some time for the men returning from terrifying war experiences to adjust themselves to civilian life. He added that, so far as Mr. Hawks' service with the city when he was formerly employed is concerned, he has no doubt but that his services were satisfactory in every respect. However, he continued, he could not conscientiously vote yes on this motion in view of the facts presented.

A vote was taken on the motion to employ Mr. Hawks, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that he had inadvertently reported at the last meeting that the rate for street lights ordered installed in Pueblo in the vicinity of the Teen-Age Club is \$5.88 per light, and stated that the correct figure is \$2.88 per light.

Engineer Jain reported that, in compliance with an order given him at the last meeting to submit figures on estimated value of the three lots adjacent to the City Yard, he felt an offer of \$500.00 per lot should be made.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to submit an offer of \$500.00 per lot for lots 23, 24 and 25, Tract 5944. 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 reported that, in connection with an authorization given him to obtain estimates from various firms for bringing the property ownership records of his office up to date, he has been able to obtain no definite figures as yet.

Councilman Cucci asked whether or not the taxicab ordinance will be presented at this meeting, to which Mayor Tolson advised that a meeting was held with the taxicab owners, and it was agreed that they would be furnished copies of the proposed ordinance by the City Clerk for study. He said that the ordinance will probably be presented at the next meeting.

Mayor Tolson brought up the subject of the request made by the Navy Material Redistribution Center for replacement of thirteen all-weather fire hydrants with California type hydrants.

A short discussion ensued, after which Mayor Tolson requested Engineer Jain to determine how many hydrants on the outside of the fence around the property need replacing, and also report as to the number of hydrants on the inside of the fence.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Drale from North Torrance urged that bus service be furnished for his district. He also commended the Council on again bringing up the subject of a water district for North Torrance, stating that this is a subject of great interest in the district, and a definite need.

Mr. A. E. Elder urged that, since the Court has ruled that sale of the Municipal Bus Lines in the manner in which it was proposed to sell same was illegal, the Council support the Bus Lines in every way and strive to bring about such a high degree of perfection in the transportation line that citizens and city officials alike may acknowledge its ownership with pride.

Mr. Michaels, speaking as an officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, brought up the subject of the reported discharge of a returned service man from the Bus Department to make a position for a non-service man. He urged that the Council set an example for the various industries of the city by extending to the returning servicemen all the courtesy and help which they were promised when they left, and particularly, the help of giving them jobs. He said he understood a letter had been forwarded to the City Hall in connection with this incident. Clerk Bartlett advised that, after 5:00 P.M. today, Mr. Caldwell, writer of the letter, had telephoned Mr. Bartlett and requested that the letter be withheld from public reading until further investigation may be made. However, he said, he does have the letter and will read it if instructed to do so. Mr. Michaels waived reading of the letter, advising that Mr. Caldwell undoubtedly has some reason for making this telephone request.

Mr. Michaels conceded that he does not know all the facts in this particular case, but said that, in any event, the Veterans of Foreign Wars intends to watch all occurrences of this kind and try to see that the returning veterans of this war do not get the "running around" they got after the last war. Being a veteran of a couple of wars, and an officer of a veterans organization, he

said, he knows whereof he speaks, and added that, if the City Council sets the pace for industry by summarily voting a veteran of World War II, who has worked six months for the city, out of his job, repercussions of such an action will be felt far and wide, as, he said, industry in the city is waiting for just such an opening.

Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, said he could not emphasize too clearly that he also believes sincerely that the returning servicemen should be given every consideration and help which can possibly be given them, and commended Mr. Michaels and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the splendid manner in which they are assisting the returned servicemen in adjusting themselves to civilian life and occupations. However, he said, he believed that the Veterans of Foreign Wars' efforts had been misdirected in the case under discussion due to lack of information as to the true facts involved. He declared that no veteran has been discriminated against in the matter, and that, if the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or anyone interested, will call on him in his office, he will gladly discuss the matter with them thoroughly. He said no one whomsoever has called on him for an explanation of his actions, and that he would welcome an open discussion on it so that reasons for the discharge may be given and the matter viewed fairly and impartially.

Councilman Cucci replied that, if Mr. Ward has any charges against the discharged man which are any worse than he, Councilman Cucci, has against some of the bus personnel, he would like to "make a deal" with Mr. Ward relative to discharge of some of the others.

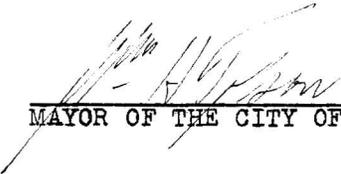
Mr. Ward replied that if he, Councilman Cucci, has any charges against any employee of the Bus Department which warrant discharge, Councilman Cucci should present the facts to the City Council, and the Council should instruct Mr. Ward to discharge the employees. Incidentally, he said, since 75% of the bus personnel is made up of veterans, anyone who might be discharged on charges Councilman Cucci claims to have, would probably be a veteran, or veterans.

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 9:45 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.


 CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE