

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2016
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:02 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Councilman 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 2016, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 3, 2016.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Present

Councilwoman Higbee: Present

Councilman Razzo: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Present

Council President Pierpont: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2016

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstains to Closed Minutes, votes to approve Work and Formal

Councilman Razzo: Abstains to Work Session, votes to approve Formal and Closed Minutes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin

Councilman Austin reported that the Board of Trustees of the McCowan Memorial Library presented their proposed 2016 budget tonight in the Work Session meeting. The next Board of Trustees meeting is on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. During the month of January the library had 4,879 visitors and 372 individuals attended story time.

Councilman Austin said that he attended the Combined Planning & Zoning Board meeting in February where three applications from the Historic District were approved.

The Construction and Housing Office will present their proposed 2016 budget to Council at the Work Session meeting on March 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that the Borough's Historic Commission met on February 11. Three applications were approved, and were forwarded to the Combined Planning & Zoning Board whose members approved them as well.

Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze said that he was happy to announce that the Borough received our award letter for the 2015 Safety Incentive Program to be used in 2016. Again, we have received the highest honor, and will receive \$3,575.00 that can be used for various safety items and programs.

Council President Pierpont

No Report

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee announced that the Construction and Housing Office budget will be presented at the Work Session meeting on March 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m. On March 23, at 7:00 p.m., what hopefully will be the final budget meeting, will take place.

Councilwoman Higbee announced that she is presently scheduling Clean Communities clean-up events for the remainder of 2015. The grant cycle runs from July 1 through June 30, annually.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

With respect of the Police Department, on February 9th Investigator Barbetta attended the Criminal Interdiction Training class at the Gloucester County Police Academy.

On February 11, Ptlm. Decker and S/O McEvoy attended Heavy (Commercial) Truck Enforcement Training also held at the Gloucester County Police Academy.

On February 18 and 19, Sgt. Zander, Det. Sgt. Moore, and Inv. Barbetta completed their annual state and county recertification training at the Gloucester County Police Academy. All this training is done at no cost to the Borough's Police Department due to the teaching that has been provided by members of Pitman's Police Department throughout the years.

On January 29 and February 5, Sgt. Zander assisted the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles with a Mobile Inspection Checkpoint. A total of forty vehicle inspections were conducted, and sixty-one motor vehicle summons were issued.

Statistics for the Month of January 2016

Calls for service: 659

Overnight parking summonses issued: 53

Moving summonses: 15

Equipment violations: 144

Written warnings: 22

Total arrests: 24

Motor vehicle crashes: 12

Investigation reports: 58

With respect to the Fire Department, there have been a number of calls for their service in the last few weeks, especially in the worst of weather. The members should be applauded for their absolute dedication and quick response.

New Business

Ordinance No. 1, 2016 – Bond Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amended and Restated Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment and the Completion of Various Capital Improvements in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$664,000 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of up to \$630,800; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 40, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refunds/Cancellation of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 41, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Hiring of D. Clark Pierpont for the Part-time Position of Construction/Housing Office Clerk

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 42, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Closed Meeting

The general nature of the subjects to be discussed shall be:

Personnel: Change of Employment Status for Particular Employees of the Pitman Police Department

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman & AFSCME Local 3303B

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman & Teamsters Local 676

Litigation: Update on Pending Litigation Against the Borough of Pitman

Action may be taken.

Motion: Rudley

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

***Resolution No. 43, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Patti Kelley to be a Member of the Borough’s Green Team**

Motion: Austin

Council President Pierpont – “With all due respect, I ask Councilman Austin to consider tabling this motion until the next meeting. As the Liaison to the Green Team, this would give me the opportunity to attend their meeting this Thursday night. I then can assess their needs and have a discussion with the Green Team as far as what they would like to do moving forward. Then, at our next meeting, present to Council the recommendations of the Green Team and me, being their Liaison. I understand that Mrs. Kelley has been a vital part of the Green Team since conception, and I look forward to working with her as the new Liaison for the Green Team. But because this was done at the last meeting without any prior notice, or without any prior planning, I ask that it be tabled until next meeting.”

Councilman Austin – “With all due respect, this was something that former Councilwoman Kelley wanted in January and asked about it. I think we owe her this, and to get her on the Green Team. This is something that she started and I see no reason for the delay.”

Council President Pierpont – “I understand that, but I haven’t had a chance to even discuss this with the Green Team. I would like to attend the first meeting and come back with a recommendation.”

Councilman Austin – “And I see no reason to delay it.”

Councilman Razzo – “We seem to be getting mixed up with the discussion here. I hope that the victim of this discussion is not Councilwoman Kelley who has given seven years of her life to the Borough. All she is doing is asking for permission of this Council to be a part of something that she has put into place.”

Council President Pierpont – “I appreciate that, but I am only asking for four days, I had no idea this was coming up.”

Motion: Austin

Second: Razzo

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: No

Councilwoman Higbee: No

Council President Pierpont: No

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: No

Mayor Johnson _____

*Resolution No 43, 2016 - Defeated

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Event & Signage Permit Applications

Applicant: Fran Yearwood

Organization: Elwood Kindle School

Event: Spring Concert

Date & Time: April 21, 2016; 12:45 p.m. (Rain date: May 5, 2016)

Location: Washington Avenue (Street Closing from Noon – 1:45 p.m.)

Contact Person: Fran Yearwood, Principal, Kindle School

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Applicant: Lynne Nelson

Signage: Pitman Poems on Parade

Dates of Display: March 31 – April 30, 2016

Location: McCowan Memorial Library & Alcyon Park

Contact Person: Lynne Nelson

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 8:22 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 8:22 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Higbee

Second: Razzo

Time: 9:40 p.m.

The following action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting:

Resolution No. 44, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Promoting Sergeant Gregory Owens to the Rank of Lieutenant of the Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 44, 2016 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Part-Time Patrolman Peter Stefanopoulos to Full-Time Patrolman of the Borough of Pitman Police Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Adjournment

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Time: 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator