

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2019**

Call to Order

Time: 8:07 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Council President Blass

Open Public Meetings Act Statement - Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, I hereby announce that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adopting a schedule of regular meetings for 2019, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 5, 2019.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Council President Blass: Present
Councilman Razzo: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2019

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Abstain
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Council Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

During the month of June, the McCowan Memorial Library had 6,327 visitors, with 254 children attending children's functions. The Board of Trustees will not meet again until September 24, 2019.

Thank you to all the volunteers that contributed to the great 4th of July celebrations, and a special thanks to Councilman Razzo for all his hard work in coordinating the events of the day.

Council President Blass

Council President Blass spoke of two projects that the Public Works Department has been working on recently. The concrete steps at the Sunset Auditorium were repaired and refaced, and maintenance work, which included power washing and planting sod, was performed at the Pitman Memorabilia Museum. Having Public Works employees do this work helps the Borough save money.

Councilman Razze read the following report:

The Recreation and Environmental Commissions did not meet this month due to the holiday.

Thank you to all those who came out and supported our Independence Day festivities last week.

On Wednesday Night, we crowned a new Miss Pitman for 2019, Dove DeGeorge. First runner-up was Nicole D'Arecca, second runner-up was Chloe Naphy and Miss Congeniality was Angela Bevilacqua. All of the girls did a great job and are to be commended for using their time and talents to keep this 64-year tradition alive. Thank you to Director and Pageant Committee Chairwoman Sue Crispin and Karlie Crispin, Colleen Migeot, Walt Madison, Janet Esner, and Lauren Seiter, Pageant Committee Members, along with all those who came out to help backstage, with ticket sales, and as ushers.

Thank you to all those that helped with the Freedom Four Miler on the morning of the 4th. This year we had over 900 runners registered for the race, with 860 finishing. Our overall winner was Brian Quilty of Pitman with a time of 20 minutes and 46 seconds. Our first-place female runner was Alyssa Condell of Magnolia with a time of 24 minutes and 34 seconds. Thank you to Recreation Director Andy Fox and his team of volunteers who helped with the packet pickup, and to the countless volunteers who manned the streets throughout town to keep the runners safe.

The rain stayed away for the rest of the 4th, and the Independence Day Parade stepped off at about its traditional time of 9:55 a.m. This year we had almost eighty registered groups and individuals, and with the exception of one large gap in the second half of the parade, everything moved along well in spite of the heat. Based on a request from a resident, we will be looking into incorporating a "quiet zone" into the parade next year specifically to meet the needs of our younger residents and parade fans who have sensitivity or aversion to loud noises. Thank you to Accounts Payable Clerk Nancy Yurick for her assistance in sending out and processing the vouchers and contracts for our bands. Thank you to those who came out on the morning of the parade to assist with the lineup: Barry Owen, Jim Fortney, Frank Hagerty, Steve Roth, Patti Pierce, Mayor Johnson, Council President Blass, and Councilman Austin. Thank you to Patti Kelley, Mayor Johnson, and Councilman Pierpont for assisting with the float judging prior to the start of the parade. Thank you to our banner carriers, Carly and Lucas Razze, Cole Grootet, Joey Zubert, Riley Bowen-Ashwin, Brody Yordy and Benny Whilden. Thank you to Katherine Ritzler and Nicholas Razze for coordinating the children's decorated bikes and carriages, and a big thank you to Dawn Ritzler who assists with all aspects of the parade, from picking up trophies, to the lineup, to walking alongside and making sure the parade moves along.

The fireworks were delayed just slightly that same evening due to some of our younger residents sneaking into the back of the park and hiding in the wooded areas. Thankfully, the diligence of our law enforcement personnel kept these individuals from being in harm's way as they were escorted out of the park. As the show ended, many expressed it was the best show they had seen in years. We made one slight change to move the fireworks to a higher point in Alcyon Park to allow those on the other side of the lake to have a better view. Everyone seemed to agree that the move worked well. Thank you to those who chose to make a donation and to view the show from within Alcyon Park. This year we raised almost \$1,000.00 which will be used toward the cost of future shows. Thank you to the ladies here in Borough Hall for their assistance with selling the tickets for the fireworks. Thank you to our Fire Official Ryan Pierson and to Administrator Judy O'Donnell for making sure all the proper paperwork and permits were filed to ensure the show went off as planned.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Fred Rodi and the Public Works Department for making sure the parade route was clean and ready to go, and for handling all the trash left behind the day after. Thank you to Chris Wilson and the Pitman Fire Police for their time, keeping our runners and our parade participants safe. Also, to

Borough Fire Chief Carl Ennis, and the entire Pitman Fire Department, for ensuring the safety of those who enjoy our fireworks show. It is through the volunteer efforts of the Fire Police and the entire Fire Department that we are able to continue these Pitman traditions on a greatly reduced budget. Thank you to Chief McAteer, Traffic Sgt. Streater and the entire Pitman Police Department for their work and coordination keeping all of us safe before, during, and after our 4th of July events.

This Thursday night we will be awarding the prizes to the parade participants at Sunset Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

I would like to thank Councilman Razzo and the group of volunteers who came out and helped with the great 4th of July Parade and fireworks display. This year my wife and I sat on our front porch to watch the fireworks from Crafton Avenue and it was great, thank you!

The Pitman Memorabilia Committee hosted the third-grade students from all three elementary schools at the museum. The tours began at Borough Hall with Mrs. Higbee giving a brief description of the history of Mayor and Council, a tour of the Police Station and the Pitman Memorabilia Museum. The tours at the museum were conducted by Mrs. McCausland, Chairperson of the Memorabilia Committee, and Mrs. Higbee, Vice Chairperson. Approximately 100 students, teachers and chaperones attended the tours. The museum is open to the public every second Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and every 4th Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For group or private tours, please call 589-7361 to make arrangements.

The Memorabilia Committee would like to thank Mr. Fred Rodi and his staff at Public Works for their help in installing rain gutter extensions and grading around the building to help displace rainwater away from the foundation.

Councilman Weng read the following report:

For the month of May the Construction Office collected \$600.00 in Planning and Zoning Board fees and \$455.00 in fees for zoning permits.

The Construction Office also processed fifty-two construction permit applications and forty-four Certificates of Continued Occupancy for a total of \$16,031.00. Additionally, Borough Council, Administrator O'Donnell and Mayor Johnson found out that Zoning Officer Clark Pierpont is resigning. This is just a small list of a long line of service to his hometown, which includes many decades of service to Pitman Fire Company #1, Chief of Fire Company #1, former Councilman, former member and Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board, and soon to be former Zoning Officer. We thank Mr. Pierpont for his service, and he leaves very large shoes to be filled. He is someone who is incredibly knowledgeable not just about zoning, but just about everything that went on in the Construction Office. There were times I would ask him a question about an ordinance and he would quote chapter and verse to me.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

On June 21, 2019, Sgt. Jon Streater completed Crash Investigation II training in Burlington County, and on June 28, 2019 Ptlm. Sam Hoffman completed Active Shooter Threat Instructor training at the Gloucester County Police Academy.

The Pitman Police Department is pleased to say that from the police and public safety aspect, the recent 4th of July festivities including the run, parade, and fireworks display went well and without incident.

Councilman Razzo added that this Thursday evening at the Hobo Band Concert, the Miss Pitman Pageant awards will also be presented along with the parade participant awards as was mentioned earlier in his report.

New Business

Ordinance No. 20, 2019 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter XXXV Entitled “Zoning” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Ordinance No. 21, 2019 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Repealing Ordinance No. 8, 2019, and Amending Chapter V “Animal Control” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman to Add Section 18, “Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release”

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 103, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 104, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Proposal Submitted by Federici & Akin, PA, Jonathan Bryson, PE, CME, to Act as the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey Representative for the FY 2019 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program; Resurfacing of Glen Lake Avenue, Seneca Avenue, and Adams Avenue

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 105, 2019 – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract With the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of Tuohy Avenue in Its Entirety Project

Motion: Blass
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Razze
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 106, 2019 – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract With the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of Centre Avenue in Its Entirety Project

Motion: Blass
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Razze
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Austin
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Abstain to # 37618; approves payment of all other bills
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Abstain to # 37618; approves payment of all other bills
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Blass

Event Permit

Event: Block Party

Sponsor: The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Contact Person: Ellie Dunn & Debra Prieto
Date & Time: Saturday, July 20, 2019 – 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Rain date: Saturday, July 27, 2019 – 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: Wildwood Avenue, between Highland and the first driveway opening after church property
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:

Second: Blass

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Blass

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen thanked everyone who contributed their time to the 4th of July events and thanked those who supported the fountain project at the Edward J. Campbell War Memorial.

Mr. Owen asked what can be done about the juveniles riding their bikes in traffic. Mayor Johnson replied that part of the problem starts at home; there is no guidance from the parents. He said that the Borough tried to go to court and all efforts were shot down by the judge.

Mr. Owen stated that the public should be made aware of the name of the judge who is allowing this reckless behavior to continue. Mayor Johnson said that Council will continue to have more conversations with the Police Department about what can be done going forward.

Capt. Zander said that there are plenty of options for us to move on, and in addition, the patrols have scheduled additional foot duty to keep an eye on things.

Councilman Razze asked that because the police cannot charge juveniles, is it in part the Borough's failure with the ordinance and the way it is written. Capt. Zander said that the State of New Jersey prohibits charging juveniles with these types of minor offenses. Mr. Owen suggested that the Borough clarify the ordinance as to how it applies to riding bicycles on sidewalks.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Second: Blass

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator