

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2020
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Council President 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 2020, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2020.

Roll Call

Council President Blass: Present

Councilwoman James: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Mayor Razze: Present

Municipal Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present

Councilman Mazzola: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Presentation

American Legion Elwood Kindle Post #49 Coloring Contest Winners

Awards were presented by members Ron Murschell and Dave DeClement

1st Place: Lila Irving (2nd Place, Gloucester County Contest)

2nd Place: Zoe Fleming

3rd Place: Reed Collum

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting and Closed Formal Meeting of February 24, 2020

Motion: James

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

2020 Municipal Budget Introduction

Ordinance No. 3, 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: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Motion to Introduce 2020 Municipal Budget Ordinance

First Reading (Second Reading and Public Hearing; April 13, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.)

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

Motion: James

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Council Reports

Councilman Fitzpatrick

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan subcommittee met on March 3rd to prioritize the items on the plan, since it is a very extensive plan. The next meeting will be on March 25th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Also on March 30, Chairman Aspras, Administrator O'Donnell and I will meet with Jon Crispin and his team to talk about the further development of the old Sony Music property.

Councilwoman James read the following report:

Liaison: Finance & Audit, Personnel, Welfare Office, Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

Finance Office

I am very pleased to report that tonight we will be presenting the 2020 Municipal Budget for its first reading with no municipal tax increase. Thanks to our CFO Steve Considine and our Borough Administrator, Judy O'Donnell for all their hard work, as well as to all of the Borough Department Supervisors, Mayor and Council.

The free Dog and Cat Rabies Clinic will be held on March 14, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Public Works yard, located at 599 Elwood Avenue.

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 7 p.m. at the Pitman Gallery & Art Center. The meeting is open to the public.

McCowan Memorial Library

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the Pitman Historic Museum has created a display at the library of women's clothing and accessories from the early 20th century. Special thanks to former Council President Debbie Higbee and Memorabilia Committee Chairwoman Jane McCausland for putting together the exhibit. Please stop by and see this wonderful display!

During the month of February, 5245 people visited the McCowan Memorial Library and there were 244 internet users. There were 42 children's programs with 251 people in attendance.

Council President Blass

Solid Waste Collection for the month of February 2020

Twenty-two loads to Wheelabrator totaling 237.98 tons, at a cost of \$18,443.52

Two loads to Gloucester County Landfill totaling 22.85 tons at a cost of \$1,770.88

Total tonnage: 260.83 tons

Total cost: \$20,214.40

Recycling report for February 2020

Seventeen loads of Single Stream Recycling totaling 74.41 tons at a cost of \$6,944.92

One load of metal to Sims Metal totaling 1.79 tons

Public Works employees spent 40 hours patching and repairing potholes. If you see one, please report it.

Graffiti was cleaned off the playground equipment at Shertel Park

Over the weekend there was a sewer clog at Roosevelt Avenue, and one of the one-arm trash truck is not working.

Councilman Mazzola

There are currently many requests coming in for cleanup projects funded by the Clean Communities Grant. As a reminder to the public, if you would like to organize a nonprofit clean up in a public space, please feel free to contact me.

Councilman Weng

The following officers attended the listed training:

- Patrol Officer Baker, March 5, 2020 in Clayton, NJ: County Communications User Group Training.
- Investigator Eric Bailey, March 5, 2020 in Burlington County NJ: Firearms Law and ID Applications Training.
- McAteer, Zander, Streater, Carson, Leach and Stefanopoulos attended the Coronavirus Preparedness Training in Middlesex County, NJ.
- Pierson, Decker, McEvoy, in Atlantic City, NJ: Arson Investigators Conference and Seminar (Thanks to Highland Fire Chief Ryan Pierson for his assistance with this vital training)

The Pitman Police Department would like to gratefully thank Mr. Mike Mollett of the Pitman Office of

Emergency Management for assisting the PPD with gaining access to a locked filing cabinet that had a missing key. Mr. Mollett's locksmith training and expertise allowed the PPD to use the cabinet and not have to purchase another.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

The Planning and Zoning Board Chairman, Nick Aspras, said that the Sony tract has been approved by Council for designation as an area in need of redevelopment. The 12+ acre conservation easement located in the SW corner of the property restricts any physical development within this area due to the presence of wetlands. It will be noted as such as part of the overall Redevelopment Plan for the site.

The Environmental Commission met Thursday night and is excited to move forward with a proposed video about recycling prepared by students at Pitman High School, as well as the upcoming tree planting at Alcyon Park, and Earth Day recognition in Pitman during the Spring Craft Show.

- The Borough Recycling Coordinator prepared and submitted the annual recycling tonnage report. New flyers and magnets were distributed to each household due to new recycling rules.
- The Education Commissioner coordinated a poster contest throughout the school system about recycling. Gift certificates were awarded to winners at each grade level and they were announced and displayed at the Earth Day/Arbor Day event.
- Five members of the Environmental Commission and one Council Member attended NJAEC Training on March 16 at River Winds in West Deptford.
- Tree City USA application – Pitman received a sixteen year award. Two new signs were installed at each end of the Borough.
- Results of an environmental consulting firm's *Lake Quality Study of Alcyon Lake*, which was requested by the Pitman Environmental Commission last season, were posted on the Borough's website.
- A fifteen foot buffer around select areas of Alcyon Lake was maintained for the third year with cooperation from Alcyon Park employees. This year we planted three flats of native plants to this area to make it more attractive and beneficial to wildlife. The PEC is working with Alcyon Park employees to maintain this area, which was cut back in early spring, by creating a guide for employees to refer to on timing and best management practices for this area. The Commission is exploring options to remediate some severe erosion on the west side of the lake, and has reached out to Parks and Rec for assistance.
- The rain garden in the Grove was maintained by neighbors and looked great last summer.
- The annual Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration was held on May 18th in conjunction with the Spring Craft Show which draws thousands of people. The celebration included the Academy of Natural Sciences Live Animal show, a tree seedling giveaway, recycling demonstration and information, and children's crafts. Posters made by Pitman Middle School students for use in an Earth Day demonstration were exhibited.
- We helped facilitate the school participation in the NJDEP's Third Grade Tree Team Program by coordinating the ordering, delivery, and packaging of dogwoods and oak trees for the third grade classes in the district.

The Recreation Commission also met on Thursday night and has the spring sports programs underway. They are also working with an eye toward Youth Week. The agenda for Youth Week is, as follows:

Saturday, May 2 – Pitman Police Department Fishing Tournament
Sunday, May 3 - Youth Council
Monday, May 4 - Movie Night – Movie TBD
Tuesday, May 5 - Kickball Craze at Total Turf
Wednesday, May 6 - Jump Rope for Heart
Thursday, May 7 - Track and Field Event
Friday, May 8 - Career Day and Middle School Dance

The Senior Outreach Committee is planning our second speaker for our series tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in Borough Hall. The speaker is Charles Clarkson from the State of NJ Senior Medicare Patrol. He will address how our senior residents are at risk for being the victims of Medicare fraud and how to prevent it. He will also have information on the health plans and how they differ.

I was happy to attend the opening day of the new antique store in town. It is a wonderful addition to the Borough and I wish Jack and all of the vendors the best of luck.

Finally, March is Women's History Month and is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. Pitman has a population of 52.2% women and our history is very sparse regarding the contributions of women. For example, we know that the current library location was built with an endowment following the death of Mayor McCowan and his three sisters. Additionally, the library website itself acknowledges that the idea to have a library was the result of a discussion of two women in Pitman in 1919 who were concerned about the difficulty in making the trip to obtain books from the Camden library. None of these women are named and I have not been able to find their names. I ask everyone to consider the important contributions of these five women, for without them, we may not have our cherished library.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 1, 2020 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Vacating a Portion of Magnolia Avenue Situated Between Block 119 Lot 2.01 and Block 115 Lot 3 in the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading-Public Hearing

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Motion to open to the public: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time: 8:22 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

New Business

Ordinance No. 4, 2020 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter II Entitled “Administration” Section 2-44 Entitled “Division of Police Department” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Ordinance No. 5, 2020 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting an Amended First National Bank of South Jersey Redevelopment Plan

First Reading

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 54, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 55, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Conveyance of Property to 106 S. Broadway, LLC Known as Block 3 Lot 1 and Located at 106 S. Broadway in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 56, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Proposal Submitted by Federici & Akin, PA, Jonathan Bryson, PE, CME to Act as the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey Representative for the FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program: Reconstruction of Tuohy Avenue

Motion: James
Second: Fitzpatrick
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 57, 2020 – 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 Revize Software Systems for Website Design, Support and Monitoring for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: James
Second: Fitzpatrick
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 58, 2020 – 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 will be:

Personnel: Performance Review for Zoning Officer

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.
Motion: Fitzpatrick
Second: Blass
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 59, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Tyler Chellew and Jason Blackmore as Members of the Borough of Pitman Economic Development Committee

Motion: Blass
Second: James
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 60, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Acknowledging and Approving Mantua Partners, LLC Sewer Collection Through the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstains to #38769; approves all other payments

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Abstains to #38741 & #16126; approves all other payments

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Pitman Garden Tour

Sponsor: Pitman Garden Club

Contact Person: Guy Groff

Date & Time: June 13, 2020; 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Rain date: June 14, 2020

Location: Residential gardens throughout Pitman

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Event: Pride, Dinner as a Community

Sponsor: Creative Pitman

Contact Person: Dani Cooke

Date & Time: June 20 - 22, 2020; Dinner on 6/21/20 from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Location: Grove Auditorium

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstain
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Raffle License Application

Off-Premises Raffle

Sponsor: Highland Chemical Engine Company

Contact Person: Jeff Penuel

Date & Time: September 7, 2020; 10:00 pm

Location: Highland Chemical Engine Company Annual Carnival

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Time: 8:35 p.m.

Kevin Austin, 562 Florence Avenue - I applaud Council for not having a tax increase, what did we use out of our surplus?

Councilwoman James – I will be happy to get you the numbers, I don't have it at my fingertips.

Kevin Austin – Any bonding yet?

Councilwoman James – No, our CFO has assured us that our surplus is healthy and the amount that we took out will not be an issue.

Kevin Austin – My one loose end, did we get the \$50,000.00 from the School Board for the School Resource Officer?

Councilman Mazzola – Yes

Kevin Austin – My saga (with the State) is continuing. Council people have no rights, and the Borough should consider putting some kind of legal defense plan in place that will protect our Council Members.

Motion to close the public portion: Blass

Second: James

Time: 8:41 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Fitzpatrick Second: James
Time: 8:41 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Fitzpatrick Second: James
Time: 8:55 p.m.

Miscellaneous

As a result of discussion in the closed meeting, the following action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting.

Resolution No. 61, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving a Salary Increase to \$10,000.00 Annually for Borough Zoning Officer Roy Duffield, Retroactive to January 1, 2020

Motion: Fitzpatrick

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Adjournment

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Time: 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator