

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2019**

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 2019, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 5, 2019.

Roll Call

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilman Austin

Councilman Austin reported that in the month of May, 6137 people visited the McCowan Memorial Library and 436 children attended the story time presentations.

On June 1, 2019, the Library celebrated its' 100th Anniversary, which is a great achievement. Councilman Austin thanked the employees and volunteers who coordinated the celebration.

Council President Blass

Council President Blass reported the following statistics for the Public Works Department in May:

Highway Division

Trash collected: 342.96 tons

Recycling collected: 87.68 Tons

Brush collected: 308 yards

Bulk trash collected: 14 truckloads, tonnage included in trash total

Street sweeping: 3 hours

Delivered mulch to residents: 12 loads

Water and Sewer Department

Water and sewer mark outs requested: 38

Plunged sewer stoppages: 3

Councilman Razze read the following report:

I want to begin by saying what a great job the Pitman Police Department, the organizers, and the volunteers did who helped with Community Appreciation Night at Alcyon Lake Park.

I also had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Mayor Johnson, Council President Blass, members of the school district, and staff from the Assembly and State Representatives, to discuss the Senate Bill 2 and the devastating effects on our school district. We provided a great deal of information to the staff and shared the impact the cuts will have not only on our district but on our community as a whole. It was noted at that meeting that Pitman is an attractive community for young families

We are hopeful that we will continue to have the current funding plan that will allow this attractiveness to continue.

The Recreation Commission met Thursday night and we discussed programs that are ongoing and the programs that are coming for the fall. Summer Band registration will remain open until July 1 and Summer Theatre registration will remain open, but with a late fee. Micro-mini Soccer registration is ongoing and Summer Playground registration has ended. However, on June 25, the second day of Summer Playground, children may be registered.

Tom and Debbie Slenkamp are seeking guidance on funding for the renovation of the tennis courts at Shertel Park. Mr. Slenkamp has been obtaining quotes and has been looking into grant sources. All of these grants would require some matching funds from the Borough.

We've had some concerns from a few residents regarding cutting and trimming around Glen Lake and Alcyon Lake. We have effectively been operating without a Park Supervisor for about 4 to 5 weeks, and will possibly be hiring someone tonight, which should enable us to get back on track.

We are also following up with the Gloucester County Utilities Authority regarding the bank replenishment project along the Chestnut Branch Stream behind the soccer fields in the Dell.

The Environmental Commission also met on Thursday night and discussed among other things, Trail Markers or Blazes in the Alcyon Woods and the Disk Golf Course. The Commission will be applying to Council to plant a few trees to replace the ones that we lost in the construction. Chairman Bob Holwitt addressed the pending transfer in the fall of the care and maintenance of the Lipari Landfill from the federal EPA to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Nominations for the Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal closed on May 28, and the selection will be announced at our next meeting on June 24. Registration to participate in the parade will close this Friday, June 14, at 4:00 p.m. for applications submitted in Borough Hall, and midnight for online applications on the website, pitmanparade.com.

Councilman Weng
report

No

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

The Pitman Police Department would like to congratulate PJ Hackett and Alethea Clark for their outstanding

Motion to open to the public: Weng
Time: 8:09 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Public Comment:

Sandy Razze, 143 West Jersey Avenue – Mrs. Razze pointed out that the ordinance lists Block 83 as one of the areas to be rezoned. Solicitor Krachun said that it was a typographical error in the ordinance that has since been corrected.

Ms. Razze asked what effect the changes will have on the residential parking on West Jersey Avenue. Councilman Weng – I don't know if it has any measurable impact on your parking. The four lots on Block 83 that it would currently effect are already commercial use. The only commercial buildings that we are talking about are Vintage, the bike shop, the driving school, the real estate office, and one other building. Everyone else further down on West Jersey should not see any impact.

Ms. Razze – We do see the impact every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Would the Borough consider giving the four or five houses that have no parking at least one spot to park their car? Changes were made for the Grove parking lots.

Councilman Weng – Parking issues have been part of the discussions for the last couple of meetings. We are currently trying to organize a grassroots committee of people who are affected so they can voice their specific opinions. The issues you face on West Jersey may be different from the issues of the Grove areas.

Debbie Edwards, 601 Canterbury Avenue, and also owner of 49 Pitman Avenue – Ms. Edwards said that at this time her building is not affected by the change. Her property is still a TRC-1, but the problem is that because it has commercial and residential uses, what will happen to the existing apartments in the future?

Councilman Weng – The apartments will stay the same; the C1 district also has apartments over top of them. This will not affect them because they will be listed as having a prior non-conforming use.

Ms. Edwards – If you look, your C1 zoning does not include residential. What happens when the properties are sold?

Councilman Weng – Every business on Broadway has an apartment over top and has been sold several times over and no one from the Borough has ever told any C1 district owner they cannot have an apartment over top of a business.

Ms. Edwards – Why doesn't the Borough just add residential to the C1 zoning.

Councilman Weng – That may be something we should look at; we will take a look at it with the experts.

Mary Brickner, 147 West Jersey Avenue – Ms. Brickner said that she wants to reaffirm the comments made by Ms. Razze. She said that she has been a resident for fifty years, and understands that progress has to be made, but parking has always been very difficult. She asked why the Borough can't give them each a spot to park in. Ms. Brickner said that she feels that the business association is against the residents.

Mayor Johnson – It is a fine line between progress and ten years ago when there was plenty of parking. Progress has taken over, but this doesn't mean that the businesses have it out for the residents on West Jersey Avenue.

Ms. Brickner – I pay a lot of money in taxes and I just don't understand why I cannot get a place to park.

Motion to close public portion: Weng
Time: 8:19 p.m.

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Abstain

Councilman Weng: Yes

New Business

Resolution No. 92, 2019 – 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: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 93, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Closed Meeting

The nature of the subject to be discussed shall be:

Personnel: Alcyon Lake Park Superintendent

Personnel: New Hire – PW Water & Sewer Dept. Laborer

Personnel: New Hire – Construction Office Assistant

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain to # 37429, Approves payment of all other bills.

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit

Event: Free Yoga Classes

Sponsor: Seeds of Love Yoga

Contact Person: Kristin Harris

Date & Time: Wednesday evenings, July 10 – August 28; 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Grove Auditorium & Lawn

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Approval is contingent upon submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured, and the submission of a signed Facilities Use Agreement for the Grove Auditorium.

Event Permit

Fourth of July Freedom 4 mile Road Race & Signage

Contact Person: Andy Fox

Date & Time: July 4, 2019 – 7:30 a.m.

Location: Begin and end on Broadway

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Sandy Razze, 143 W. Jersey Avenue – Ms. Razze commended the police on the removal of a “junk car” which sat in the parking area across from her residence for seven months.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:26 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Weng

Second: Rudley

Time: 8:26 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:52 p.m.

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

Resolution No. 94, 2019 – 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 Superintendent

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 95, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Jason King as Full-time Water and Sewer Department Utility Person for the Borough of Pitman Department of Public Works Water and Sewer Division

Motion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 96, 2019 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Laura Scutt to the Part-time Position of Construction/Housing Office Clerk

Motion: Weng

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Absent

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Abstain

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Adjournment

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Time: 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator