

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2014  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:06 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Invocation**

Council President Razzo

**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 2014, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 5, 2014.

**Roll Call**

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

Councilman Blass: Present  
Councilwoman Kelley: Present  
Council President Razzo: Present  
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

**Proclamation Presentation**

Pitman Recreation 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Team  
Pitman High School Boys Basketball Team

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2014.

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Abstain  
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes  
Council President Razzo: Yes

**Committee Reports**

**Councilman Austin**

Councilman Austin reported that the members of the Pitman Police Department continue to maintain their training schedule. Captain McAteer is the lead instructor for the FTO, and teaches the course at the Gloucester County Police Academy. Chief Zimmerman will be attending the New Jersey State Chief of Police Conference. The Beef and Beer which was held to raise funds for the K-9 Trust Fund was very successful, with the department surpassing its goal in the amount raised.

The Fire Department has had little activity within the Borough, but has been busy with aid to surrounding municipalities.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported the following statistics for the McCowan Memorial Library:

Circulation: 3,286 items

Seed Library: 129 people

Visitors: 6100

Internet Users: 352

Councilman Blass stated that the stone project in the Grove parking areas is still underway, and should be finished by April 15.

The Public Works Department continues to give away mulch to residents. Curbside leaf collection will start in mid-April and continue through mid-May. After mid-May, loose leaves may not be placed in the street. Rather, they must be placed in bags or in an open container.

Residents dropping off branches, leaves, bulk trash, electronics, and/or recycling materials must stop by the office at Public Works before unloading.

March 28, 2014 is the last day residents may bring passenger automobile tires to the Gloucester County Landfill without incurring a charge for the disposal.

Council President Razze

Council President Razze reported that the Recreation Commission hasn't met since the first week of March. T-ball was postponed last week due the inclement weather. Little League baseball is in full swing at the park, as is spring soccer. Youth Field Hockey is well attended and the department will be starting a Flag Football program at the end of the spring season.

At the recent Fund Commissioner meeting of the Tri-County Joint Insurance Fund, it was "business as usual" with some discussion on the requirements of the JIF sponsored Safety Incentive Program.

Council President Razze reported that tomorrow evening members of Mayor and Council will be attending the JIF Elected Officials Dinner at Nicolosi Catering in Woodbury. The Borough will receive a \$250.00 credit toward our annual premium for every elected official who attends this dinner meeting

Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that on March 13, the Historic Commission met, and two applications were approved, one for a fence and the other for a roof. The next meeting will be on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

On March 19, Mayor and Council had their last scheduled budget meeting. The budget is now with the Auditors for review. In the Work Session this evening, Council voted to cut an additional \$5,000.00 from the budget. A resident with a home valued at the average assessment will see an annual increase of approximately \$84.00 on their municipal tax bill.

Boy Scout Troop 55 will be doing a three-hour Clean Communities Clean-up along the railroad tracks, from Cyrus Avenue to Holly Avenue, on April 5. The next few clean ups we will be doing are with previously encumbered 2013 grant money. The 2014 awards have not been announced as of this date.

Councilwoman Kelley

Councilwoman Kelley reported that the Combined Planning and Zoning Board met on March 17, where two applications were reviewed and approved. A bulk variance was also granted for Sheridan Optical.

Twelve citations for violations have been issued by the Zoning Officer since January of this year. The court date for the matters related to the violations issued to Fazzio Concrete is scheduled for April 17, 2014. Two complaint investigations were conducted by the Zoning Officer for improper posting of signs. Councilwoman Kelley reminded residents that signs are not permitted in the park strip areas, and that signs to be placed on Borough property must receive prior approval from the Zoning Officer.

The Economic Development Committee met on March 20. The following subjects were discussed:

- Improved lighting for the East Avenue parking lot
- Directional signage for the Borough parking lots
- The potential use of the Sony Property
- The pending Retail Winery Licenses, and sending a letter of support along with the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce, for the acquisition of these licenses by qualified businesses within the Borough

The former Pitman Bakery, under new ownership, is proposed to open on April 5.

New Business

**Ordinance No. 7, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Establishing the Borough of Pitman Green Team Advisory Committee Pursuant to the Sustainable New Jersey Small Grants Program**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Council President Razze: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 55, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Council President Razze: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 56, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Participation With the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety – Safe and Secure Communities Program**

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 57, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation of Interest and Related Charges on a Municipal Lien**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 58, 2014 – 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 at said meeting shall be:

- Collective Bargaining Negotiations-Public Works Highway Division

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

**Resolution No. 59, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Richard E. Pierson Construction Co., Inc. to Perform Emergency Repair/Replacement Services to the Borough of Pitman's W. Holly Avenue Sanitary Sewer Main**

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes, Abstain to # 28379  
Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Event Permit Applications**

\*Event: Alcyon Lake Cleanup & Education

Applicant: Friends of Alcyon Lake

Date: October 4, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Location: Betty Park  
Contact Person: Patrice Sheehan  
Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**\*Event:** Birthday party  
Applicant: Jerry Lovell  
Date: May 17, 2014  
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Sunset Auditorium  
Contact Person: Jerry Lovell  
Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*Approved contingent upon providing the Borough with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured, and receipt of a signed Facilities Use Form with the appropriate security deposit.**

**Event:** Pitman Soccer Assoc.  
Applicant: Jon DePaul  
Date: Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Time: 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Council Chambers, Borough Hall  
Contact Person: Jon DePaul  
Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Event:** Pitman Camp Meetings  
Applicant: Pitman United Methodist Church  
Date: Sundays beginning June 29 through August 31, 2014  
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Location: Grove Auditorium  
Contact Person: Thomas A. Bennett  
Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain

Second: Blass  
Councilman Blass: Yes  
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

Council President Razze: Yes

**Public Portion**

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze  
Time: 8:56 p.m.

Second: Austin

**Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue** – Mr. Fortney inquired where a resident would go to check in at Public Works before dropping off trash, and was told that the offices have been moved down to the lower level of the building and are now assessable to residents.

**Scott McIlvaine, 818 S. Broadway** – Mr. McIlvaine asked for an explanation of the process to obtain a firearms permit. He also mentioned that he received a citation for a large branch that was left on the curb in front of his home. He stated that Atlantic Electric had cut the limb down and did not remove it, and the Public Works Department did not take it on trash day. He felt that he should not have been given a citation for the removal of the branch.

**Patrice Sheehan, 448 Lake Avenue** – Ms. Sheehan stated that she is a member of the Borough's Environmental Commission and will be submitting an application on behalf of the Commission for the 2014 Open Space Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. The grant application is due by April 1, 2014, and if awarded to the Environmental Commission, all activities will be funded using grant money with no additional monies being provided by the Borough. However, the activities planned will require assistance from Alcyon Lake Park personnel, Public Works personnel and Fire Co. #1 volunteers.

**Kathy Small, 304 Laurel Avenue** – Ms. Small asked for clarification of the Borough's leaf collection policy mentioned in Councilman Blass' report.

**Cheryl Reardon, 601 W. Holly Avenue** – Ms. Reardon introduced herself as a Project Director working for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and Sustainable Jersey. She said that she was glad to see that Pitman has applied for certification with Sustainable Jersey, and offered her assistance with any questions or guidance that may be needed by the Borough.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razze  
Time: 9:18 p.m.

Second: Blass

Motion to enter into a Closed Meeting: Blass  
Time: 9:20 p.m.

Second: Austin

Motion to return to an Open Meeting: Razze  
Time: 9:31 p.m.

Second: Blass

No action was taken as a result of discussion in the Closed Session meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

**Motion** was made by Council President Razze to support the Environmental Commission in their application for the 2014 Open Space Grant, and to approve providing a letter of support from the Borough as part of the application process.

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Absent  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Adjournment**

Motion: Kelley  
Time: 9:35 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator