

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 28, 2016
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:04 p.m.

Salute to the Flag

Mayor Johnson

Moment of Silence in remembrance of Planning and Zoning Board Secretary, Penny Hausmann

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

Borough 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, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2016

Motion: Blass

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Second: Austin

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin

The next meeting of the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees will be held on November 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Councilman Austin said that he was unable to attend the recent Planning and Zoning Board meeting, but that Council President Pierpont attended in his place.

Councilman Austin said that the changes to the Historic District C-1 ordinance were discussed during the Work Session meeting tonight. The ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting of Mayor and Council scheduled for December 12, 2016.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that three dying trees were removed from the Eleventh and Twelfth Avenue and the Tenth and Eleventh Avenue lots.

Three new trees were planted around the Grove Auditorium in an effort to start replacing those destroyed by the June 2015 windstorm.

Councilman Blass said that he met with an architect that specializes in historic structures to discuss plans for the Grove Auditorium. The architect loved the building, and explained that it was the only structure of its kind in the state. None of the other camp meeting sites has an original auditorium. The architect recommended, and our engineer concurs, that we should create a preservation plan for the building to help guide us going forward. The architect will also provide Councilman Blass with some possible sources of grants.

Councilman Blass thanked Councilwoman Higbee for arranging a Clean Communities assignment for the 2018 Prom Committee.

Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze reported that the Recreation Commission met on November 17, topics discussed included the proposal for the courts at Shertle Park, and also the buffer around Alcyon Lake.

Councilman Razze reminded everyone that the Joint Insurance Fund's Elected Officials Training is coming up soon. The Borough receives a \$250.00 credit for each Borough Official who attends. This will be held at Nicolosi's Catering on January 31. If Council members are interested in attending that, or one of the other training sessions, please let Administrator O'Donnell know, and she will coordinate that for us.

Councilman Razze thanked those who assisted with the Santa Parade. The turnout, and weather were great; it helped bring out larger than average crowds.

Councilman Razze thanked those that came out that night to help, Mayor Johnson, Barry and Merry Owens, Dawn and Katherine Ritzler, Jim Fortney, Walt Madison, Len Clark, Kia Keblish, Nicholas and Anthony Razze. He also thanked Traffic Sgt. Zander, Chief McAteer, and the entire Pitman Police Department. Councilman Razze thanked the Pitman United Methodist Church for allowing us to line up in their parking lot, and also Nancy Yurick, who assists me each year with getting all the contracts out to the bands.

Councilman Razze said that he had an opportunity to attend the Joint Insurance Fund's Claims Meeting today. There was pending litigation against the Borough from an individual who tripped and had fallen over an anchor for a telephone pole. The Borough was absolved of any blame, which will save us a lot of money.

Council President Pierpont read the following report:

The Public Works Department is continuing to work diligently with leaf pick-up. They will continue to work overtime hours to get caught up after the long Thanksgiving weekend. Please only place leaves at the curb for pick up.

I'd like to remind residents that "e-waste" will not be picked up from the curb. These items cannot be mixed into our regular trash stream. Anyone with "e-waste", such as old TV's, vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens, and computer equipment, may drop these items at our Public Works facility in the designated trailer. Please remember that all visitors to Public Works must sign in at the office prior to dumping any material.

I'd like to recognize the Public Works employees, and our Police Department, for working very early last weekend to make the area safe along First Avenue and Broadway. Removing the very heavy "Grove Arch" and filling in the large holes, was important to returning the area to the public. I'd just like to mention that they accomplished this without any significant damage to the garden area or the birdhouse.

On November 21, I had the pleasure of attending the Combined Planning/Zoning Board meeting for Councilman Austin. Newest mayoral appointee, Mr. Franchi, was sworn in. Four Historic Applications were reviewed and approved. Monroe Savings Bank was granted a Minor Subdivision extension of the former Pitman Hotel property on Pitman Avenue. A possible buyer for the property is in the works, and the Zoning Officer briefed the Board on the court proceedings for the easement violation on Poinsett Avenue. I thank Councilman Austin for the opportunity and also want to thank the volunteer Board members for devoting their time to our community.

Finally, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce held their Election of Officers at their last meeting. Mrs. Morgey and Mr. Fitzpatrick were selected as President and Vice President. The Chamber would like to remind all residents to Eat, Stroll, Stay, and Shop Local.

Councilwoman Higbee

No Report

Councilwoman Rudley

The Pitman Police Department has added DWI and Foot Patrols to their regularly scheduled shifts for added coverage and enforcement throughout this holiday season. The Police Department would like to remind everyone that this is an effort to help keep our roadways and town as safe as possible. However, with these added patrols, the Department does include a zero tolerance policy for offenders; please help keep this holiday season safe!

There was an extended period of "suspended" overnight parking enforcement for the Thanksgiving week and weekend. There will also be a similar time period extended for the Christmas holiday. This is for the convenience and consideration of the residents.

Residents are reminded that Borough roadway projects are starting up again throughout the Borough as improvements are made to the roadways and infrastructure. Residents are reminded to be patient and drive carefully through these areas as delays may be expected. Please obey all posted detours.

Patrolman Chris Leach recently completed Field Officer Training (FTO) School at the Gloucester County Police Academy. This training certifies Patrolman Leach to train any newly hired officer to qualify as a "fully trained" officer for the PPD.

The Board of Fire Engineers met for their regular scheduled meeting on November 15. They held a special meeting with respect to the Borough Chief on November 22, and I want to thank Councilman Austin for attending on my behalf. Elections for the Borough Chief will occur tomorrow. The next meeting of the Board will be on December 20. They will meet in the Conference Room in Borough Hall.

The Economic Development Committee met on November 17, and will meet again on December 15.

Councilman Razzo

Councilman Razzo took a moment to thank the Parks Department employees, Mr. and Mrs. Fortney, and Ron Brown, for the decorations in Ballard Park.

New Business

Ordinance No. 11, 2016 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter II (Administration), Article III, Entitled “Departments” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Austin

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Ordinance No. 12, 2016 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Establishing the Borough of Pitman Senior Outreach Committee of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

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. 174, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting the Mitigation Plan for Four New Jersey Counties**

Motion to withdraw from the agenda: Rudley

Second: Higbee

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. 175, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Hiring Lisa Kensil to Fill the Part-time Position of Construction/Housing Office Clerk

Motion: Austin

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain to #32974; Approved payment of all other bills.

Council President Pierpont: Abstain to #32988; Approved payment of all other bills.
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Event Permit Applications

***Event:** Caroling, Music & Dance Programs
Dates: December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17
Time: Friday, 5:30-9:00; Saturday, Noon-9:00
Applicant: Amy Rudley
Contact Person: Amy Rudley
Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Second: Blass
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

***Council approved the Event Permit contingent upon the participants signing a Hold Harmless Agreement such as the one that is signed by the participants of Borough parades.**

Event: Christmas Concert
Dates: December 10, 2016
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Applicant: Friends of the Grove
Contact Person: Lorrie Marquis
Motion: Razzo

Second: Rudley

A presentation was made to Council by Friends of the Grove member Vanessa James demonstrating how the proposed plastic windbreak will be attached to the Grove Auditorium. She explained that the series of boards and clamps will not do damage to the wood on the original structure.

Councilman Pierpont said that aesthetics and damage to the Auditorium are the two main concerns for Council. He recommended that the Friends of the Grove consult with a supervisor from the Borough to review their idea for the site, and to make a determination of whether or not they may go forward with hanging the plastic sheeting.

Councilman Razzo said that the Friends of the Grove should be held to the same standards as other groups who use the Auditorium for events.

Motion was made by Councilman Razzo to amend the Event Permit Application for the Friends of the Grove, Christmas Concert, on December 10, from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., contingent upon having a representative of the Public Works Department, or Construction Office, present at the start of the installation of the wind curtain to identify any potential problems.

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: No
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: No
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Raffle License Application

Organization: Memorial School HSA
Type: 50/50 Raffle (2)
Date: December 3 & December 7
Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Contact Person: Stephanie Tartaglia
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Abstain
Mayor Johnson: _____

Second: Austin
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:55 p.m.

Second: Austin

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney asked if Councilwoman Rudley needed the electric turned on in the park for the plan she submitted in her Event Permit Application. He explained that the plugs are on timers set to come on at 5:00 p.m. He asked Councilwoman Rudley to please let him know if she needed them turned on for the earlier presentations, and he would see that they were. Mr. Fortney also expressed his disappointment that Pitman’s Santa Parade did not receive coverage in the South Jersey Times.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:57 p.m.

Second: Austin

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:57 p.m.

Second: Austin

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O’Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator

