

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2020**

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 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: Present
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Approval of Minutes

Reorganization Meeting January 4, 2020

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Council Reports

Councilwoman Rudley- 2019 Report

Pitman Police Department Annual Report

Incident Reports 16,132
Arrest 294
Investigations 695
Detective Bureau Investigations 48
Firearms Background Investigations 71
Cases involving discovery requests 195
OPRA responses 13

Special Investigations Unit investigations 17
Cleared Special Investigation Unit investigations 14

Of the above listed SIU investigations, two of them were for strict liability deaths. One resulted in an arrest, and one is still currently under investigation.

Motor vehicle crashes 142
DWI arrests 9
Traffic Summonses 1,166
Parking Summonses 1,582

There were nineteen narcotic overdoses in 2019. Of the nineteen overdoses, three were fatal. NARCAN was deployed by PPD Officers twelve times. Every NARCAN deployment resulted in a save/reversal.

Senior Outreach Committee

The Senior Outreach Committee had a productive year in 2019. We held our first Senior Citizen Blueberry Festival at Ballard Park. Volunteers waited on the attendees while they enjoyed blueberry cobbler, blueberry flavored water, and vanilla ice cream on top of blueberry muffins. The crowd was entertained by a Frank Sinatra style crooner and a line dancing demonstration. The crowd was larger than our great expectations, and our biggest hurdle was to quickly borrow chairs from any neighboring building that would give them up.

The Third Annual Outreach Fair was also a success with representatives from local hospitals, the County and State, as well as our municipal services to assist our seniors with any issues they may face. Local businesses got involved as well. Bowman Medical provided an impressive display, ZK Fitness Group gave a chair exercise demonstration, and the United Methodist Homes has proven once again to be a steadfast supporter of our committee.

We added a few trips designed for our seniors this year, including a trip to a winery in Cape May, a lighthouse and the Cape May Zoo, as well as a show at the Tropicana. This would not have been possible without the great help of Recreation Director Andy Fox and our Borough Bus Driver, Steve Weideman.

In 2020, we look forward to a Senior Citizen Speaker Series. There will be a speaker at Borough Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, at 2:00 p.m. for the months of February through June.

Economic Development Committee

The EDC was hard at work this year to accomplish a few new projects and continue with some recent additions. The Annual Winter Village was another success, covering two weekends this year.

The Laurel Market, a project which was the result of a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, provided fresh fruit and vegetables for a sale throughout the summer of 2019.

In 2019, the EDC worked to improve lighting on Second Avenue, as well as to continue supporting the Bike Study funded by a grant to the Borough. The EDC also commissioned the new street signs designating the historic areas of our Borough.

The EDC was proud to support the Theatre Avenue Project and to help see it through to its opening. A grand opening event will be planned for 2020, once the final ornamental touches are added.

Finally, please note that I have given up Public Safety and Economic Development this year. I will truly miss the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Board of Fire Engineers, and the Economic Development Committee. I can only hope that I contributed as much value to their committees and departments as they contributed to my life.

Councilman Weng

No Report

Councilman Pierpont

No Report

Council President Blass

Memorabilia Committee

The Memorabilia Committee maintains the Borough Museum, which was open from March through November on the second Saturday and Fourth Friday of each month. The museum was one of the destinations during the scavenger hunt this spring.

The Committee once again provided outreach to the elementary schools and gave tours to each of the third grade classes. The museum is trying to develop a student docent program. Students did provide tours one night this past summer.

Green Team

Through the collective efforts of the team members, Pitman received the Bronze Certification this past December.

Public Works

An ongoing issue this past year has been recycling. Pitman, along with every other town, is having problems with contaminated recycling bins. Our recycling company wants only 3% residual in cans (contamination). I remind everyone that we all must be vigilant with recycling. We must put only the approved items in the bins and follow the mantra “When in doubt, throw it out.”

Our Public Works Department continues to provide an array of services for our community; besides the obvious trash pickup. Public Works collects leaves several times throughout the year, fixes potholes, unclogs drains, fixes water main breaks, etc. They also help local organizations set up their programs such as the Laurel Market, Fourth Friday, and the Craft Fairs.

December Recycling

Twenty-three loads of single stream recycling totaling 99.54 tons

One load of metal sold to Sims Metal totaling 1.27 tons. Received payment in the amount of \$120.70

Mulch, leaves, and /or brush hauled out to various locations totaling 186 cubic yards

Councilwoman James

Finance Office

The Borough’s free Dog and Cat Rabies Clinic will be held on March 14, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Public Works yard, located at 599 Elwood Ave.

Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce

Representatives of municipal organizations, local non-profits, and members of the public are invited to attend the Third Annual Pitman Volunteer Fair on Saturday, January 25, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at VFW Post 6469, located at 142 Oakcrest Avenue, Pitman NJ.

If you are part of a volunteer organization that would like to set up a table at the volunteer fair, please contact Councilwoman Amy Rudley at amy.rudley@pitman.org or myself at vanessa21james@pitman.org.

The GPCC will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pitman Gallery & Art Center. All are welcome to attend.

McCowan Memorial Library

During the month of December 2019, 3,934 people visited the McCowan Memorial Library. I am also pleased to announce that the Children’s Services Coordinator, Karen Richards, started work on January 9, 2020, so Story Time and children’s programming will be resuming soon.

The next meeting for the Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

No Report

New Business

Resolution No. 29, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Refund of 2020 Real Estate Taxes

Motion: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 30, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation of a Non-Negotiated Check Which Was Drawn on the Tax Title Lien Account of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: James

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 31, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor and Borough Clerk to Execute a Shared Services Agreement With the Township of Willingboro for Public Works Equipment and Personnel

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Resolution No. 32, 2020 – 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 Local 676

Resolution No. 32, 2020 was Introduced, and the Closed Session was held in the Work Session meeting. Resolution No. 33, 2020 was added to this agenda for discussion of the Contract negotiations between the Borough of Pitman and Teamsters Local 676 when there was not enough time in the Work Session Closed Meeting for that discussion to take place.

Resolution No. 33, 2020 – 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 Teamsters Local 676

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Blass

Second: James

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Payment of Bills

Motion, as amended in Work Session removing check no. 38453 from the bill pay: James

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Abstains to # 38470 and # 38477; Approves payment of all other bills

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Monthly Meetings

Sponsor: Pitman Soccer Association

Contact Person: Krista Wehlen

Date & Time: Schedule attached; 8pm – 10pm

Location: Borough Hall-Council Chambers

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze _____

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Fitzpatrick

Second: James

Time: 8:23 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion: Rudley
Time: 8:23 p.m.

Second: Weng

Closed Meeting

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Blass
Time: 8:24 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Motion to return to an open meeting: Blass
Time: 9:00 p.m.

Second: James

No action was taken by Council upon returning to an open meeting as a result of discussion in the Closed Session Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Rudley
Time: 9:02 p.m.

Second: Weng

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator