

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:10 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 2014, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 5, 2014.

Roll Call

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

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

Proclamations

Kelcie Rose Klaus, Miss South Jersey 2014
Karen Hickman, 2014 Citizen of the Year

Approval of Minutes

Council Meeting of August 11, 2014, Work Session, Closed Work Session, and Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2014.

Motion: Kelley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razze: Abstains from approving Work Session Minutes from September 8, 2014; Votes to approve all other Minutes.

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported at the last Council meeting that Patrolman Barbetta was scheduled to attend Bicycle patrol training in the coming weeks. This training has been postponed until later in the year.

Councilman Austin congratulated Chief Zimmerman on being elected President of the Gloucester County Police Chief's Association.

The new loading and unloading zones at the Borough's elementary schools seem to be having a positive effect on the parking situation at these schools.

The Borough's Fire Departments have been quiet within the Borough, but have assisted neighboring municipalities with calls.

The Environmental Commission, in cooperation with the Friends of Alcyon Lake, are having a clean-up event on October 4 at Alcyon Lake and the surrounding shores. Councilman Austin invited anyone interested to please come and help with this project.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that the bidding process for the replacement of the Borough Hall roof has been extended due to changes that had to be made to the specifications of the work. The bid submissions will not be opened until mid-October.

Councilman Razze – Councilman Razze reported that the fall sports programs are well underway, with an increased number of participants enrolled in the field hockey program as compared to past years. The micro-mini soccer program has also been a huge success with increased participants.

The Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, November 29th. The deadline to submit applications to participate is November 14. The applications are now online at the parade website. Volunteers are always needed to help before and during the parade. Please contact any member of the Parade Committee to be of assistance.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:
My congratulations and thanks to Ms. Lori Poisker and the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce on another successful Fall Craft Show. This year had a record number of vendors along Broadway, Ballard and Pitman Avenues. The weather was delightful and from what I saw the turnout was tremendous. This was the 39th consecutive fall show.

At the last Chamber meeting, Mr. Michael Lindner, of Lindner Law spoke with the Chamber members in attendance on the State BYOB statute and how it pertains to non-food, retail establishments within the Borough. Many questions were asked and Mr. Lindner provided very thorough, well thought out replies. My recommendation to the Chamber was to reach out to Mayor and Council, in writing, to clear up any misconceptions or interpretations of the state statute on BYOB.

I would be remiss, if, as a local business owner, I did not extend a big thank you to the Pitman Garden Club who once again maintained the hanging flower baskets along Broadway. Most every morning, I watch as a member or two pull a "watering wagon" up and down the street to water and fertilize the flowers. Thank you very much, and they still look great.

This week the Public Works Department cut the grass at 117 Second Avenue. This is an abandoned property that was not in compliance with our property maintenance

ordinance. When a property has been cited for a violation, we wait a minimum of ten days for the property owner to take action. If no action is taken after ten days, we use our Public Works employees and equipment to cut the grass and/or get the property up to code. The work is invoiced to the Borough Tax Collector, and a lien is placed on the property for compensation.

On September 17, Public Works Manager Steve Alexander conducted an in-house Safety Training Session with the Highway Division of Public Works. The training involved safe operation of the vehicles and equipment, as well as the use of personal protection equipment (PPE).

Trash and recycling numbers for the period of September 8 through September 19:
Fourteen loads of trash collected for a total of 146.8 tons
Eleven loads of recycling for 49.5 tons
Thirty loads of brush and nine loads of bulk trash collected.

A reminder to our residents that hydrant flushing will begin October 1, and fall leaf collection does not start until October 13. Please do not rake leaves out to the curb before that date. Any leaf or lawn debris should be put in a container at the curb prior to October 13.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee reported that on Tuesday, October 7 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. there will be a “De-Stress Fest” for Borough employees. It is funded by the Joint Insurance Fund and has been organized by the Administrator.

At the last Historic Commission meeting, the members reviewed three applications. Two were approved, and one was denied. The party with the denied application went to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting, and at this meeting it was approved.

Councilwoman Kelley – Councilwoman Kelley reported that at the monthly Planning and Zoning Board meeting held on September 15, a bulk and a use variance was granted for the Joy Community Church on Florence Avenue. This will allow them to expand their proposed addition and put in an elevator to make their building handicapped accessible.

The New Use Waiver Committee met prior to that meeting and approved Campers Capital, Larkspur Interiors, a Reiki studio, and a bakery. This committee has been successful in expediting businesses through the Planning and Zoning Board approval process, and getting them open. All businesses that were granted approvals will be located at previously zoned retail sites, and will remain retail businesses. The next meeting of the Combined Planning & Zoning Board will be on October 20, at 7:00 p.m.

The Economic Development Committee held their monthly meeting on September 18. Locations for directional signage for parking was discussed and approved. At the next Work Session meeting Councilwoman Kelley expects to have a prototype of the sign as well as a map with the designated locations to present to Council for discussion. There

are approximately ten locations that have been identified as potential sites for the signage to be installed.

Also at that meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about the proposed light rail line and the EDC would like to recommend that Council put together a subcommittee made up of a member of the Planning & Zoning Board, an EDC member, and a Council member to keep track of all information regarding the light rail line. The members of the EDC are in favor of a light rail station on the Sony property and would like Council to consider sending a letter to the DVRPA in support of that station. The next meeting will be on October 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 20, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Repealing Chapter 3-26 Entitled “Curfew” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman

First Reading

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

New Business

Resolution No. 138, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Form of Performance and Maintenance Guarantees Submitted for Approval by South Jersey Gas for Calendar Year 2014/2015

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 139, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving the Submission of a Grant Application and the Execution of a Grant Contract With the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the North Brentwood Avenue Project

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 140, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Members to the Borough of Pitman Green Team

Motion: Kelley

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razzo: Yes

Resolution No. 142, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Transfer of Real Estate Overpayments

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razzo: Yes

Resolution No. 143, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing Refund of Real Estate Taxes and Other Miscellaneous Refunds

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razzo: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Higbee

Second: Kelley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes, Abstains from approving #29263
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes, Abstains from approving #29243
Council President Razzo: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications

***Event:** Fire Prevention Display

Applicant: Pitman Fire Department

Date: October 7, 2014

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Ballard Avenue & Ballard Park

Contact Person: Chief Andrew Gresko

Motion: Razzo

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razzo: Yes

Raffle/Bingo License Applications

Organization: WCK Walls School HSA

Contact Person: Jenny Mazzola

Date: Friday, November 14, 2014

Time: Raffle 10:00 p.m. & Bingo 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Pitman High School

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Public Portion

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:40 p.m.

**Wayne & Sally Harris - 519 Hudson Avenue
Roger Pyffer - 524 Hudson Avenue**

These residents came to Council to express the concerns they and other neighbors have about the abandoned property located at 520 Hudson Avenue. They expressed their opinion that there exists health and safety hazards associated with the conditions both on the inside and outside of the house and surrounding property.

Councilman Austin stated that he would meet with them after this meeting and try to form a plan of action to take care of some of the issues that were brought up during this discussion.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator