

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

Call to Order

Time: 8:07 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 2018, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 6, 2018.

Roll Call

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2018

Motion: Weng

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of November 26, 2018

Motion: Rudley

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Council Reports

Councilman Austin reported that the McCowan Memorial Library welcomed 4,650 visitors in November and hosted thirty-two programs for children, which altogether had a total attendance of 290 children.

Council President Blass

Council President Blass reported that six trees were removed at Glen Lake Park; two were dead and four were deemed hazardous due to growing into the overhead wires and tearing up the sidewalks.

Councilman Razze read the following report:

First, I want thank Councilman Weng for attending the Recreation and Environmental Commission meetings last week for me.

For the benefit of those who were not at the Work Session meeting, Council discussed plans and designs for the installation of a Disc Golf course in the woods at Alcyon Park. Disc Golf courses are laid out in a natural wooded area with little to no impact on the area. We are intending to install a nine hole course consisting of small tee-boxes and mounted baskets for the holes.

The course is designed to not impact any natural trees and will only require cleaning out of some ground brush. The closest Disc Golf we have to us is in Voorhees, and they are very popular in our bordering states. These courses can draw tournaments that could bring as many as 150 golfers to our town.

Thank you to those who came out on November 27 to assist with the line up of the Santa Parade. Thank you to Nancy Yurick in the office for helping me coordinate the band contracts and vouchers. Thank you to Councilman Austin, Anthony my son, and all the others who helped out with the parade.

Thank you to Ron Brown for coordinating the events and displays in Ballard Park on behalf of the Chamber. Thank you to Sgt. Streater and all the members in the Police Department for keeping everyone safe.

Thank you to Fred Rodi and the Public Works employees for making sure the barricades were in place and that our route was clean and ready.

Thank you to Jared Harmon for testing and testing the lights in the park, particularly the tree, and thank you to Dawn Ritzler.

On a personal note, thank you to Fire Company #1 for the championship ride for our youth soccer team, the Ocelots.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

I am very pleased to report that we have been awarded another \$50,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant program to repair the pavers along both sides of Broadway from Pitman Avenue to Laurel Avenue. This is the second year we received the award from the county to complete this project of uneven and dislocated pavers. This improves the safety of those who stroll Broadway to shop and dine in our many stores, theater, breweries, and eateries. My thanks again must go out to Mrs. O'Donnell, our Administrator, Mr. Jon Bryson, our Borough Engineer and Mr. Jeff Penuel, Pitman Jewelry Store for assembling photos and preparing the application package.

Thanks to Mr. Fred Rodi, our Public Works Manager and Sgt. Jon Streeter, our Traffic Safety Sergeant for staying actively involved with Conrail engineers to fix the railroad crossing at Holly and Pitman Avenues. Because of their diligence and follow-through, you will see a contractor for Conrail working on the Holly Avenue crossing this Tuesday, December 11 and on the Pitman Avenue crossing next Tuesday, December 18th. Good work by both of these gentlemen.

Last week was the scheduled bulk trash week. While this service is a benefit to our residents it can be abused. Please adhere to the guidelines for bulk trash. If you have any questions regarding bulk trash or any service of our Public Works Department please call 589-1040 or visit our website.

Councilman Weng

Councilman Weng reported that the Planning and Zoning Board hoped to hold their public meeting on the redevelopment of the former Sony Property, but due to time constraints and various issues with required notifications, they were unable to have it in December. Chairman Aspras has asked to move it to the January meeting to allow more time to fulfill the legal requirements.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley reported that the Board of Fire Engineers will meet December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room. On December 20, the Senior Outreach Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room followed by the Economic Development Committee 7:00 p.m., also in the Conference Room.

New Business

Resolution No. 229, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation/Refund of Taxes Due to the Property Owner Meeting the Requirements of a 100% Disabled Veteran as Set Forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and is Exempt From Paying Property Taxes

Motion: Austin
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 230, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting the Implementation of a Health and Wellness Policy and the Workplace Best Practices Policy for the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Razzo
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 231, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the First Addendum to the Agreement for a Recycling Disposal Facility

Motion: Pierpont
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Resolution No. 232, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Awarding Contract to Independent Alarm for the Installation of an IP Based Security Camera System in the Municipal Building and Police Department of the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Austin
Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 233, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Waiving Permit Application Fees Related to the Installation of a Fire Suppression Hood at the Pitman VFW Memorial Post #6469

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 234, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Designating Shari Hulitt as Representative for the Borough of Pitman to the Gloucester County Municipal Economic Development Council for 2019

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 235, 2018 was voted on in the Work Session meeting of December 10, 2018.

Resolution No. 236, 2018 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough Clerk/Administrator to Accept and Endorse the Department of the Army Right-of-Entry for Environmental Investigation Pertaining to the Former Pitman Armory Property, Block 166 Lot 1 in the Borough of Pitman

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution No. 237, 2018 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Anthony Rossett as a Full-time Driver/Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Department Water and Sewer Division

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Mayor Johnson – I was disappointed, as I expressed to Administrator O'Donnell earlier today, that there were not more names on the hire list of internal employees for this position. I am infuriated now to find out that some of those did not get an interview for this position. I was not aware of that; it is one thing to defer to Mr. Rodi to hire these people, but to find out they were not even granted an interview, is this correct information?

Administrator O'Donnell – Yes.

Mayor – It should infuriate all of you that our own employees weren't even interviewed for these positions.

Councilwoman Rudley – Do they have other jobs, or are they part-time and is this a better job?

Admin. O'Donnell – They were all full-time employees within their departments.

Councilwoman Rudley – We did not interview them, or we declined them?

Councilman Pierpont – Yes, they were not interviewed for the position. I understand that the Mayor is frustrated, but this is why we hire managers and administrators who do this for us. This does happen in industry, employees apply for positions and the applications will be reviewed but not granted an interview. Personally, I stayed out of it and Mayor Johnson stayed out of it; we don't want any politics playing a part in our selection process. That is why I feel confident; we hire a manager and administrator to make these decisions.

Mayor – In my opinion there is a big difference in being interviewed and not hired.

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution 238, 2018 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Kurt Leach as a Full-time Driver/Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Highway Division

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

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

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

Resolution 239, 2018 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Daniel Holmstrom as a Full-time Driver/Laborer for the Borough of Pitman Public Works Highway Division

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
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 #36562; Yes, to all others
Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Abstain to #36635; Yes, to all others
Councilman Razze: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit

Event: Practice Trial

Applicant: PHS Mock Trial Team
Contact Person: Paul Blass
Date & Time: January 7, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Abstain
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:28 p.m.

Second: Blass

Daniel McAteer, 341 West Avenue – The Mayor said he was infuriated. I am deeply disappointed at each and every Councilmember. As a Department Head I would not, not interview somebody who worked for me. Council should be ashamed.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Second: Blass

Miscellaneous

Councilman Austin stated: When we hired for the Fire Sub Code Official, and one of the most qualified candidates lives in town and did not get an interview, I was disturbed by this. I'm suggesting right now that we all start looking when we hire, and make sure we are looking within first.

Adjournment

Motion: Blass
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Second: Razze

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator