

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2015
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 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 2015, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2015.

Roll Call

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

Councilman Blass: Present
Council President Kelley: Present
Councilman Razze: Present
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2015

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson ____

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin extended his congratulations and best wishes to Pitman Police Chief Robert Zimmerman, who will retire from the force on December 31, 2015.

Councilman Austin reported that on December 8, 2015, Captain McAteer, Sgt. Owens, Det. Sgt. Moore, and Sgt. Zander attended the JIF Risk Management training session for supervisors.

On December 13, members of the Police Department assisted a motorcycle group called Rolling Badges as they delivered Christmas gifts to a local four-year-old girl.

The Fire Department and local Office of Emergency Management have been quiet. Councilman Austin reminded residents to keep their live Christmas trees watered to prevent an increase in the chance of a fire.

The Borough's Environmental Commission and Council have approved a vegetative buffer zone around Alcyon Lake in an effort to control the geese, and to eliminate run-off pollution going into the lake. This buffer zone has been approved on a temporary basis, and will be reviewed in twelve months.

Councilman Austin reported that the Borough's Santa Parade was wonderful, and he thanked Councilman Razze and everyone who was involved in the planning and coordinating of this event.

Mayor Johnson mentioned that Chief Zimmerman declined an invitation from Council to be recognized at a Council meeting for his contributions to the Borough. He stated that a Proclamation was prepared for him, and was presented to him at his recent retirement party.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that several tree projects have been taken care of over the past few weeks. There was a large tree removed in Big Alley, and some trees were trimmed on Boundary Road and on Lincoln Avenue. In Walton Park, all the remaining tree stumps from earlier tree removal have been ground down, as was a stump on Fourth Avenue. These final stump removals are a continuation of the clean-up associated with the June 23, 2015 wind storm. Also, tree removal on the paper street behind the Pitman High School is just about complete.

Councilman Razze – Councilman Razze thanked those volunteers who came out on November 28, 2015 to help with setting up and getting the Santa Parade underway. A little rain didn't dampen spirits, and walking along the parade route Mr. Razze said that it seemed that there were more spectators this year than in years past.

Councilman Razze also thanked the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce for their holiday display in Ballard Park, and Jared Harmon and the entire Alcyon Lake crew for decorating the trees with lights in Ballard. A special thanks to DJ Steve Alexander for his "Christmas Karaoke in the Park" after the parade.

Councilman Razze reported that the Recreation Commission did not meet this month. The Recreation Department sponsored basketball programs are in full swing, from the middle school eighth grade team right down to our Saturday morning skills and drills training for the first and second grades. Thank you to Recreation Director Andy Fox for his never ending dedication to the youth of this community. In a previous meeting Councilman Razze mentioned that there was some discussion about lights being installed at Alcyon Park, possibility at the soccer field and football field. A meeting was held this past week, and representatives from the Pitman Athletic Association and the Pitman Soccer Association were asked to come out and provide input on the proposal. Neither group had a representative at the meeting, with both groups feeling that the installation of lights would not be of benefit to them. Councilman Razze said that as a result, that project will be tabled for now, with possible further discussion to take place in the future. The conduit lines are already in place to supply power to the soccer field, but additional lines would have to be run to supply power to the football field.

The Economic Development Committee will be meet this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., and the Joint Insurance Fund meeting will be on December 21, in the afternoon.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:
In street leaf collection ends this week. Please do not put leaves in the street after Thursday, December 17th. Public Works has been working hard all season to collect the leaves in a timely fashion, and I believe they have done an excellent job.

The trash truck sent out for a major overhaul and retro-fitting is nearly ready for work. It is currently being painted and lettered and will be back on the street soon.

The trash and recycling statistics for the period of November 23 - December 11 are as follows;
Twenty-one loads of trash for a total of 220 tons
Sixteen loads of recycling totaling 76 tons
Eighteen truckloads of brush were collected
Eight loads of bulk trash were collected
One hundred twelve loads of leaves were collected
1,234 yards of shredded leaves were delivered to Smith Orchards for disposal

Councilwoman Higbee
No Report

Council President Kelley – Council President Kelley reported that the Combined Planning and Zoning Board will have their last meeting of 2015 on December 21 at 7:00 p.m., where a variance for a garage will be reviewed.

The Green Team will not have a meeting in December; their next meeting will be on January 28, 2016.

On November 24, 2015, Judy O’Donnell and Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Powell, attended a meeting with a representative from Community Champions for training and an introduction of their program. The Borough currently has one hundred seventy-seven properties in foreclosure.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Pierpont announced that his daughter Lauren gave birth to a baby girl, making her granddaughter #2. He stated that he is anxious to go to Chicago to see the baby for the first time.

Councilman Austin stated that he has received a letter from Groff’s Nursery saying that in the spring they will transplant the tree that was planted in the park strip on Linden Avenue into the yard of the property owner.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 13, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter V Entitled “Animal Control” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Kelley Second: Higbee

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze Second: Kelley
Time: 8:20 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to Close Public Comment: Razze Second: Kelley
Time 8:20 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes	Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes	Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: No	Councilman Razze: Yes
Mayor Johnson ____	

Ordinance No. 14, 2015 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter VII Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Austin Second: Blass

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze Second: Austin
Time 8:22 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to Close Public Comment: Razze Second: Austin
Time 8:22 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 179, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With the County of Gloucester for the Provision of Public Safety Radio Communications Equipment

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 189, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office Holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over DWI Campaign

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 190, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures

Motion: Blass

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 191, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 192, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Supporting the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 193, 2015 - 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:

Personnel Promotion: Pitman Police Department
Personnel Hiring: Pitman Construction Official

Action may be taken.

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 194, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund to Patrick DeLooff for Sewer Lateral Repairs to 209 Boulevard Avenue

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Council President Kelley: Yes
Councilman Razze: Yes

Discussion

Below is a transcript of the discussion between members of Council, Mayor Johnson, and the Borough Solicitor, on Councilman Austin's plan to authorize the Borough Solicitor to begin the process of offering a plenary retail consumption license for bid by the Borough of Pitman.

Councilman Austin – As we discussed in the Work Session, I would like to make a motion to allow the solicitor to prepare all requirements needed to offer a Plenary Retail Consumption License, and to work with the Borough's Planner and the Zoning Board to establish guidelines for a consumption on premises license, so moved.

Council President Kelley: Second

Councilman Blass – What are you hoping to accomplish right now?

Councilman Austin – For the Solicitor to basically tell us, and to prepare what we need to do, pass ordinances, begin working with our planner, and to see if, by way of zoning, we can make the license purely for on premises consumption; that is what we spoke about.

Councilman Blass – Sort of like a checklist for us to start to go through.

Councilman Austin – Right, exactly.

Councilman Blass – Okay.

Councilman Razze – Your ultimate goal is to sell a liquor license?

Councilman Austin – Yes it is, it is for the town to sell a liquor license.

Councilwoman Higbee – A liquor license must also include package goods.

Councilman Austin – Well, during our Work Session, we discussed ways that with zoning we may be able to eliminate that.

Councilman Blass – Curtail it.

Councilman Austin – That’s why we are going to work with the Borough Planner and the Zoning Officials.

Councilman Razze – But, did we also hear in the Work Session that there is no way to curtail it, to prevent just a bar from purchasing the license, is there?

Councilman Austin – Okay, I’ll agree to that.

Council President Kelley – Do we need to have a public forum?

Mayor Johnson – My two cents is going to be, what Councilman Austin is doing, is authorizing the Solicitor and the Planner to get all the ducks in a row. The next time this is put on the agenda it won’t just be a ten minute slot, it will be an entire Work Session Agenda, followed by a hearing in this Chamber. We need to at least hear the public’s opinion on this.

Councilman Blass – Basically, the sole goal now is to get information on this.

Councilman Austin – The sole goal now is to get information, but we need more information to move forward.

Mayor Johnson – When you come back, you will be coming back with an ordinance for discussion?

Councilman Austin – Yes.

Councilman Razze – I also believe the solicitor pointed this out. It was your opinion in Work Session that if it is the desire, or if this Council, in considering doing this with a vote, this will move forward, if a “no” vote, then it is dead and we won’t spend the money.

Solicitor Duffield – Get the consensus now, and don’t waste any money.

Mayor Johnson– I will take this future vote as a consensus.

Clerk O’Donnell – So the motion is authorizing the Solicitor to....

Councilman Austin – Prepare all the requirements and research the offer of a plenary retail consumption license and to work with the zoning official to establish guidelines for consumption on premise licenses.

Councilman Austin – The bottom line is, we say “no” tonight, it dies here.

Solicitor Duffield – Make a motion to authorize the sale of a liquor license. I’m saying it for this reason, if the answer is yes, you can’t do anything until you adopt zoning ordinances, and if you say no, it dies tonight.

Councilman Austin – I withdraw the first motion.

Council President Kelley - Second

Councilman Austin – I make a motion to authorize the sale of a liquor license; retail consumption license on premises.

Council President Kelley – Second.

Councilman Razze – The resolution is to sell a Liquor License?

Councilman Blass – I like the first one better, it left more room for discussion.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: No

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Mayor Johnson ____

Mayor - Motion carries.

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Anthony Asbury, 130 Glen Lake Blvd. – Mr. Asbury said that he applauds Council’s decision to explore the option of a liquor license.

Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue – Mr. Fortney congratulated the Parade Committee on a job well done. He said that he loved the karaoke in the park; he thought it was a great addition, and he suggested that next year maybe it could be offered before the parade. Mr. Fortney also said that last Saturday evening the trolley made nine trips through the Borough, and over four hundred children visited Santa Claus in Ballard Park. He asked if “No Smoking” signs could be installed in Ballard Park.

Resolution No. 196, 2015 - 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 Captain Daniel J. McAteer, Effective January 1, 2016, as Revised

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: No

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 197, 2015 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Approving the Hiring of John Holroyd as Construction Official, and Building Sub Code Official, at the Salary Rate of \$18,000.00 Annually to Replace Jeff Kier, Effective January 1, 2016

Motion: Kelley

Second: Pierpont

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Miscellaneous

Borough Administrator O'Donnell asked members of Council if each member had a chance to consider whether or not to bond additional funds for the N. Brentwood, Spruce, Elsie, and Hudson Avenue Project. The funding was reviewed, as well as whether Option 1 and Option 2 should be incorporated into the specifications for the base bid. Discussion resulted in the decision to revise the bid packet to include options 1 & 2 as part of the base bid, and to re-advertise and receive bids for the revised project.

It was also decided that a Special Meeting will take place on Friday, December 18, at 8:00 a.m. in Borough Hall for the first reading of Bond Ordinance No. 15, 2015, authorizing an additional \$200,000.00 for the N. Brentwood, Spruce, Elsie, and Hudson Avenue Project.

Resolution No. 188, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Incorporate Option 1 and Option 2 into the Base Bid of the N. Brentwood, Spruce, Elsie, and Hudson Avenue Project, and Further Authorizes the Borough Engineer to Advertise and Solicit Bids for Said Project

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Additional Comments

Mayor Johnson stated that Capt. McAteer will be sworn in as Chief on January 1, 2016, with the ceremonial swearing in to take place at the first regular Council meeting on January 11, 2016.

Adjournment

Motion: Kelley
Time: 10:12 p.m.

Second: Higbee

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator