

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Mayor Johnson requested a Moment of Silence to acknowledge the death of former Councilman Gene Shoemaker

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 2018, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 6, 2018.

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Council President Blass: Present
Councilman Razzo: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Scaffidi: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2018

Motion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Council President Blass

Council President Blass extended his condolences to the Shoemaker Family. He stated that he knew Gene from school, and that they ran for office together 2012. Council President Blass said that while sitting next to him at meetings, Councilman Shoemaker helped to guide him along, and noted that the town will miss him.

The Grove Auditorium Roof Replacement Project continues, and is on target for completion in mid-October.

Councilman Razzo read the following report:

I shared this story at Gene's memorial service. After every Council meeting Gene would walk back out to his truck and relight the cigar that he had put out on the sidewalk, and placed in the grill of his truck to hold until the meeting was over.

Recreation Department

I attended the pump track ribbon cutting on Saturday morning; I would like to congratulate Steve Blackman for his hard work. He started this process almost four years ago. The pump track is a small dirt bike track that has been installed at Shertel Park. It is not for motorized bikes, rather it is for peddle bikes, but actually for bikes without peddles, where the rider moves the bike along by using a pumping motion with their arms along with the slope and grading of the track to move the bike forward around the track.

It has been brought to my attention recently, and we will discuss this at the upcoming Recreation Commission meeting, that some of our Middle School programs, or some of our recreation programs that we hold in the Middle School, will not be held there any longer. Between Recreation Director Andy Fox, myself, and Admin. O'Donnell, we will try to get this worked out.

Also, it has been requested by family members that the sign designating Brown Field be replaced. Discussion will continue between the family and Recreation Commission members who will make the final determination.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

The Water & Sewer Division of Public Works will begin flushing all fire hydrants in the Borough. You may experience some sediment from your faucet once the hydrant in your neighborhood is finished. Just allow the water to run clear. This poses no health threat.

Please remember that your bulk trash pick-up date is the first full week of every month. Please do not put couches and other bulk trash items at the curb at any other time.

You may have seen the leaf vacuum truck out and about. Leaf collection will start soon. The trucks were out cleaning storm drains prior to and after Hurricanes Gordon and Florence. On-street leaf collection will start soon.

Councilman Weng

Councilman Weng stated that he attended Gene Shoemaker's funeral with Councilman Pierpont, and they arrived about an hour into the viewing on the assumption that the line would have potentially died down by that point, but it was out the door and down onto the sidewalk. It was raining, but no one left the line. Councilman Weng noted that the card everyone received at the door had a poem on it. He stated that the one line that stuck out to him was that Gene was "everyone's friend", and Councilman Weng agreed that it was in fact the case; Gene was everyone's friend. Councilman Weng said that he had the pleasure of running for office with him in 2013, saying that Gene was a great source of information to him, and that he was impressed by Gene's ability to discuss a public policy interspersed with many four letter words.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

I'm also very sad to hear of Mr. Shoemaker's passing, and I share some common family with him, so I will miss him at some family events. But mostly my relationship with him was that he was a friend of my dad, and my dad passed in 1996, and so, my memories of him are of the two of them laughing and sharing some four letter words together.

Police Department

Capt. Zander, Sgt. Beschen, Mrs. Wilson, and Chief McAteer will each be attending training at the Gloucester County Police Academy this week at various times. The New Jersey State Police are preparing to make firearm applications an online process.

Sgt. Jon Streater and Ptlm. Sam Hoffman will be attending the Pro Phoenix Data and Reporting Conference being held in Orlando Florida from October 29 through November 1.

Chief McAteer will be attending the IACP Conference in Orlando Florida from October 6 through October 9.

The Pitman Police Department will be hosting a Bike Rodeo on September 27, at 3:45 p.m. The Rodeo will be held on the Memorial School playground, weather permitting. We are being assisted with this event by the Gloucester County Sheriff's Department and the Safe Kids Foundation. Helmets will be provided to kids in need of one, and all will receive a lesson on bike safety.

The Pitman Police Department will be hosting their third annual K9 fundraiser food truck festival, Chow Down Uptown, on November 3, from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee held their Second Annual Fair on Thursday, September 13, and it was a great success. The attendees were treated to complimentary snacks, a Derma Scan screening, an "Ask the Doctor" feature, as well as cholesterol and blood pressure checks. Kathy Streck, of Zumba Kathy, was kind enough to demonstrate fitness tips for seniors and led an abbreviated senior citizen Zumba class in the Conference Room. My great thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department, Jarod Harmon and Andy Fox, as well as the entire Police Department for their help in moving chairs and tables. Also, thank you to the Tax Office, Public Works, the Pitman Police Department and McCowan Memorial Library for having a presence at the event and answering questions from the seniors.

I organized a watercolor painting station for the attendees, and after much encouragement and insistence, a few humored me and painted a water color pumpkin.

The Senior Outreach Committee cancelled our September meeting due to commitments by a number of the committee members. We will have our fall trip tomorrow to *Grounds for Sculpture* in Hamilton Township. This trip is rain or shine and will most likely take place inside the indoor museum rather than on the outside grounds due to the weather. Special thanks to the McCowan Memorial Library for providing four free passes for the trip. Between the passes and the senior group rate, the attendees are able to see this museum at a greatly reduced rate. Of course, we are always indebted to our Borough bus driver, Steve Weideman, who faithfully takes our seniors on their daily trips, as well as these special trips.

Economic Development Committee

The EDC continues to work on our projects throughout town. We had a preliminary meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding the grant that we have been awarded to fund the development of a pedestrian and bike plan for the Borough. This will include an assessment of ways to increase and maximize walk-ability and bike-ability in town, as well as opinions on whether we are in a position to connect with the Rowan-Ceres bike trail, which has been planned by the county for some time.

The EDC expects to receive the planters and Alberta Spruce trees for the Uptown very soon. Volunteers will be planting them at my house on Wednesday night. Feel free to join us.

The Borough Yard Sale will take place on October 6. So far eighty-two applicants have signed on to have a yard sale.

New Business

Resolution No. 169, 2018 – 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-McLaughlin/Williams

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

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

Resolution No. 170, 2018 – 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-Group 21

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

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

Resolution No. 171, 2018 – 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-Kingston

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

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

Resolution No. 172, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Miscellaneous Special Charges-324 W. Holly Avenue

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

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

Resolution No. 173, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Payment #2 to Journey Contracting Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$35,947.36 for the Grove Auditorium Roof Replacement Project

Motion: Blass
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Yes

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

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 174, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Submission of a Strategic Plan for the Pitman Municipal Alliance and Accepting the Terms and Conditions for Administering the Municipal Alliance Grant

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 175, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Curfew Within the Borough of Pitman for the Celebration of Halloween and Associated Activities Related to Halloween

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 176, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Preparation of Bid Specifications and Advertisement of Bids for the Theatre Avenue Revitalization Project in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 177, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of the Street Opening Permit Fee to South Jersey Gas Submitted for Gas Main Renewal on a Portion of Woodland Avenue in the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 178, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 179, 2018 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with Vito Mannino for Block 3 Lot 1

Motion: Blass

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: No
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Blass

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Absent
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Abstains to # 36228; votes to approve all other bills
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razzo

Second: Rudley

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney asked what required an extra \$40,000.00 to be added to the roof project cost. He said that since it was the engineer's mistake the Borough should not have to pay this cost.

Council President Blass replied that a meeting was held with the engineers and it was noted that the damaged wood was covered by the roof shingles and was not visible until the shingles were removed. He said that he has requested that this not affect the agreed upon engineering fees for the project.

David Owens, 503 Elm Avenue – Mr. Owens said that the house next door to his has been vacant for ten years. He said that the taxes are paid, and asked for the reason that the house is empty, and the grass hasn't been cut.

Councilman Weng replied that he is aware of 511 Elm Avenue, and that there is a process that has to take place before the Borough can perform property maintenance. Ten days have to pass after notification of the owner before the Borough can come out and cut the grass. He also stated that the Borough has passed an ordinance permitting that in the future any property can get cut by the Borough after one notification and the waiting period has passed. No additional notification needs to take place for any future lawn maintenance if needed, until the property is sold.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Blass

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:27 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator