

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2019
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Councilman Razze

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 Razze: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Scaffidi: Present

Presentation

American Legion Coloring Contest Winners
First Place – Ella Patalinghug
Second Place – Riley Driscoll
Third Place - Jackson Seifert

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2019

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

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

2019 Municipal Budget Introduction

Ordinance No. 11, 2019 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

First Reading

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Motion to Introduce 2019 Municipal Budget Ordinance

First Reading (Second Reading and Public Hearing; April 22, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.)

Copies available for public inspection at the McCowan Memorial Library and at Borough Hall, during normal business hours.

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 _____

Public Hearing on Green Acres Application

Notice of this public hearing was advertised in the South Jersey Times on March 10, 2019 for the purpose of allowing members of the general public to discuss, or express their opinion, on the proposed submission of an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for funds to be used for the acquisition of land adjacent to Alcyon Lake Park in the Borough of Pitman.

Councilman Pierpont stated that the application process began about a month and a half ago. With knowledge of a proposed development in Mantua Township, he said that he thought it would be a good idea for the Borough to apply for Green Acres funding. He contacted Councilman Razzo, who is the Park Liaison, who also agreed it was a great reason to apply.

After discussion with Council, we asked the engineer to put a package together. It is a very lengthy application. One of the requirements for the application package is a public hearing, so we are meeting that requirement here this evening. An additional requirement was the approval of the Combined Planning and Zoning Board, and compliance with the current Master Plan.

So, with full encouragement from the Mayor and Council, the application is due by March 30, 2019. The application is for 1.6 million dollars in Green Acres funds to purchase lots 3, 5 and 6 of Block 219, which surround Zee's Pond. One of the reasons the Borough feels it is important is because Rowan University is proposing a big development and athletic complex in that area. Much of the property to be developed lies in Mantua Township. If the Borough can secure this land it will be preserved as a natural buffer between the residents of Pitman and any development on the site.

Green Acres funding restraints are that the land cannot be developed. It must be used for recreation or remain passive. This is the only way to protect what open land the Borough has.

Councilman Pierpont encouraged residents in attendance to contact state legislators and advocate for awarding Green Acres funds to the Borough

Councilman Razzo stated that it is not the Borough's plan to place soccer fields out there; rather it is intended to be a buffer between our community and that potential development. Councilman Razzo pointed out that the county also has to endorse this application, so it is important to make sure that the county understands why we are trying to create this buffer.

Councilman Pierpont stated that if the application is denied, it is important for the Borough to try and find money to purchase this land. He said that at this time the Borough does not know what the owner is asking for the property, but the solicitor has reached out to the owner to discuss her interest in selling.

Motion to open to the Public: Razze
Time: 8:10 p.m.

Second: Pierpont

Jacob Smith, 563 Florence Avenue – Mr. Smith asked of the probability of the Borough receiving a Green Acres Grant. Councilman Razze stated that the goal of the Borough is to preserve the land, and at the same time have it act as a buffer between the development of the proposed sports complex and the residential and park areas adjacent to the site. He said that, in his opinion, applying for the grant under those circumstances, gives the Borough a good chance at being awarded a grant. Mr. Smith concluded by saying that he is in favor of submitting the grant and the purchase of the property.

Todd McConnell, 583 Florence Avenue – Mr. McConnell thanked Mayor and Council for their efforts on behalf of the residents in their neighborhood. He stated that he is in favor of the Borough purchasing the property.

Christopher Piskun, 604 Howard Avenue – Mr. Piskun asked why the Borough was not interested in purchasing an additional lot with the same owner as the ones that the Borough is interested in. Councilman Pierpont replied that the lot is not one of the ones slated to be developed by the sports complex due to the presence of nesting bald eagles on that site. Mr. Piskun said that he is in favor of preserving the land from development.

Patrick Fitzgerald, 640 Howard Avenue – Mr. Fitzgerald thanked Mayor and Council for the proposed purchase of the land saying that the buffer would stem any increased traffic that could come through the neighborhood with the development of the sports complex. He said that there are many young children in the area that regularly play outside in the usually quiet and secluded neighborhood.

Craig Epley, 543 Florence Avenue – Mr. Epley said that he is concerned with runoff into Alcyon Lake if the property is developed. The lake was the site of a major environmental clean-up in the past, so his concern lies in any potential contamination that could cause a recurrence of the same issue. Therefore, he is in favor of preserving the land as a means of preserving the lake and other surrounding areas. Councilman Pierpont responded to a question from Mr. Epley by saying that the proposed sports complex is still awaiting NJDEP approval of their plans, and Councilman Razze said that the contractor is still in the process of getting their funding together for the proposed project. Councilman Pierpont asked residents to contact the Borough's legislative representatives and express their concerns about the project, and ask for their support for the Borough's application for a Green Acres Grant.

David Rue, 526 Carew Avenue – Mr. Rue stated that he is in favor of submitting the application for the Green Acres Grant and the purchase of the property as preserved space. Mr. Rue suggested that Pitman's vision for the land acquisition is an important fact that should be incorporated into the Green Acres Grant application.

Motion to close public hearing on Green Acres Application: Razze
Second: Pierpont
Council approves by voice vote.
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Council Reports

Councilman Austin

Councilman Austin reminded everyone that the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees will meet tomorrow evening in the library at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Austin also reminded those in attendance that the 2019 Municipal Budget was introduced this evening without an increase to the taxpayers. He thanked CFO Considine and members of Council for their assistance in the budget preparation process.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported the following statistics for Public Works collections during the month of March:

Eleven loads of trash collected: 118.20 tons

Eleven loads of recyclables collected: 39.37 tons

Brush collected: 48 yards

Leaves collected: 13 yards

Bulk trash: 4 loads

In addition, various pot holes and sink holes were repaired throughout the Borough. Three loads of mulch were delivered to residents, and sixty-nine residential meter heads were upgraded. Curbside collection of leaves will begin in mid-April.

Councilman Razzo

Councilman Razzo reported that he attended the monthly meeting of the Tri-County Joint Insurance Fund. Discussion at the meeting focused on encouraging the use of transitional duty for employees covered under worker's comp claims, and also the need for quick reporting of injuries sustained by employees while performing their jobs.

Councilman Razzo notified members of Council of the death of Pitman resident John Crane, and also expressed his appreciation of the many years Mr. Crane was instrumental in helping the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce with the function of the Santa House in Ballard Park each holiday season.

Councilman Pierpont

No report.

Councilman Weng

No report.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley thanked Pitman Police Officers Stefanopoulos, Leach, and Hoffman for presenting a program at Pitman High School on how to recognize drug use in individuals. Patrolman Hoffman, along with Patrolman Weist, are the Pitman Police Department's Certified Drug Recognition Experts.

From March 12 – 15, Corporal Parker and Corporal Pierson attended Community Law Enforcement Officer Training, and on March 28 – 29, Patrolman Hagan and Patrolman Brown attended their annual recertification training.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 7, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Lease of Block 3, Lot 1, Also Known as 106 S. Broadway, Lying Within the Borough of Pitman, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2A-8, Merryman's Pub, LLC
Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Blass
Second: Austin

Motion to open to the public: Blass
Time: 8:45 p.m.
Second: Razze

No public comment.

Motion to close public hearing: Blass
Time: 8:45 p.m.
Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes	Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: No	Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes	Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____	

Ordinance No. 8, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Establishing A Community Cat Ordinance for the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Rudley
Second: Weng

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:47 p.m.
Second: Rudley

No public comment.

Motion to close public hearing: Razze
Time: 8:48 p.m.
Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes	Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes	Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes	Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____	

Ordinance No. 9, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter II Entitled “Administration” to Create a New Section 2-67.6 Entitled “Conflict of Interest” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin
Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:48 p.m.
Second: Rudley
No public comment.

Motion to close public hearing: Razze
Time: 8:48 p.m.
Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Ordinance No. 10, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of First Amendment to Non-Exclusive Tower Attachment Lease Agreement Between the Borough of Pitman and T-Mobile Northeast, LLC (302 Wesley Avenue)

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 8:50 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public hearing: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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

New Business

Ordinance No. 12, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing an Agreement for Tax Exemption With Pitman Properties, LLC, Jim Brandenburger, for a Property Commonly Known as 54 S. Fernwood Avenue, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 80 Lot 20.02

First Reading

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Ordinance No. 13, 2019 – An 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
Councilman Pierpont: No

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Ordinance No. 14, 2019 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Establishment of an Easement Within Land Located Within the Borough of Pitman and Execution of All Necessary Documents

First Reading

Motion: Razzo

Second: Austin

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. 46, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing 2018 Reserve Municipal Budget Transfers

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. 47, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding a Contract to Command Company Inc. for the Reconstruction of Theatre Avenue Project

Motion: Blass

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 _____

Resolution No. 48, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Change Order No. 1 (Final) Payment to the Contract With Jerry & Son Excavating Inc. for the Resurfacing of Highland Terrace-Phase II Project

Motion: Blass

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 _____

Resolution No. 49, 2019 – 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 at said meeting shall be:

Personnel: Temporary Employment of a Licensed Tax Collector

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

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

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

Resolution No. 50, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Entering Into a Redevelopment Agreement Between the Borough of Pitman and Merryman’s Pub, LLC at 106 S. Broadway in Pitman, Gloucester County

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

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

Payment of Bills

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

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

Event Permit, Facilities Use & Signage Applications

Event: Easter Egg Hunt & Activities (Amended Application)

Sponsor: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Vanessa James, GPCC President
Date & Time: Saturday, April 13 – 8:00 a.m. until Noon
Rain date: April 20 – 8:00 a.m. until Noon

Location: Grove & Sunset Auditoriums & Shertel Park

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

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

Event: PAA Registration

Sponsor: Pitman Athletic Association
Contact Person: Elizabeth Morrison
Date & Time: April 24 & April 25 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 27 – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Borough Hall

Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes

Second: Blass
Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Approval contingent upon submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.

Event: Pop-up Park

Sponsor: Pitman School District
Contact Person: MaryBeth Koniecki
Date & Time: Thursday, May 3, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Ballard Park

Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:

Second: Blass

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

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

Approval contingent upon submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured and approval from the Pitman Police Department for the change of date.

Signage for Event: Memorial School Craft & Food Truck Event

Sponsor: Memorial School HSA
Contact Person: Krystle Snyder
Dates: March 26 – April 6, 2019
Location of Signs: See application

Motion: Blass
Roll Call:

Second: Pierpont

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

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

Raffle License Application

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company
Contact Person: Jeff Penuel
Date & Time: Sept. 2, 2019 @ 10:00 p.m.
Location: Labor Day Carnival - PHS Parking Lot

Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:

Second: Blass

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

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razzo
Time: 9:05 p.m.

Second: Blass

