

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2014
8:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Invocation

Council President Razzo

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: Absent

Councilwoman Kelley: Present

Council President Razzo: Present

Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Approval of Minutes

Formal Closed Meeting of February 10, 2014, Budget Meeting of February 19, 2014, Work Session Minutes, Closed Work Session Minutes, and Formal Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2014.

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Voted to approve the budget meeting of February 19, 2014 and the Work Session and Formal meetings of February 24, 2014. Abstained from voting on both Closed Session meetings.

Councilwoman Kelley: Abstained from voting to approve the Closed Session meeting on February 10, 2014, and voted to approve the Minutes from all other meetings listed.

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razzo: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin - Councilman Austin reminded everyone that the Beef and Beer Fundraiser for the Police Department K-9 Unit is on March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Masso's Crystal Manor in Glassboro.

On April 1, WHYY will do a live broadcast from Theater Avenue. Theater Avenue will be closed from 2:00 p.m. until midnight for that event.

Detective Sgt. Moore, Ptlm. Carson, and Cpl. Streater have been attending training classes this month.

Councilman Austin announced that work will begin on West Holly Avenue and will continue for an estimated six months. The project will cause road closings, and the Gloucester County Roads Department is working with Traffic Safety Officer Owens to coordinate the closings.

Council President Razzo – Council President Razzo reported that the Recreation Commission met this past Thursday evening. The winter programs are coming to an end; T-Ball will be starting in the next week. The tennis program will start at the end of March. This year, participants in the Fourth of July Freedom 4-mile Road Race will be able to register at Borough Hall and online for the first time. The Recreation Director and Alcyon Park Supervisor have finalized their interviews for the full time park assistant. The Director is also working on basketball programs that will start in late spring and go into the summer months.

Council President Razzo stated that on March 7, he had the pleasure of reading to fourth grade students at W.C.K. Walls Elementary School. It was nice to be part of their “Read Across America” activities.

Councilman Pierpont – Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

As the snow melts and streets get clear, storm drains and potholes become the priority. Our crews are out working to clear standing debris from our storm drains and repairing potholes. If anyone sees potholes please call 589-1040 to report the location and a crew will be dispatched as soon as possible.

Following are the Public Works statistics for the period of February 24 through March 7.

10 loads of trash; 101.70 tons

9 loads of recyclables collected; 39.18 tons

Following are the recycling numbers for January 2014

24 loads of single stream recycling for a total of 117.34 tons, for which the Borough was paid \$1,395.16

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce meets on Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. Their monthly meeting is held at Pitman Manor. As always the Pitman Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to Eat, Shop, Stroll, and Stay in Pitman.

Councilwoman Higbee – Councilwoman Higbee read the following report:

On March 4, the Pitman Memorabilia Committee met at the Museum on the Circle. Water is collecting in the window well on Seventh Avenue due to pooling on Seventh Avenue near the Circle. Some grading is needed to get the water to the drain across the sidewalk. The museum will be open on March 22 from 1:00 until 4:00 in the afternoon. We have received two beautiful photographs of cottages in Pitman. Luckily these both have dates, names, and addresses. They are the Thomas Covington cottage on Southwest Avenue in 1899, and the Duffield cottage at 49 Fourth Avenue in 1901.

This Thursday evening the Historic Commission will meet at Borough Hall to hear applications for the exterior of properties within the Historic District. Currently there are two applications to be considered this month.

Beth Walls, our tax collector, has submitted her collector’s annual statement of receipts and

disbursements for the year 2013. The total deposited by the collector into the current account in 2013 was \$21,744,275.96. Also, tax payments collected in the month of February were \$3,100,524.06.

We have received our certification of state aid for the calendar year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 budgets. Amounts in line items have shifted but our total aid remained flat at \$638,447.00. I looked back to our 2008 state aid award amount and it was approximately \$830,000.00, reflecting a \$200,000.00 annual decrease since 2008.

At our Work Session budget meeting tonight, we discussed the Planning/Zoning budget, the Environmental Commission budget, and the Public Property budget. Our next budget meeting will be held on March 19 at 7 o'clock in the evening.

On March 7, I had the pleasure of reading to Fourth Graders at W.C.K. Walls Elementary School. It was nice to be part of their "Read Across America" activities.

Councilwoman Kelley

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be March 20 at 7:00 p.m., and the Planning and Zoning Board will meet on March 17 at 7:00 p.m. Currently there is one application for a variance to be considered by the Board.

In January, the Construction Office issued twenty-three permits, processed three certificates, collected \$6,697.00 in permit fees, and \$335.00 in miscellaneous fees.

The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer continues to work on the registration of abandoned or closed properties located within the borough.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 6, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Granting Renewed Consent and Permission to South Jersey Gas Company to Use the Public Streets to Furnish Gas For Light, Heat, and Power in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Second Reading/Public Hearing

Motion: Pierpont

Second: Higbee

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:26 p.m.

Jim Canna, 307 Grandview Avenue – Mr. Canna asked how often the Borough renews the Consent and Permission to use Public Streets agreement with South Jersey Gas. Councilman Pierpont stated that the agreement is renewed every fifty years.

Motion to close public hearing: Razze

Second: Higbee

Time: 8:27 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

New Business

Resolution No. 52, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Reappointing a Plumbing Sub-Code Official and Electrical Sub-Code Official

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

Second: Higbee
Councilman Blass: Absent
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 53, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Supporting the Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund’s Safety Programs

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

Second: Higbee
Councilman Blass: Absent
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razze: Yes

Resolution No. 54, 2014 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Hiring of Cory Downham to the Position of Recreation Assistant

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

Second: Austin
Councilman Blass: Absent
Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razze: Yes

Payment of Bills

Councilwoman Higbee stated that item number 66993 was removed from the bill payment list due to a question of possible duplicate billing having occurred.

Motion: Higbee
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes, Abstain to #66994
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

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

Event Permit Applications

Event: Community Appreciation Day
Applicant: Pitman Police Department
Date: June 4, 2014 (Rain date June 5, 2014)
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Alcyon Lake Park
Contact Person: Ptl. Matthew Perry

Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes

Second: Kelley
Councilman Blass: Absent

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Councilwoman Kelley: Yes
Council President Razze: Yes

***Event:** 5th Annual Brian Ballard Triathlon
Applicant: Brookside Recreation and Swim Club
Date: June 15, 2014
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Location: See map attached to application
Contact Person: Lisa Campbell
Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____

Second: Pierpont

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

*This Event Permit Application was approved contingent upon the submission of a Certificate Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Public Portion

Motion to Open to the Public: Razze
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Second: Kelley

No public comment.

Motion to Close the Public Portion: Razze
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Second: Pierpont

Adjournment

Motion: Razze
Time: 8:45 p.m.

Second: Pierpont

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O'Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator