

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2017**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 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 2017, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 7, 2017.

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

Special Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2017

Motion: Blass

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Abstain
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Formal Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2017

Motion: Blass

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

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin read the following report:

I attended the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees meeting on May 23, and it was reported that during the month of May, 6125 individuals visited the library. As a reminder, the library will be open on 4th Fridays through October, and they have scheduled the following special programs:

June 23 - *Sciencetellers* (Summer Reading Kick-off.)
July 28 - *Pacific Island Dancers*
August 25 - *Silly Joe Sings* (Finale)

The Library Board of Trustees will not meet again until September. Also, they have announced that Ms. Sharon Furgason will be retiring in December. We wish her the best of everything, and thank her for her dedicated service to the Borough.

Combined Planning/Zoning Board

I reported on the May Planning and Zoning Board meeting at our last Council Session. The next Planning and Zoning Board meeting will be on June 19.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that today he was at the Grove Auditorium, and met with representatives from Mills + Schnoering Architects, our historic preservationist. They were analyzing the Grove Auditorium, taking measurements and photos, etc. Councilman Blass said that on the positive side, there appears to be nothing glaringly wrong with the building. We will be waiting for their report.

The Historic Commission met last Thursday, and all submitted applications were approved.

Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze reported that the submission of nominations for the Parade Grand Marshal ended on May 26, and the announcement of the selection will be forthcoming.

This is the last week to register for participation in the Fourth of July Parade. The deadline is 4:00 p.m. for paper applications submitted at Borough Hall, and midnight online.

Miss Pitman Pageant tickets will go on sale this week as well.

Council President Pierpont read the following report:

Congratulations to all the volunteers, professional services, and participants, who helped make the annual Pitman Bike Race and Block Party a success. I had the opportunity to see some of the earlier races, and from the comments I heard, everyone was impressed and happy with the operation and flow of services our small town provided. My personal thanks to Pitman Public Works for race preparation, the Pitman Police Department, Pitman Fire Department, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce, and the residents who volunteered their time to assist with traffic control.

Our Public Works Department has finished its work at Glen Lake. Seventy yards of fill dirt, three tons of rock, the 20 x 30 rubber liner, a 1/2 pallet of Bentonite, and the rented excavator and operator, were just some of the things used on Saturday to accomplish this task. My thanks to Councilman Razze, Mr. Andy Fox and Mr. Dan McAteer for their help. Young McAteer was knee deep in it with Public Works on Saturday morning. At our next meeting, I should have an itemized list of costs associated with the project, should anyone be interested.

The trash and recycling numbers for the period of May 29 to June 9, 2017 are as follows;

- Sixteen loads of trash collected for a total of 168 tons
- Eleven loads of recycling collected for a total of 49 tons
- One hundred seventy-five yards of brush collected for disposal
- Sixteen loads of bulk trash were collected

Finally, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce would like to remind all residents to Eat, Shop, Stay and Stroll local. This is a great way to support your Pitman businesses and chat with your neighbors.

Councilwoman Higbee

Environmental Commission

Councilwoman Higbee reported that on June 1st the Environmental Commission held their monthly meeting. They discussed current lead amounts found in the water at the Pitman Schools. The Commission will be participating at Community Appreciation Night, Fred Rodi our Public Works Manager, the Commissioners, and the Recycling Coordinator are looking into testing the water at Alcyon Lake. The Recycling Coordinator is also exploring a textile-recycling program.

Memorabilia Museum

The children from Memorial School's third grade missed their field trip to the Pitman Memorabilia Museum due to poor weather. Councilwoman Higbee was scheduled to provide a power point presentation for them tomorrow, but the school changed their schedule to a half-day session due to the heat wave.

Councilwoman Higbee thanked Mayor Johnson for assisting her with a mock Council Meeting on June 2nd with some children from Kindle School. Councilwoman Higbee said that when she participates in the school visits she likes to use current topics from recent Council Meetings. The students discussed the bike track, on street parking, the condition of Glen Lake, saving our historic building, and the Green Grounds Ordinance.

Clean Communities

Councilwoman Higbee reported that this past Saturday a Girl Scout troop did a cleanup at Betty Park that generated forty-three bags of leaves and one bag of trash. This Saturday, the Kids Caring Group will be doing the last 2016 funded clean-up at Alcyon Park.

Pitman has received the 2017 Clean Communities Grant award from the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$18,624.36. In 2016, we were awarded almost \$3,000.00 more. The lessor amount will affect this year's program. The awards are based on population and the State budget.

Finance Office

Beth Walls, our Tax Collector, reports for the month of May \$3,900,558.75 was collected in taxes.

On June 9, Pitman had its' annual tax sale. Our collector reports that at that time, sixteen properties remained on the list, down from seventy when the sale was initially advertised. All but one property was sold at this tax sale.

On June 1, the annual Senior Citizen Luncheon, which is sponsored by the Pitman Municipal Alliance and the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, was held at Mannino's Cucino. MaryBeth Monroe was the guest speaker, and spoke on the topic of drug abuse, its prevention and its effect on our lives, keeping your medications in a safe place, and how to properly discard the same. Special thanks to our Administrator who manages our Municipal Alliance Grant.

Councilwoman Higbee shared the following information pertaining to the bond ordinances that are on the agenda for final adoption tonight.

The current Borough debt total is \$6,455,025.00

The current Water and Sewer debt total is \$8,184,373.00. This figure includes our USDA loans.

The Borough's current debt to value calculation is 1.072%.

Councilwoman Higbee explained that the amount of debt reported does not reflect the ordinance amount that may be approved at this meeting. If approved, our debt to value calculation will increase slightly. The Borough is permitted to be at 3.5%, which equates to \$14,627,000 of unused, but allowable debt. The Borough's current rating with Moody's is A1.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

I was happy to attend the Senior Citizen Luncheon at Mannino's on June 1, 2017, and I thank Administrator O'Donnell for putting together an excellent program. Our Chief, Lieutenant, and Traffic Safety Sergeant were on hand and collected expired and unused medications from anyone who brought them. This is a safe disposal method and, as the speaker explained, our senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to prescription drug theft.

Community Night is scheduled to take place from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Alcyon Lake Park. This is a free event and we hope to see a great number of our own residents taking advantage of the meet and greets, the dunk tank, the bounce houses, the fire demonstration, and the helicopter.

The Senior Outreach Committee has confirmed its' First Annual Senior Information Fair date of September 27, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Pitman. This location is ideal due to abundant parking and handicap access to the facility. The Senior Outreach Committee will meet this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, here in Borough Hall.

The Economic Development Committee and the Board of Fire Engineers have not met since my report at our last Council meeting. EDC will meet immediately following the Senior Outreach Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday, and the BOFE will meet next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., same place.

The EDC does have an Event Permit Application on the agenda for tonight. This would be to permit use of Ballard Park to continue the Chamber's prior Thursday night pocket park efforts.

Mayor Johnson announced that the first annual "Unsung Hero Award" will be presented at Community Appreciation Night with Pitman resident Jeff Mazzola as the first recipient.

Councilman Razze said that he attended the Pitman Board of Education's Honors and Awards Night where among the many honorees were those faculty members who will be retiring at the end of the year. Of particular mention is Ms. Frances Yearwood, Principal of Kindle School, who has over forty years in the field of education.

New Business

Ordinance No. 4, 2017 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Organize, Regulate, and Control the Pitman Fire Department In and For the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:17 p.m.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen asked what the ordinance is about.

Mayor Johnson replied that it is a document that was crafted by the Board of Fire Engineers and approved by the

Mayor Johnson replied that if needed, it would be.

Mr. Fortney asked what if the person is hurt; he will not get workmen's comp if the tones do not go off.

Councilman Razze replied that if it falls under firefighter duties, which is defined in the statue, then there would be coverage.

Councilwoman Rudley mentioned that there are times when they have to plow themselves out to be able to be prepared for calls.

Mr. Fortney pointed out that there are presently twelve plows stored at the Armory. He asked how many trucks the Borough has.

Motion to close public comment: Higbee
Time 8:25 p.m.

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Bond Ordinance No. 6, 2017 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Water and Sewer Utility System In the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$702,000 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 \$702,000; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Pierpont

Time: 8:26 p.m.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen asked Councilwoman Higbee to explain the Section 20 Costs that are listed on the ordinance. Councilwoman Higbee replied that the \$100,000.00 listed covers all the costs associated with preparing the bond.

Mr. Owen then asked about the interest rate and the length of the bond. Councilwoman Higbee replied that the Borough does not know the interest rate at this time, and that the period of usefulness for the items to be bonded is fifteen years. Mayor Johnson said that at this time, the bond is a one year note. It will be converted later to long-term financing at a competitive interest rate.

Mr. Owen asked what the needs are of the Water and Sewer Department to be bonded. Council President Pierpont replied that the money we are bonding now is to replace the water meters; that they haven't been replaced in twelve years, and are out of warranty.

Motion to close public comment: Razze

Second: Pierpont

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 100, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$4,109,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017, of the Borough of Pitman; Making Certain Covenants to Maintain the Exemption of the Interest on Said Bonds From Federal Taxation; and Authorizing Such Further Actions and Making Such Determinations as May be Necessary or Appropriate to Effectuate the Issuance and Sale of the Bonds

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 101, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of Water and Sewer Overpayments and Restoration of Service Fee

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 102, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Award of Competitive Contract for the Lease of Advertising Space

Motion: Higbee

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 103, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Rachael Corma to Replace Michael Batten as a Member of the Historic Commission of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Blass

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 104, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Appointments of Carl Scutt as Alternate 2 Member, Jason James as Alternate 1 Member, and Jack Kostiuk to Fill an Unexpired Term Vacated by Michael McIlvaine on the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Razze
Second: Blass
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 105, 2017 – 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 Matters: Use of Sick, Personal and Vacation Time

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.
Motion: Higbee
Second: Rudley
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No, 106, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the \$50.00 Restoration of Service Fee for 101 First Avenue, Block 13 Lot 1, be Added to the Water and Sewer Bill of Said Property as an Amount Due to the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester

Motion: Pierpont
Second: Higbee
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No, 107, 2017 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey Authorizing the Pitman Fire Department Reinstitute the Fire Explorers Program with the Conditions That Were Discussed in the Work Session

Motion: Rudley
Second: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee
Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstains to #33965; approves all other bills

Councilman Razze: Abstains to #33887; approves all other bills

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications

Applicant: Borough of Pitman Economic Development Committee

Event: Thursdays in the Park

Location: Ballard Park

Date & Time: June 15, June 22, June 29, and July 6, 2017 (Event: 6pm - 8pm)

Contact Person: Amy Rudley

Motion: Razze

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 _____

Applicant: Pitman Parade Committee

Event: Annual Independence Day Parade

Location: Highland, Grandview, Crafton, Wildwood, Lexington, Adams and Broadway

Date & Time: July 4, 2017 (Event: 9:55 a.m.) Rain date: July 5, 2017 (6:30 p.m.)

Contact Person: Michael Razze

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Applicant: Michael Razze

Event: Annual Independence Day Fireworks

Location: Alcyon Lake Park & Betty Park

Date & Time: July 4, 2017 (Event: 9:00 p.m.) Rain date: July 5, 2017 (6:30 p.m.)

Contact Person: Michael Razze

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Applicant: Pitman Memorabilia Committee

Event: Summer Picnic and Party in Pitman Grove

Location: Inside and Outside of Grove Auditorium
Date & Time: July 8, 2017 (Event: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Contact Person: Paul Blass/Vanessa James
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Applicant: Friends of the Library

Event: Halloween Parade

Location: Ballard Park
Date & Time: October 31, 2017 (Event: 4:00 p.m.)
Contact Person: Sharon Furgason

This Event Permit Application was Tabled, and will be reintroduced at the June 26, 2017 Formal Meeting.

Applicant: Pitman Recreation Commission/Andy Fox

Event & Signage: 36th Annual Pitman Freedom Run

Location: See Application
Date & Time: July 4, 2017 (8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
Contact Person: Andy Fox

Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Public Portion

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

Second: Rudley

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue - Mr. Fortney thanked the members of the VFW and American Legion for a fine program on Memorial Day, and also thanked the Connolly family, formerly of First Avenue, who returned to Pitman to decorate First Avenue with flags. Mr. Fortney asked if anyone has given Dick Salmon approval to replace the sign at the intersection of Holly and Cedar Avenues.

Councilman Blass said that the Borough has not received a request regarding the replacement of the sign.

Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue – Mr. Owen asked if the sixteen loads of bulk trash picked up in May were included with the trash totals. Council President Pierpont answered that it was included in the totals.

Mr. Owen asked if there is a public record that would tell how many people actually paid to have the Borough pick up their “extra junk” at the curb. He used 225 N. Woodbury Road as an example, saying that a sofa has been at the curb for two weeks. He expressed his feeling that the taxpayers should not be paying for everybody’s additional loads of trash that are picked up.

Resolution No, 108, 2017 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing and Permitting Borough of Pitman Tax Collector Beth Walls the Use of Sick, Personal and Vacation Time in Anticipation of Possible Retirement from Employment With the Borough of Pitman

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 _____

Adjournment

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Razze

Time: 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator