

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2020**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

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: Absent

Councilman Weng: Present

Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present

Mayor Razzo: Present

Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Correspondence

Mayor Razzo stated – "On January 14, 2020, I received notification that Councilman Jim Pierpont would be resigning as a member of the Borough Council. In accordance with New Jersey Statutes, the Pitman Democratic Club has provided names of three nominees for the selection of a successor to fill that vacancy on Borough Council. At this time I will turn to Council President Blass for the nomination."

Motion was made by Council President Blass to nominate Adam Mazzola to fill the unexpired term of James Pierpont, which term is to expire on December 31, 2020.

Second: Weng

By voice vote, all members vote in favor of the nomination of Adam Mazzola.

Resolution No. 34, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Accepting the Resignation of Councilman James Pierpont and Appointing Adam Mazzola to Fill the Unexpired Term of James Pierpont for the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo: _____

Oath of Office Administered to Mr. Mazzola by Councilman Matthew Weng

Roll Call of the 2020 Governing Body of the Borough of Pitman

Council President Blass: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Present

Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present

Councilman Weng: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Closed Work Session of January 13, 2020
Formal Meeting and Closed Formal Meeting of January 13, 2020

Motion: Blass Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Abstain

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razzo: _____

Council Reports

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Last week Chairman Aspras and I met at the former Sony property with Jon Crispin and his group, and representatives from Rowan University. They are looking to develop the property. We took a tour of the property; this is the first step, and it is promising. We will continue to keep in touch with them.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board Year-end Report

The Board held five public hearings in 2019 pertaining to zoning applications, and approved five ‘new use’ applications. Using this process, the Planning and Zoning Board waived the site plan requirements and saved each applicant between \$2,000.00 and \$3,000.00 per application. The Board reviewed and designated the former Sony as a property in need of redevelopment. Zoning changes were approved to allow for further development of microbreweries. Two members of the Board regularly attended meetings of the Economic Development Committee to better coordinate the two groups, and they monitored potential changes to State regulations including COAH.

Construction Office Year-end Report

The total number of Permits processed in 2019 was 580, and the total number of Certificates processed was 443, resulting in \$138,229.00 in fees collected.

Building permits issued: 568

Electrical permits: 337

Fire permits: 82

Plumbing permits issued: 281

Mechanical permits issued: 123

The **Registrar of Vital Records** issued 46 Marriage Licenses, 130 copies of Marriage Certificates, and 1,213 Death Certificates, totaling \$8,918.00 in fees collected.

The **Code Enforcement Officer** investigated 1,150 calls last year. The year began with a list containing 89 properties that were vacant or in foreclosure, and ended up with 70 on the list. Several of them are now in the renovation process. Over \$50,100.00 in vacant home fees were collected in 2019.

Council President Blass

No Report

Councilman Mazzola

No Report

Councilman Weng

Councilman Weng reported that Corporal Leach and Patrolman Stefanopoulos attended the *Influence and Effects of Substance Abuse on Juveniles* training on January 27, 2020. The training was held at the New Jersey State Police Technology Center in Hamilton. This training is part of the on-going training and development of both School Resource Officers and the overall program that is offered in the Pitman School District by the Pitman Police Department.

The required PPD yearly training for 2020 has begun. These trainings minimally include the yearly recertifications for all officers, and specialized training for SWAT, K-9, Emergency Response and School Resource Officers.

The NJDMV MIT checkpoint scheduled for January was cancelled due to bad weather. An attempt at setting a make-up date in January was unsuccessful. There is an MIT date set in February.

Councilman Weng repeated Mayor Razze’s earlier comments in which he thanked Councilman Jim Pierpont for the fine job he did during his time serving on Council. He also complimented the individuals working in the Construction Office, now Councilman Fitzpatrick’s department, stating that he had the honor to work with them this past year, and that they do a phenomenal job, and are very hard workers.

Councilwoman Rudley

No Report

New Business

Resolution No. 35, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Canceling Capital Appropriations Balances of Completed Projects

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 36, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Canceling Capital Appropriations Balances of Completed Projects

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 37, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Change Order No. 1 and the Payment of Contractor’s Application for Payment No. 1 to the Contract With Abhzeen Design, Inc. for the 2018 CDBG Reconstruction of S. Broadway Brick Sidewalk Repair Project – Phase 2

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 38, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough of Pitman to Enter into an Employment Agreement with Pitman Police Chief Daniel J. McAteer, Retroactive to January 1, 2020

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

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

Resolution No. 39, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Connie Anderson as Recording Secretary for the Borough of Pitman Historic Commission

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

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

Resolution No. 40, 2018 – 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:

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and Pitman Police Department Administration

Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and Teamsters 676

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

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

Payment of Bills

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilman Mazzola: Abstain
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Abstains to ck. #38550 and ck. #16043. Votes to approve all other items.
Mayor Razzo: _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Pitman Little League Sign-up
Sponsor: Pitman Little League
Contact Person: Paul Bially
Date & Time: February 15, 2020; 9am – 11am
Location: Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Motion: Rudley
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Second: Mazzola
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Rally for the Nation Worship Service

Sponsor: Rally for the Nation
Contact Person: Vicki Schneider
Date & Time: April 25, 2020; 12pm
Location: Sunset Auditorium
Motion: Rudley
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Second: Weng
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Approval contingent upon signing a Facilities Use Form for the use of the Sunset Auditorium, and providing a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Rudley
Time: 8:19 p.m.

Second: Weng

Trudy Wright, 74 West Avenue – Ms. Wright, referring to the property located at 78 West Avenue, said that today she saw people making what appears to be temporary repairs to the roof, basement, and rear windows of the house. She said there are still many remaining issues with the house and that it has been deemed to be unsafe and posted as dangerous for anyone to enter. In addition, the electric and water service has been discontinued, and the gas meter has been locked. In spite of this, Ms. Wright said that the house is still not secure in that the support beams are caving in and rodents are entering the house through the roof and open areas in the walls. Ms. Wright noted the potential for a fire as the house is still full of the owner’s possessions, and the potential health risks connected to the presence of mold. Ms. Wright shared photos of the house and surrounding conditions with Councilmembers.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that the board-up work was ordered by the Code Enforcement and Fire Safety Officials in response to Ms. Wright’s original complaint at the January 13, 2020 meeting. He said that the Fire Safety Officer has been to court due to past violation notices, and a warrant for the arrest of the homeowner was issued by the Court for her failing to appear at the hearing.

Ms. Wright stated that the property owner may be out of the country, and that the house has been vacant since February 2019.

Bethany Cope, 178 North Avenue – Ms. Cope showed additional photos of the house located at 78 West Avenue in support of the statements made by Ms. Wright.

Kelly Radcliffe, 300 Lakeside Avenue – Ms. Radcliffe stated that she had a new gas meter installed at her property which was done by the contractor who is employed by South Jersey Gas to do the gas line restoration work throughout the Borough. Ms. Radcliffe said that she is not happy with the location of the meter, directly under a bedroom window, and with the general condition of the yards and roadways in the project areas. Ms. Radcliffe asked if it was known what the time period is for finishing this job, and that her yard is still very torn up and she wants to be sure that it will be repaired.

Admin. O’Donnell said that she will add Ms. Radcliffe’s property and her concerns to the punch list that was sent to South Jersey Gas after complaints were made by other residents living in that area at the last meeting of Mayor and Council on January 13, 2020.

Motion to close the public portion: Blass Second: Fitzpatrick
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Weng Second: Mazzola
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Rudley Second: Weng
Time: 9:24 p.m.

Upon returning to an Open Meeting, no action was taken by Council as a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Rudley Second: Weng
Time: 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O’Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator