

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:08 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Invocation**

Councilman Razzo

**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 Minutes of August 8, 2016**

Motion: Austin

Second: Razzo

Councilman Austin asked to make a correction to his committee report from the Council Meeting of August 8, 2016. In his report, he stated that the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting would be on July 18. It will actually be on August 15, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Abstain

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Work Session-Abstain; Formal-Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Reports**

**Councilman Austin**

Councilman Austin reported that the Board of Trustees of the McCowan Memorial Library has been off for the summer. Their next meeting will be September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Austin said that he attended the Planning and Zoning Board meeting on August 18, where nine Historic Applications were approved. Their next meeting will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Austin thanked everyone who was involved with the September 11<sup>th</sup> remembrance event. It was a great evening.

**Councilman Blass** read the following report:

Since my last report, I have attended a few Friends of the Grove meetings. They have been diligently working to get the community garden moving so that it is all set for spring planting. The dedication for the garden will take place on September 24. I would like to single out Ethan MacFarland, age 8, who, on his own accord, sold \$67 worth of items and donated the money to help with the community garden.

I would like to thank Rob Glass and the volunteers he gathered from Pitman Fire Company Number 1 and the VFW for painting the large flagpole in Ballard Park. It definitely needed to be done. In fact, I was soliciting bids from contractors when word of their volunteering reached me. Besides being a great civic project, it did save the Borough about \$2,000.

A subcommittee with members from the Historic Commission and from the Planning and Zoning Board have met twice to work on revising our ordinances as they affect the uptown area.

I met with our engineers at the Grove Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was for them to prioritize repairs on the building with the money recently authorized by Council. They were generally pleased with the condition of the building. I am awaiting their report.

Councilwoman Higbee and I met with Mrs. Katy Hoh, a Walls School third grade teacher, and one of her students twice this summer. We have begun working on a new curriculum book for the district's third grade classes. It will focus on the history of the town and those that influenced its growth. We hope to have it completed by the summer.

The last week of August I walked around the Grove with an arborist and took a "census" of the trees. This proactive approach may help eliminate future problems and will surely help with budgeting. Several trees were identified that should be removed sooner rather than later while most were "fine."

**Councilman Razzo** read the following report:

I also would like to compliment Council and Administrator O'Donnell, Chief McAteer and the crew of volunteers who helped make the September 11 Ceremony another nice event which continues to grow every year.

I attended the Board of Education meeting in August and one item discussed was the work that is being done at Kindle School; the final touches were being done last week before the school year starts. As requested at our first meeting in August, I did raise the question to the Board regarding the closing of a school in the district. The Superintendent and the Board shared that the idea of closing a school has been brought up for at least the past two decades, but as the Board gathers members from the community every five years for their strategic planning meetings, the message that the Board receive is support for all five neighborhood schools.

#### Parks and Recreation

Our summer activities wrapped up in August. The high school boys had another successful season, Summer Playground had a great turn out, the Summer Band Program was well attended, and finished off with a concert.

The Summer Theatre shows were held on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pitman High School. Tom and Debbie Slenkamp ran our Summer Tennis Program for the middle school aged kids, and Carla Langlois ran the under group. We had a huge turnout for both programs. Our Summer Youth Basketball Program, run by the Pitman High School varsity coach and some of the other department employees, was a success. Our joint basketball camps run by Joe Crispin and his crew had another sold out summer. Summer Field Hockey camp was led by Traci Pinque for the middle school.

Fall activities are in full swing, Micro-mini Soccer, Fall Basketball, Youth Football, and Open Gym for basketball started on September 22.

In other news, we have been approved for a grant toward the purchase of a new senior bus. The County has approved assisting us with funding of up to \$50,000. We are still in the early stages of researching how we move forward with the purchase.

The Parks Department finished its second season of outside park maintenance of Ballard, Sunset, Walton and Shertel Parks.

**Council President Pierpont** read the following report:

The following is my report for the Council meeting being held this evening, Monday, September 12, 2016. Please let me know if you need any clarification or have any questions.

The Public Works Department is still seeking a Manager. The open position will be re-advertised soon and hopefully lead to finding a fully qualified candidate. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when Public Works had an employee in Air Force Reserve duties and two employees out for injuries not sustained on the job. I ask any resident with difficulties contacting Public Works to call or email our Administrator or myself. I want to thank Mrs. O'Donnell and Councilman Razze for their help in reviewing applications and interviewing candidates.

Public Works personnel are actively getting equipment ready for fall cleanup. A leaf machine and tub grinder just returned from repair and we should be ready to go. For more information pertaining to on- street leaf pickup, please visit our website.

If any resident is interested in free leaf mulch for prepping your flower beds, please call (856) 589-1040 and schedule a delivery.

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce Fall Craft Show is scheduled for this Saturday. This is one of two major fundraisers for the Chamber, and by attending the Craft Show you help the Chamber fulfill their mission.

**Councilwoman Higbee**

Our Tax Collector, Beth Walls, reports that \$4,279,983.98 of tax payments have been collected during the month of August.

Clean Communities Grant:

Our annual Shred Event is scheduled for October 15, and also two clean-ups will be taking place that day, one in the Pitman Grove, and another in the Dell, along the stream.

An additional clean-up is scheduled for October 12. The area to be cleaned has yet to be determined.

On August 29, I had the pleasure of going on the Pitman Public Schools New Personnel Bus Excursion throughout Pitman. I gave them some history of Pitman and our schools. We also visited the Grove Auditorium and the Museum. (By the end of the tour, Everyone liked Pitman)

Municipal Alliance Grant

Thank you to Administrator O'Donnell for all her work with the Municipal Alliance program. Tonight we will be entering into our Agreement with the County of Gloucester. The Agreement provides funds not to exceed \$13,893.00 for programs aimed at educating about and preventing alcohol and drug abuse.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to everyone who planned and participated in Pitman's 9-11 Ceremony.

**Councilwoman Rudley**

The Economic Development Committee will meet this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room. The individual members of the EDC work tirelessly, and sometimes their efforts don't translate to things that you can see. That has changed a bit in the uptown area recently. There is paper covering some of the store windows uptown as new businesses prepare to open. Currently, we have all but one small building occupied. There is one half of the Ground House that is not occupied.

The Board of Fire Engineers will meet September 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Police Department

With the start of school, Pitman Police Department officers are out in force and are prioritizing school patrols while emphasizing traffic safety in and around all of the school zones. Sgt. Tom Zander arranged to have AAA safety signs placed in each school zone as added advanced warning to motorists. Please drive safely.

Recently, the Gloucester County K9 Association sponsored an Interdiction Class at Rowan University. The feedback concerning the training has been nothing short of fantastic. The feedback specifically centered on Patrolman E.J. Parker, who was instrumental in organizing, arranging, setting up the class, and bringing it to our area. Officers from the Tri-State area and New York State attended. Patrolman Parker is to be commended for his effort.

As a reminder, the Fall Craft Fair is being held this Saturday, September 17. This increases both vehicular and pedestrian traffic throughout the Borough. We ask that everyone, motorists and pedestrians alike, use caution in and around the Business District.

Councilwoman Rudley thanked the officers that were honored at the 9-11 Ceremony for responding to Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, and for their efforts there. Lt. Gregg Owens, Patrolman Chris Leach, Scott Penuel (Ret.), and Chief Daniel McAteer, all were acknowledged for their selfless rendering of assistance to the New York Police and Fire Departments on that day.

New Business

**Resolution No. 123, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-48**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Raze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 124, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Yard Work – 229 East Avenue**

**Resolution No. 125, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Yard Work – 32 Webb Avenue**

**Resolution No. 126, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Yard Work – 302 Edgemoor Avenue**

**Resolution No. 127, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Yard Work – 130 Kenton Avenue**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Pierpont

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. 128, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Land Sale of Certain Block and Lots Within the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Specifically Block 11 Lot 30, and Block 13 Lot 23, Known as 119 Third Avenue and 120 Twelfth Avenue, Respectively**

Motion: Blass

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 129, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Renewal of the Indemnity and Trust Agreement with the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 130, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Acceptance and Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding With International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 676 and Authorizing the Mayor to**

**Execute the January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2019 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Motion: Pierpont

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. 131, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Kevin Austin as Part-Time Fire Safety Inspector for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Safety Bureau of Fire Prevention**

*This Resolution was removed from the Agenda at the request of Councilwoman Rudley*

**Resolution No. 132, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Zach Miller as Part-Time Fire Safety Inspector for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Safety Bureau of Fire Prevention**

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. 133, 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: Proposed Pay Rate Adjustment; Fire Safety Office

Action may be taken.

Motion: Rudley

Second: Pierpont

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. 134, 2016 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With the County of Gloucester for the July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 Municipal Alliance Grant**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilman Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain to #32588; approves all others  
Council President Pierpont: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Permit Applications**

**Applicant: Pitman Police Department; Chris Leach**

**\*Event: Food Truck Festival**

**Date and Time: November 5, 2016; 4 p.m.-10 p.m.**

**Location: Ballard & Pitman Avenues, S. Broadway, Ballard Park**

**Contact Person: Chris Leach**

Motion: Razzo

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 \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Approved contingent upon Insurance to the County.***

**Applicant: Mark Torowus**

**Event: Estate Auction with Food Truck**

**Date and Time: September 17 & 24, 2016; 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Location: 835 Long Avenue**

**Contact Person: Mark Torowus**

Motion: Razzo

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant: Kids Caring Foundation-Youth Voice**

**Event: Regular Meetings**

**Date and Time: September 25, October 9 & 23, November 13 & December 11, 2016; 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Borough Hall Conference Room**

**Contact Person: Shari Hulitt**

**Applicant: Kids Caring Foundation-Youth Voice**

**Event: Childhood Cancer Awareness Fundraiser**

**Date and Time: September 29, 2016; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Location: Ballard Park**

**Contact Person: Shari Hulitt**

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Applicant: Amy Rudley**

**Event: Ghost Tour**

**Dates and Times: October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, & 29, 2016; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Grove Auditorium, Ballard Park**

**Contact Person: Amy Rudley**

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Event Permit Applications with Signage**

**Applicant: Pitman Education Foundation**

**Event: 5K Road Race**

**Date and Time: October 15, 2016; 7:30 a.m.**

**Location: Borough Streets – Map attached**

**Contact Person: Merri Owen**

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Applicant: Crop Hunger Walk; Church World Service**

**Event: Crop Walk**

**Date and Time: October 16, 2016; 1:30 p.m.**

**Location: Sunset Auditorium, Lincoln & Laurel Avenues – Map attached**

**Contact Person: Carol Schoepske**

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Razzo

Second: Austin

Time: 8:47 p.m.

**Debbie Edwards, 601 Canterbury Avenue** – Mrs. Edwards said that she was in attendance to follow up from the last Council meeting and to find out if the process has been started with the court to cite Scott Campbell for





**Adjournment**

Motion: Razze  
Time: 9:24 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator