

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 28, 2015  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:12 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 2015, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2015.

**Roll Call**

Councilman Austin: Present

Councilwoman Higbee: Present

Councilman Pierpont: Present

Mayor Johnson: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Present

Council President Kelley: Present

Councilman Razze: Present

Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

**Oath of Loyalty**

The Oath of Loyalty was administered by Mayor Johnson to the following new members of the Pitman Police Department:

**Eric C. Bailey**, Patrolman

**Peter Stefanopoulos**, SLEO, Class II

**Oath of Loyalty**

The Oath of Loyalty was administered by Mayor Johnson to the following new members of the Pitman Fire Department:

**Kurt Leach** – Pitman Fire Company No. 1

**Haley Rief** – Highland Chemical Engine Company

**Courtney Miller** – Highland Chemical Engine Company

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session & Closed Work Session Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson

**Committee Reports**

**Councilman Austin**

**Police Department** - Councilman Austin congratulated the new Police Officers and Fire Fighters

who were sworn in at this meeting. He announced that Sgt. Owens will attend the New Jersey Chief's Association Front Line Supervision Program in February 2015, and thanked the Humane Society of Newark for donating a bulletproof vest for our K9 unit.

Councilman Austin congratulated Capt. McAteer, Patrolman Carson, Patrolman Parker, Patrolman Weist and Patrolman Hoffman for having perfect attendance in 2014.

Patrolman Beschen will attend the Child Safety Technician course in January 2015, where he will become certified to assist the community with installing child restraint seats.

Councilman Austin reminded residents that the Police Department has a tip email; [cizientips@pitman.org](mailto:cizientips@pitman.org).

Fire Department – Councilman Austin reported that the Fire Department was busy working with the Office of Emergency Management preparing for the reported snow storm.

Environmental Commission – The Environmental Commission has received the report on aquatic life that was performed last fall at Alcyon Lake. Please call Councilman Austin if you would like to review this report.

#### **Councilman Blass**

No Report

#### **Councilman Razzo**

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

Congratulations our two new police officers and our fire department members, who were sworn in tonight.

The Recreation Commission did not meet in January, but will meet next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Our in-house basketball programs will be ending soon, and our Middle School traveling basketball teams will continue to play into the first three weeks of February. Pitman Little League will hold their two remaining registration sessions this Thursday, January 29 and 31. Anyone registering after January 31 will be charged a late fee.

The Economic Development Commission met on January 15. Congratulations to new Chairman John Fitzpatrick, Vice Chairman Barry Owen, and new member Scott Friedrich. The Commission discussed where they had left off in 2014 and what they would like to accomplish in 2015. Mayor Johnson also joined us to advise the group of what he would like see them focus on this year. Bringing new businesses to the Borough, focusing on filling empty commercial spaces, providing guidance and assistance to the commercial entities around the Borough, and helping new business owners with the hurdles of setting up shop in Pitman, will be the primary focus. There was discussion regarding the future development and fundraising for the Theatre Avenue Pocket Park. Also discussed was the reappointment of Melissa Eaton as their paid intern for another year.

The TRICO JIF Elected Officials Seminar has been rescheduled for February 24, 2015. I am excited to report that I will be representing Tri County JIF at the 2015 Association of Government Risk Insurance and Leadership Conference in March. The conference will highlight key trends and issues that impact insurance pools and funds like ours.

**Councilman Pierpont**

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

We survived the snow storm of 2015. Our Highway Department was out first thing to clear and salt roadways, sidewalks, around Borough Hall, the library, and the sidewalks in the Grove. This storm pushed the trash schedule back one day this week. The latest snow incident is an indication of our preparedness to deal with a significant storm. However, this year we have had six similar events involving ice on the roads and freezing rain, and to date, our Highway Department has spread 158.9 tons of salt for a total of \$8,543.59 spent since January 1, 2015.

One of the projects in the shop right now involves working on a fabrication of a liquid brine spread. This solution is spread on the roads prior to a snow or ice event, and it is very effective in how it works, as well as being very cost effective.

**Councilwoman Higbee**

Councilwoman Higbee congratulated our newest Firefighters and Police Officers.

Councilwoman Higbee reported that the total amount deposited by the Borough’s Tax Collector in 2014 was \$22,430,969.31. The good news is that our collection rate for 2014 was 96.26%.

**Council President Kelley**

No Report

**Unfinished Business**

**Ordinance No. 1, 2015 – 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 William and Debbie Edwards for Property Commonly Known as 437 Poinsett Avenue and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 178, Lot 32**

Second Reading-Public Hearing

Motion: Higbee Second: Kelley

Motion to open to the public: Razze Second: Kelley

Time: 8:47 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze Second: Austin

Time: 8:48 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes	Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes	Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes	Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____	

**New Business**

**Resolution No. 37, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Advertisement and Procurement of Proposals for a Concession Agreement for Advertising Space on the Borough’s Municipal Sign**

Motion to table: Blass Second: Razze

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution No. 38, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Intent to Enter into a Shared**

**Service Agreement With the Township of Mantua to Establish a Joint Municipal Court**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Councilman Pierpont stated that he would like to have this looked into a little further and find out how Mantua came up with the dollar amount that the Borough would be required to pay annually. He asked Solicitor Duffield if there would still be an opportunity to discuss the provisions of the agreement if this resolution was passed tonight.

Solicitor Duffield said that Council would not be bound in any way. He said that he would look into the agreement further, and that Council should let him know exactly what questions they wanted him to address in his inquiry.

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes  
Council President Kelley: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes

**Resolution No. 39, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application by the Borough of Pitman Green Team**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes  
Council President Kelley: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes

**Resolution No. 40, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing 2014 Reserve Budget Transfers**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes  
Council President Kelley: Yes  
Councilman Razze: Yes

**Resolution No. 41, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming Mayoral Appointments**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 42, 2015 – 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 subject to be discussed shall be:

- Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and PBA Local 122**
- Personnel Matters: Employee Personal Leave of Absence**

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 43, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund’s Safety Programs**

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 44, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Reappointing Melissa Eaton to the Economic Development Commission for Calendar Year 2015 With a Stipend of \$1000.00.**

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Discussion followed between Council President Kelley and Councilman Razze regarding the amount of the stipend to be received by Ms. Eaton. Council President Kelley stated her belief that Ms. Eaton had been paid a larger amount in 2014, and may not be willing to take on the position for a lesser amount in 2015. Councilman Razze agreed to check with the EDC Chairman to verify the amount that had been given to him.

Motion to withdraw resolution: Razze

Second: Blass

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes, except #29879 Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

**Event Permit Applications**

**Event:** PAA Monthly Meetings

Applicant: Pitman Athletic Association

Date: First Wednesday of each month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

Contact Person: Ed Powell

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

**\*Event: Bike Race**

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Date: June 13, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Map attached.

Contact Person: John Fitzpatrick

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

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

**Event: The Lucky Run 5K**

Applicant: Road Runners Club of America

Date: March 15, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: See attached map.

Contact Person: Ken Culbertson

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

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

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 9:16 p.m.

**James Campbell, 35 West Avenue** - Mr. Campbell stated that he does not have a driveway on his property. He objected to having to pay for parking permits to park his vehicles in the Cleveland Avenue parking lot. He said that in the past he had been issued free parking stickers that enabled him to park in the Grove parking lots.

It was determined by Chief Zimmerman that Mr. Campbell had been issued Grove parking stickers in error. He informed Mr. Campbell that he would be required in the future to purchase a parking permit annually, and that he was no longer permitted to park in the Grove lots.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Higbee

Time: 9:35 p.m.

**Closed Meeting**

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Blass

Second: Austin

Time: 9:35 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Austin

Second: Blass

Time: 10:20 p.m.

The following action was taken as a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting.

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Blass to grant an unpaid leave of absence to Public Works Water and Sewer Division employee Sam Teague pursuant to Article 13, Section 5 of the Labor Agreement between the Borough of Pitman and Teamsters Local 676, from December 16, 2014 through February 1, 2015.

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous**

Clerk O'Donnell mentioned to Council that the dam at Alcyon Lake requires a sight inspection for the State of New Jersey as well as an inspection of the small crack that is allowing seepage to pass through. The Borough engineer issued two quotes, one for each inspection. It was agreed by all that the Clerk would contact the Borough engineer and request that the inspections be combined, and the results of both issues be contained in one single report. It is hoped by Council that if this is possible, it will result in a cost savings for the Borough.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Austin

Time: 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator