

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 11, 2015  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:05 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag/Invocation**

Councilwoman Higbee

**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

**Proclamation Presentation**

Pitman-Glassboro Kiwanis Club

**Oath of Loyalty**

Promotion of Patrolman Erik Beschen to the rank of Corporal for the Pitman Police Department

**Presentation/Public Comment**

**Gloucester County Emergency Mitigation Plan**

James Foley, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Pitman, briefly explained the Emergency Mitigation Plan and its implications for Gloucester County and the Borough of Pitman.

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

Second: Razze

No public comment or questions in regard to the plan.

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

Second: Razze

**2015 Pitman Poems on Parade**

Lynne Nelson and Irene Donnelly, organizers of the 2015 Pitman Poems on Parade event held during the month of April, were on hand to recap to Council the success of the event. The total number of poets who participated was 203, with a total of 277 poems submitted. The cost of the event was \$700.00, and it is projected that the cost will be between \$400.00 and \$500.00 annually

to keep this project going. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Donnelly asked if Council knew of any funding sources they could utilize for future events.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Formal Meeting & Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2015**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Abstain

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Session, Formal Meeting, and Closed Formal Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2015**

Motion: Kelley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Abstains to Work Session Minutes, and votes to approve Formal and Closed.

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that Patrolman Barbetta took part in the Unity Tour in which police officers obtain sponsors and ride their bikes for 300 miles from Gloucester County to Washington D.C. in order to raise funds for the families of fallen officers.

Patrolman Wiest and Patrolman Hoffman are pursuing certification as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE). They will graduate on May 15, 2015.

Patrolman Barbetta and S/O Stefanopoulos attended Bike School, and graduated on May 8, 2015 from the Gloucester County Police Academy.

On May 2, the Police Department hosted their first Fishing Tournament at Alcyon Lake. They had 150 registered participants, and it was a fun event for all who participated. Councilman Austin congratulated Patrolman Chris Leach and Patrolman Marshall Pierson on planning and organizing this event.

Patrolman Parker and K-9 Ranger were certified on April 29, 2015 by the U.S. Police K-9 Association.

The Pitman Police Department will sponsor a contestant for the 2015 Miss Pitman Pageant. The young woman is Cara Montanero, and S/O Osinski will be her chaperone.

Chief Zimmerman, Det. Sgt. Moore, and Inv. Carson attended a substance abuse awareness program at the Pitman High School on May 5, 2015.

On May 27, the Pitman Police Department will host “Coffee with a Cop” at WaWa on Woodbury Road. Councilman Austin encouraged everyone to stop by.

Councilman Austin announced that the Environmental Commission will observe Earth Day this Saturday in Ballard Park.

The Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Jim Foley, moderated a training exercise which was attended by Borough Department Supervisors, and Emergency Responders. It was a mock drill which was carried out minute by minute, in which each department was instructed of their role at the time of each occurrence throughout the drill.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that he attended the Library Board of Trustees meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Friends of the Library have some of the stuffed animals on display in the library that they will be selling as a fundraiser for the library. This program is called “Find Your Own Library Friend.”

Councilman Blass reminded everyone that the Friends of the Library are funding a Museum Pass Program. Passes may be checked out of the Library by McCowan cardholders for free admission to six sites. Many of the passes also include discounts on purchases within the museum or attraction. The museums involved are the Morris Arboretum, the Ground for Sculpture, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the National Liberty Museum, Wheaton Arts Center, and the Garden State Discovery Museum.

Councilman Blass stated that he was happy to help out at the Grove Clean-up on May 2. He said that it is always fun to work with Mr. Hagerty getting the gardens around the Grove Auditorium back into shape after the winter. After the clean-up, he said that he went to the Police Department’s Fishing Tournament, and was very pleased with the large turnout of participants.

Councilman Blass reported that this past Saturday he attended the culminating event of Youth Week – the Track and Field Meet. Mr. Fox put him to work at the softball throw, and as always the entire event went very smoothly.

Councilman Blass announced that the materials for the new roof on Borough Hall will be dropped off this Friday, and work will begin on Monday, May 18, 2015.

Councilman Razzo – Councilman Razzo announced that Youth Week was a great success, and he thanked all the volunteers who came out to help with the various events throughout the week.

The deadline to register to participate in the July Fourth Parade is June 12, 2015. Nominations for Grand Marshal must be in to the Parade Committee by May 29, 2015. The theme for the parade this year is “The Pitman Parade Committee Celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sound of Music”.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Leaf Collection ends this week. Please put leaves at the curb for collection. Other yard debris and brush needs to be kept separate from the curbside leaf vacuum.

As a service to our residents, you may call Public Works for a truck, which will be left at your home over the weekend for your yard brush and debris. Public Works will pick up the loaded truck on Monday morning. Please call 589-1040 and schedule this if needed.

Leaf mulch and wood mulch is still available for delivery. This is free to all residents of Pitman. Just call 589-1040 and schedule a delivery. Photo samples of the mulch are available online.

The Water and Sewer Division is completing their preliminary work on Highland Terrace in preparation of the resurfacing project. The paving will begin once the new water hook-ups are complete.

Two water leaks were repaired since my last report. One on Highland Terrace and one on Summit Avenue.

Ms. Domico, our Licensed Water Operator, and Mr. Alexander our Public Works Manager, took part in a water allocation inspection recently. Unofficially, everything was noted to be in order and in good condition. An official inspection report is forthcoming.

I would like to thank the Gloucester County Public Works Department for allowing us to use their pipe inspection video equipment. We needed to get a look in the storm drain piping on Edgemore Avenue, adjacent to Pitman High School, while conducting an investigation into why the sidewalk is sinking. The inspection revealed our storm drain system is in good repair, but the cause of the void beneath the sidewalk is still being researched.

Youth Week was a huge success. My appreciation to Nick Razze for stepping in as Councilman, and a big thank you to Mr. Andy Fox and his staff for putting the activities together.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that at the Work Session meeting on May 26, 2015, representatives from the Pitman Board of Education will present their 2015-2016 school budget.

Councilwoman Higbee reminded everyone that the Historic Commission will meet this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. At this time six applications have been submitted for approval.

The 2015 New Jersey Clean Communities Grant amounts have been announced, and Pitman's award is \$19,174.36.

Councilwoman Higbee stated that \$1,730,249.62 in tax payments were made in April.

Council President Kelley – Council President Kelley reminded everyone that the Combined Planning and Zoning Board will meet on Monday, May 18, 2015.

Also, the Borough's Green Team will be in Ballard Park with the Environmental Commission to celebrate Earth Day. Their next meeting will be on May 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

### New Business

**Ordinance No. 7, 2015 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Capital Improvements and the Acquisition of Various Pieces of Equipment In and For the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$474,015 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Up To \$450,265; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing**

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Razze: Yes

**Ordinance No. 8, 2015 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Completion of Various Improvements to the Water and Sewer Utility System In the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$1,290,985 Therefor; Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Up To \$1,131,973; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing**

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 84, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Cancellation and /or 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: Higbee

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 85, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement With the Borough of Glassboro for the Adams Avenue Paving 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 86, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Approving the Application of the 2014 Recycle Tonnage Grant for the Borough of Pitman**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 87, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Release of the Maintenance**

**Bond and Escrow Funds Provided by Wayne Murschell Affecting a Parcel Known as Block 31, Lot 13 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey**

Motion: Kelley

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 88, 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:

**Contract Negotiations: Borough of Pitman and PBA Local 122**

Action may be taken upon returning to an open meeting.

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 89, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services For Public Use on the Online Auction Services of EMEX, LLC-1**

**Resolution No. 90, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services For Public Use on an Online Auction Website**

Motion to approve both Resolutions: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call to approve both Resolutions:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 91, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Award of Competitive Contract for the Lease of Advertising Space**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Razze

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution No. 92, 2015 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Nominating Irene Donnelly to Fill the Unexpired Term of Rosalie Hamilton as a Member of the McCowan Memorial Library Board of Trustees**

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

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  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Yes  
Mayor Johnson: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Event Permit Applications**

Applicant: PHS Jazz Band  
\*Event: Concert  
Date: May 22, 2015  
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Location: Sunset Auditorium  
Contact Person: Philip Verespy

Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Yes  
Mayor Johnson: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*Approved contingent upon obtaining a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.**

Applicant: Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce  
Event: Block Party (In conjunction with approved bike race)  
Date: June 13, 2015  
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Ballard Park and Pitman Ave. from Broadway to Simpson  
Contact Person: John Fitzpatrick

Motion: Razze  
Roll Call:  
Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Pierpont: Yes  
Mayor Johnson: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*Approved contingent upon obtaining a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.**

Applicant: Kim DeCant  
Event: Concert by Riley Bria  
Date: Friday, June 19, 2015  
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Alcyon Park  
Contact Person: Kim DeCant

Motion: Razze

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: No

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Approved contingent upon obtaining a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough of Pitman as Additional Insured.**

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 9:08 p.m.

**Jim Fortney, 502 Carew Avenue** – Mr. Fortney stated that he enjoyed the Poems on Parade along Broadway, and suggested that this would be a worthy event for the Chamber of Commerce to support. He also asked what will happen if the Spring Craft Show is cancelled due to rain, and is rescheduled for the following Saturday, which is the weekend right before Memorial Day. He pointed out that this could present a problem with street cleaning in time to have Broadway cleaned up for the Memorial Day observances.

Mr. Fortney reported that the owners of the Angels of God store left boxes of clothes on the curb after their yard sale the day before. The clothing was thrown about as people went through the boxes looking for clothing. He said that everyone who came out of church that day had to look at what was left over and the mess that had been made.

**Barry Owen, 508 Pitman Avenue** – Mr. Owens expressed his hope that the Borough will have success with the electric auction, and that the Borough will be able to save money on our electric bills particularly if the thermostats were going to be set on 70 degrees as they were in Council Chambers at that time.

Mr. Owen expressed concern over the pool at 507 Ardmore Avenue being left open and untreated.

He also expressed concern over the recent incidents in the Borough in which Narcan was administered to individuals who had suffered drug overdoses. He cited the expenses associated with the administration of this antidote, as well as what would be the next step that would have to be followed by these people who receive it. He questioned the follow up responsibility, or obligation, of the person who has been rescued.

Motion to close the public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 9:18 p.m.

**Closed Meeting**

Motion to enter into a closed meeting: Austin

Second: Blass

Time: 9:18 p.m.

Motion to return to an open meeting: Kelley

Second: Higbee

Time: 9:46 p.m.

No action was taken as a result of discussion in the Closed Meeting upon returning to an Open Meeting.



**Adjournment**

Motion: Razzo

Time: 9:46 p.m.

Second: Blass

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell  
Borough Clerk/Administrator