

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

Call to Order

Time: 8:03 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Councilman 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 2017, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 7, 2017.

Roll Call

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

Councilman Blass: Present
Council President Pierpont: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

American Legion Presentation

Coloring Contest Winners
Riley Sharpnack
Madeleine Panaro
Andrew McIntyre

Pitman Police Department Presentation

Officer of the Year Award
Lieutenant Gregg Owens

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin

Councilman Austin reported that the next meeting of the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees will be held on February 28.

Councilman Austin said that he attended the Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting on February 21. Three Historic Applications were reviewed and approved. A draft updating the Borough's Master Plan was distributed for the Board's review. Additional discussion was held concerning whether Broadway should remain as part of the Historic District.

Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass thanked members of Council for approving the amendments to the Historic Commission guidelines. He said he is presently working with the Borough's historic architect on having an assessment done for repairs needed on the Grove Auditorium.

Councilman Razzo

Councilman Razzo reported that he attended the Joint Insurance Fund's claims meeting earlier today. The Recreation Commission meeting will be this Thursday, in Borough Hall, at 6:30 p.m.

Council President Pierpont read the following report:

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce Spring Craft Fair is right around the corner. Anyone with questions regarding the Craft Fair should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 582-3444, or visit their website at www.uptownpitman.com.

The Chamber is also pleased to announce an Open House at the Broadway Theater on April 9, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. celebrating 90 Years of the Broadway Theatre. There will be character story-times, karaoke, acting classes, an improvisation competition, and so much more. This event is open to the public.

The Green Team met on February 23 and the "roadmap to certification" was reviewed and discussed. Among the items they are working on are the anti-idling ordinance, construction waste recycling, Earth Day, and the bicycle and pedestrian audit.

Our Public Works Department is hard at work getting ready for spring. The Public Works yard is getting a good cleaning and facelift. Equipment and trailers are being moved around, or off the property altogether, and the entrance area is getting some new shrubs and plants.

Our trash and recycling numbers for the period of February 13 - 24 are as follows:

Eleven loads of trash for a total of 107 tons

Twelve loads of recycling for a total of 42 tons

Two loads of bulk trash

One hundred and four yards of brush were collected

Ninety-seven yards of leaves were delivered to Duffield's Farm for composting/disposal

Residents are reminded that a dump truck can be delivered to their driveway for spring clean-up. Usually trucks are dropped off on Friday afternoon and picked up Monday morning. Call 589-1040, or visit our website to schedule a truck.

Councilwoman Higbee

On February 22, Mayor and Council met to discuss the 2017 Municipal Budget. Mrs. Higbee said that at this time there are no final figures available, but it appears that the budget needs very little review going forward.

This Thursday evening the Environmental Commission will meet here at Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

Police Department

Ptl. E.J. Parker, along with K-9 Ranger, and Ptl. Peter Stefanopoulos recently visited the Archway School in Atco and gave a K-9 demonstration for all the students. The school reported back that it was one of their best events ever, and stated that the professionalism and ease with which both officers handled themselves was to be commended.

With the continued and on-going roadwork throughout the Borough, Chief McAteer and Sgt. Zander met recently with both companies doing the work, CTX and Crown Construction, to insure that the projects were progressing and to also insure that the projects would go as smoothly as possible. The Pitman Police Department would also like to thank Mrs. Judy O'Donnell who attended both meetings and provided valuable insight and information.

Board of Fire Engineers

The Board of Fire Engineers met on the February 21, and tentatively finalized an updated fire safety ordinance. The Board of Fire Engineers meet the third Tuesday of every month in the Conference Room in Borough Hall.

Economic Development Committee

The EDC met on February 16, and will meet on the third Thursday of each month. Parking issues in town were discussed, as well as working with potential new businesses in an effort to ease the issues that they have in terms of understanding the opening of a new business in town. The EDC partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the Broadway Theatre to host an open house at the Theatre on April 9, 2017 from noon until 9:00 p.m.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee met on February 16, and will continue to meet monthly.

New Business

Resolution No. 48, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Appointment of Carl Scutt as Alternate Member and Barry Owen to Fill an Unexpired Term on the Combined Planning and Zoning Board of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Resolution No. 49, 2017 – 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 the Performance of Board-up Services for 432 Snyder Avenue, Block 28 Lot 17, on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Resolution No. 50, 2017 – 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 the Performance of Board-up Services for 321 West Avenue, Block 41 Lot 17, on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Resolution No. 51, 2017 – 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 the Performance of Board-up Services for 132 Linden Avenue, Block 133 Lot 5, on the Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Resolution No. 52, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Application of the 2016 Recycle Tonnage Grant for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 53, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Hiring of Daniel H. McAteer to the Position of Alcyon Lake Park Assistant Superintendent

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 54, 2017 – 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 shall be:

**Contract Negotiations for PT Public Works Employees
Judgment of Restitution Proposal to the Borough of Pitman**

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 55, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Donating a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria to the Borough's Fire Department

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Resolution No. 56, 2017 – 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 for the Receipt of Sealed Bids for the Building Condition Assessment and Historic Preservation Plan for the Pitman Grove Auditorium

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson: _____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain to #33407: yes to all others
Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Abstain to #33392; yes to all others
Council President Pierpont: Yes
Councilman Razzo: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications/Signage/Use of Facilities

Applicant: Pitman Poems on Parade

Signage: Lawn sign at McCowan Memorial Library and Alcyon Park

Display of Poems in Borough Hall Windows

Time: Entire month of April, 2017

Contact Person: Lynne Nelson

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Applicant: Hannah Johnson

*Event: Private Event

Date & Time: May 20, 2017; 3:00 p.m.

Location: Pitman Grove Auditorium

Contact Person: Hannah Johnson

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

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

Applicant: Amy Rudley

****Event: Open House Entertainment**

Date & Time: April 9, 2017; Noon – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Theatre Avenue

Contact Person: Amy Rudley

**Application withdrawn by Councilwoman Rudley

Applicant: Patti Kelley

Event: Republican Committee Monthly Meeting

Amended Date & Time: 2/22 to 3/1 and 3/22 to 3/29 @7:00 p.m.

Location: Borough Hall Conference Room

Contact Person: Patti Kelley

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:39 p.m.

Second: Austin

Patti Kelley, 125 Pitman Avenue – Ms. Kelley asked why sections of Highland Terrace have been dug up. She recalled that there is a five year moratorium on newly paved roads.

Council President Pierpont answered that the Borough has negotiated with South Jersey Gas that any roads under moratorium that are opened for the gas line renewal project will be milled and paved from curb to curb at the conclusion of the project. Until the time of the milling and paving, the openings will be patched.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney said that the Borough is looking a little dirty; we are not pressing the citizens of Pitman to clean up on trash/bulk day. Bulk trash goes out at any time and no one follows the rules anymore. Mr. Fortney listed some areas in need of improvement that he has seen throughout the Borough:

- Bricks laying near the frame shop
- Cedar Avenue: two sections of sidewalk are missing and grass has grown in its place
- Power wash 106 S. Broadway (Borough property)
- Flower boxes have dead flowers in them
- Two hanging baskets have dead flowers in them
- Two flower pots near the library have dead flowers in them
- In front of the ice cream store there are four pots with dead flowers in them
- Bob's Hobbies has a broken window, trash in the windows, etc.
- Holly Avenue parking lot has an orange drum and yellow tape laying on the sidewalk area

Mr. Fortney went on to ask, “Who was the low life who videotaped us without even letting us know?” (Formal Meeting of 2/13/17)

Mayor Johnson – “I cannot stop members of the public from recording our meetings.”

Councilman Razze – “The sidewalk on Cedar, was there a sidewalk there?”

Jim Fortney – “Yes.”

Erik Mollenhauer, 309 Roosevelt Avenue – Mr. Mollenhauer said that he wanted to make Mayor and Council aware of what he and his wife have started at his home on Roosevelt Avenue. He said that the “Little Free Library” was started in 2009 in Wisconsin, and it is boxes in front of houses with free books of all kinds. A sign on the box sign says “Take one, leave one.” Mr. Mollenhauer said that they installed one a month ago in front of their house, and he offered to help establish the program in Pitman.

Councilman Razze said that Memorial School has had this program in place within their district for over a year, and that he agrees that it is a nice idea.

Mr. Mollenhauer agreed that it was a good idea that should be publicized and encouraged by the Borough.

Jason James, 91 Circle Avenue – “I wanted to say that I have a problem with someone coming up in a public meeting and calling my wife Vanessa James, who videotaped the meeting, a “low life”. I don't think that kind of talking is conducive to working together in this town. This certainly does not represent Pitman. As far as videotaping meetings, meetings are open and available to everyone; and if anyone has a problem with being videotaped I think it's more of a problem about what they are saying, and how they are acting. If there are any more issues with me and my wife, I would like to talk about it, but not in a public meeting.”

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney replied to Mr. James by pointing out that his church videotapes the services,

but that the members are advised of it. He said that those who attended the meeting should have been advised that they were being taped.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:57 p.m. Second: Pierpont

Additions

Councilman Austin – “I’ve been on Council for four years; I wish we didn’t have Republican and Democrat. I wish we were all the same party, just wanting to do the best for this town. I had no clue that we were being videotaped.

I do not know what the motive was for that. If it was being shared with the whole town, I might go with it, but it is not. It is just being shared with a group of people. All we want for Pitman is to do the best thing. I do understand why people don’t want to be videotaped without knowing.

We started the year out pretty bad; there were a couple of things we didn’t agree on. We need to stop all this nonsense and work for the town.”

Councilwoman Higbee – “This is a public meeting, and we do public business.”

Councilman Austin – “Tell me why it is being shared with one group.”

Councilwoman Higbee – “I didn’t know it was being shared.”

Councilman Austin – “Then have them put it out there for everyone to see.”

Closed Meeting

Motion to Enter into a Closed Meeting: Razze
Time: 9:00 p.m. Second: Blass

Motion to Return to an Open Meeting: Razze
Time: 9:27 p.m. Second: Pierpont

As a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting, the following action was taken by Council upon returning to an Open Meeting.

Resolution No. 57, 2017 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Borough Solicitor John Alice to Enter Into a Consent Order with James Weatherly and Accepting the Proposal for Restitution to the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey

Motion: Rudley Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson: _____

Miscellaneous

Mayor Johnson addressed members of Council in regard to the dissention and tension that exists among members. He said that the division between the political parties must stop, in whatever way it can be accomplished. Discussion followed among members of Council with all in agreement to feeling frustrated and unhappy with the present climate between the members and residents of both political parties.

Mayor Johnson reminded everyone that they are all neighbors first, and that ninety percent of the time they agree on issues

that pertain to what is right for the Borough.

Councilman Austin said that he hoped that by having this discussion, everyone has had an opportunity to air their feelings and opinions, and that the differences can be put in the past.

Adjournment

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Austin

Time: 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator