

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
July 27, 2015  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:07 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Invocation**

Councilwoman Higbee

**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: Absent  
Council President Kelley: Present  
Councilman Razzo: Absent  
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

**Presentation by 2015 Miss Pitman, Dominica Castro**

Ms. Castro spoke of several activities she would like to be a part of during her time as 2015 Miss Pitman. She stated that she has a particular interest in the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Fourth Friday event and would like to suggest incorporating the art and music programs from the students that attend Pitman schools into that event. She also stated that she supports the idea of turning Theatre Avenue into a pocket park, and would like to help promote the fundraising efforts being performed by the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Castro concluded by offering her support and time to any new projects or ideas Mayor and Council initiate within the next year.

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Austin commended Ptlm. Barbetta and Ptlm. Parker on the recent drug arrests they participated in. He stated that all officers in the borough at this time are extremely proactive, and should all be commended for their dedication.

The Environmental Commission did not meet last month. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

The Fire Department has not had any major fires lately, but has been called on to provide mutual aid to neighboring communities.

The Manager of the Office of Emergency Management has been busy compiling the paperwork to be submitted to FEMA in regard to the June wind storm.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

The collection of debris from the storm is complete, and the Public Works Department is resuming normal operations. The final cost for the storm operations is being tallied, and will be forwarded on to our OEM Office.

Please place yard debris and branches at your curb in manageable lengths, and the Borough workers will pick it up. Mr. Alexander has asked me to pass on to our residents that the dumpster located in the Public Works yard is intended for disposal of one or two bulk items by the residents who wish not to put bulk items at the curb. This dumpster is not intended for a full truckload of trash and construction debris. All residents must report to the Public Works Office prior to placing any items in the dumpster. Anyone with a large truckload of trash or construction debris, please take it to the County landfill for disposal. If you would like a Borough truck placed in your driveway for the weekend for yard clean up, please call 589-1040.

Collection totals for the period from July 13 to July 24

Ten loads of trash totaling 127 tons

Eleven loads of recycling totaling 44 tons

Eight loads of bulk trash was collected

Councilwoman Higbee

No Report

Council President Kelley

No Report

**New Business**

**Resolution No. 129, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Transfer of Real Estate Tax Overpayments**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Absent

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

**Resolution No. 130, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund/Cancellation of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Absent

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

**Resolution No. 131, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting State of New Jersey General Assembly Resolution No. 236 Urging New Jersey Counties and Municipalities to Declare Themselves to be "Stigma-Free Zones"**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 132, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Dewey Whitehouse to the Position of Temporary Foreman for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Streets and Roads**

**Department**

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 133, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee Escrow Funds and Accepting a Form of Maintenance Guarantee Provided by Edward and Leslie Powell Submitted for a Project Affecting a Parcel Known as 46 Elm Avenue, Block 194, Lot 20, on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 134, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Peter Stefanopoulos to the Position of Part-Time Patrolman of the Borough of Pitman Police Department**

Motion: Austin

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 135, 2015 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving an Hourly Pay Rate Increase for the Position of Construction/Housing Office Part Time Clerk**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

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

**Payment of Bills** (Higbee)

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Absent

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

**Event Permit Applications**

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

\*Event: Fall Craft Show

Date: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015; Rain date: Sept. 26, 2015

Time: 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: See attached application

Contact Person: Lori Poisker

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Absent

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

**Raffle License Applications**

**Type:** Bingo

**Organization:** First Presbyterian Church

Contact Person: Lauren Hoffman

Dates: Friday, October 2, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Absent

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

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Austin

Second: Kelley

Time: 8:23 p.m.

**John Watson, 117 Tenth Avenue** – Mr. Watson thanked Council President Kelley for answering his correspondence regarding the dangerous trees behind his house on Ninth Avenue, and for everything she did to help with the clean up after the storm. Mr. Watson asked if the Borough had an ordinance dealing with abandoned properties.

Council President Kelley replied that the Borough did pass an ordinance two years ago this fall requiring that abandoned houses be registered with the Borough; the first year it is \$500.00, and the second year it is \$1,000.00. The owners must provide us with contact information for these properties. Also, the Borough just recently passed an ordinance that allows us to participate in a program being formed by Gloucester County to aid municipalities to find the owners of abandoned properties and notify them of the registration process.

**Cynthia Ventura, 162 East Avenue** – Ms. Ventura stated that the condition of the property on Twelfth Avenue that had the tree fall on it during the wind storm is deteriorating. She said that it appears to be caving in more, and that the Borough should block off the sidewalk with caution tape in the event that it collapses. She also stated that she has emailed the New Jersey Office of Regulatory Affairs regarding the condition of the building located at 166 East Avenue. Her opinion is that it is an unsafe building and the present condition is having a negative effect on neighboring properties.

**Lou Granato 500 Wildwood Avenue** – Mr. Granato asked what is being done by the Public Works Department about the large articles of trash being put out on the curb during non-bulk collection week? He said that sometimes it is left there for weeks at a time.

Councilman Pierpont replied that he and the Public Works Manager are aware of the problem and are trying to education the public about bulk trash, how to get rid of it, and at what time of the month to put it out.

Motion to close the public portion: Austin  
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Second: Kelley

**Adjournment**

Motion: Kelley  
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Second: Higbee

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator