

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 22, 2017  
8:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Time: 8:06 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 2017, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 7, 2017.

**Roll Call**

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

Councilman Blass: Present  
Council President Pierpont: Present  
Councilwoman Rudley: Present  
Borough Solicitor Alice: Present

**Approval of Minutes**

Work Session, and Formal Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2017

Motion: Blass

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes  
Councilwoman Higbee: Yes  
Councilman Razzo: Yes  
Mayor Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Blass: Yes  
Council President Pierpont: Yes  
Councilwomen Rudley: Yes

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Austin read the following report:

McCowan Memorial Library - During the month of April, 6193 individuals visited the library. I'm happy to report the library will be open on 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays through October, and they have scheduled the following special programs:

- May 26<sup>th</sup> --- *Karaoke with Patti*
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> --- *Sciencetellers* (Summer Reading Kick-off)
- July 28<sup>th</sup> -- *Pacific Island Dancers*
- August 25<sup>th</sup> -- *Silly Joe Sings* (Finale)

We hope everyone attends these entertaining events, and the next Library Board of Trustees meeting will be tomorrow, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Combined Planning/Zoning Board - I was unable to attend the last Planning and Zoning Board meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> due to attending a class in New Mexico. Council President Pierpont filled in for me and reported that six Historic Applications were presented to the Commission, and approved. The Master Plan was discussed, and there will be a public hearing on it in the near future.

#### Councilman Blass

Councilman Blass reported that on May 11, a subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Board and members from the Historic Commission met and discussed better methods of communication between the two entities. They agreed that the Planning and Zoning Board would collaborate with the Historic Commission before writing up recommendations. At the meeting that followed, the Historic Commission reviewed six applications, all of which were approved.

On May 15, Councilman Blass and Administrator O'Donnell met with representatives from the Borough's engineering firm, and from Mills + Schnoering, the historic preservationists the Borough is using for the Grove Auditorium. The group established a timeline for developing the Condition Assessment and Preservation Plan for the building. The company will return on June 6 to extensively examine the structure. They will submit a draft of the report to us in mid-July. The full Council will receive a final version at the August meeting.

Councilman Blass said that he was happy to do his part in helping at the community garden. It was painting day and finalizing the beds day. Councilman Blass said that it is always nice to see dedicated volunteers willing to help. He thanked resident Dani Cooke for taking her vision of a community garden and bringing it to fruition. Congratulations to her on receiving a \$2500.00 award from Investors Banks.

The Pitman Memorabilia Museum will be open this Friday, for Fourth Friday, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

#### Councilman Razze

Councilman Razze said that a few weeks ago he had the opportunity to attend a Tri-County Joint Insurance Fund meeting, and at this meeting there was a select group of JIF Fund Commissioners and Risk Management Consultants. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Facility Use Forms to be used by municipalities and Certificate of Insurance requirements for events, contractors, and vendors. When this information is finalized, he will pass it along to our Safety Coordinator and Administrator O'Donnell. Also, the JIF has updated their requirement for public events, that information will also be made available to Administrator O'Donnell.

Councilman Razze said that he is pleased to announce that the Pitman 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade was once again named the Best of Gloucester County.

The Grand Marshal nominations for the parade will be accepted up until this Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and applications to participate in the parade will be accepted until Friday, June 16, here at Borough Hall and online until midnight.

Councilman Razze said that there is an article in the recent League of Municipalities Magazine pertaining to the installation of small cell towers, an issue that has been brought before Council recently. He said that there is currently a push by communication companies to supersede local government refusal for their installations.

#### Council President Pierpont read the following report:

The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce Spring Craft Fair was held last Saturday, and by my observations and conversations, was a huge success. There were more crafters signed on, classic cars, and public information booths than in the past, and the fair seemed very well attended. My thanks to Lisa Morgey and her committee of volunteers who put this together, Chief McAteer and his team of officers for keeping the traffic flowing, and Mr.

Fred Rodi and our Public Works team for cleaning up in a very timely and professional manner to open the street for parking.

At the request of the Chamber, all the trashcans in our Uptown shopping district were recently cleaned, sandblasted, and painted black by our Public Works Department.

A subcontractor working for Conrail was recently removing debris along West Jersey Avenue and the railroad bed. Residents on Snyder Avenue will receive notices shortly for work to start on their side of the railroad property.

Work at Glen Lake continues. We hope to have Public Works and Parks Department employees digging in front of the metal dam this week. Our plan is to dig deep enough to reach dry soil, install a rubber membrane in front of the dam and lake bed, backfill the trench, and finally allow the lake to fill again. Mr. Fox received an extension on our permit from the DEP to drain the lake and work until June 15th, if needed. My thanks to Councilman Razzo and Mr. Fox for their cooperation and assistance in this matter. We've had more than one early morning meeting at the lake to discuss and review the problem.

Finally, I'd like to remind all residents that bulk trash is picked up the first week of the month. Please do not put bulk items at the curb at any other time, unless you coordinate and purchase a permit through Borough Hall. For more information concerning available permits for bulk trash, please contact Public Works at 589-1040.

#### Councilwoman Higbee

Councilwoman Higbee reported that this past Saturday the Environmental Commission had an Earth Day celebration in Ballard Park. There was a hands-on presentations by the Academy of Natural Sciences, and two giveaways, Norway Spruce seedlings and wildflower seed packs. There was a recyclable and non-recyclable display and several craft projects for children. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success.

On May 9 a reverse auction was held for energy suppliers for the Borough. One auction was for the meters that supply energy for street lighting, and the other was for the meters that record all other electric used in the Borough. The lighting auction was successful. The auction for the other usage meters had to be repeated in order to get a competitive rate for the Borough. With these two new kWh rates, the Borough can expect to see a savings of \$20,000.00 with the new two year contract.

Our Tax Collector, Beth Walls, reports that in the month of April, \$1,495,389.30 was collected.

On June 9, at 10:00 a.m., in Council Chambers, we will be conducting our 2017 Tax Sale. Currently there are just under forty properties for sale. The Tax Collector also reports there are no new delinquent taxes to be collected.

Tonight, Council will be voting on a new bond ordinance that will provide funds to purchase much needed equipment.

This past Friday, Tom Wilk, Vice Chairperson of the Memorabilia Committee, and Councilwoman Higbee took two third grade classes from Walls School on a tour of the Museum and the Grove Auditorium. The next visit will be on May 30, and will begin here in Borough Hall. If any Councilperson would like to speak to this group about what Council does here, please come to Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Reservations are still being taken for the Pitman Municipal Alliance Senior Luncheon, which is June 1<sup>st</sup> at noon, at Mannino's Cucina. There will be a guest speaker who will talk about the issues associated with drug abuse, its' prevention, and its' effect on everyday life. Please call 589-3522 to make a reservation.

Councilwoman Rudley

Councilwoman Rudley reported that Patrolman E.J. Parker and his partner, K9 Ranger, have recently participated in drug and criminal interdiction and police safety seminars. In addition, they have participated in Mantua Township's "Bark in the Park" event, and the Pitman Police Department's very own, K9 Fishing Tournament fundraisers.

The Pitman Police Department wants to take a minute to recognize and thank Investigator Nick Barbetta for his active and on-going focus on narcotics and street crime. Investigator Barbetta has worked very closely with the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, and other surrounding Police Departments, to develop leads and investigate narcotics use, dealing, and manufacturing, within the Borough. Inv. Barbetta has a keen focus on the problems within the Borough and has worked very hard to eradicate many of them.

Councilwoman Rudley stated that the Gloucester County Communications program "Frontline" should be in operation on or around June 15. This program will enable residents to notify the county via the internet of a car that will be parked overnight on the street, instead of having to telephone the County Dispatcher with the information.

Councilwoman Rudley reminded everyone that the Senior Outreach Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. A Senior Information Fair is being planned for September 27, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. More details will be provided at a later date.

The Board of Fire Engineers meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

The Economic Development Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month, and is currently working on increased lighting for Second Avenue, and the Theatre Avenue project.

Plans are ongoing for the Harry Potter Festival to be held in the Borough this fall. More details will be announced as the date draws near.

New Business

**Ordinance No. 4, 2017 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey to Organize, Regulate, and Control the Pitman Fire Department In and For the Borough of Pitman**

First Reading

Motion: Rudley

Second: Higbee

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Raze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Bond Ordinance No. 5, 2017 – 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 \$872,000 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 \$828,400; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing**

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: No

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: No

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Bond Ordinance No. 6, 2017 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Water and Sewer Utility System In the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$702,000 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 \$702,000; Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; and Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing**

First Reading

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 98, 2017 – 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 County of Gloucester to Provide Family Entertainment at Sunset Auditorium**

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Resolution No. 99, 2017 – 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 Sewer Line Repair at the Pitman VFW Memorial Post #6469**

Motion: Austin

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Abstain

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Payment of Bills**

Motion: Higbee

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Yes

Council President Pierpont: Yes

Councilman Razze: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

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

**Public Portion**

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Austin

Time: 8:32 p.m.

**Lori Marquis, Friends of the Grove Director, 4 Webb Avenue** - Ms. Marquis said that ten years ago the Friends of the Grove was formed. She said that the group did many things to improve the quality of life for the residents, including planting flowers, painting fences, helping to eliminate drug houses and crime. Ms. Marquis stated further that in the last three years she has sensed a change in the “vibe” of the Grove, and has felt that there exists a type of aggression against her, the group, and their efforts. She said that as of May 31, 2017, the Friends of the Grove will be dissolved, the insurance will be cancelled, and all open Event Permits will be void. She said that the funds will be disbursed legally, as per IRS guidelines.

**John D’Pasquale, 324 McKinley Avenue** - Mr. D’Pasquale stated that he has issue with the ban on overnight street parking in the Borough. He said that he had a lawyer look into the Borough regulation, and found that it was instated in 1967. He said that he enjoys living in Pitman, but finds the law antiquated and is frustrated by the twenty call limit placed on overnight on-street parking annually.

Mayor Johnson said that this issue has been addressed by Council at least three times over the last ten years, and that the topic is presently in the forefront again. He said that Council will review the ordinance once again, but could make no promises on the outcome of this review.

Councilwoman Rudley said that there has been some consideration of looking into permitted on-street parking, and Councilwoman Higbee said that the Borough-owned lot on E. Holly Avenue is available for permitted parking.

**Bill Ewe, 101 Colonial Avenue** – Mr. Ewe complimented Public Works on how the streets have been kept clean, and mentioned that along Montgomery Avenue, from Colonial to Kenton, many trees look to be in danger of coming down, creating a potentially dangerous situation. He suggested that the Borough contact Conrail about cleaning up that area since it runs along the train tracks. Mr. Ewe also asked of the progress of the sale of a liquor license in the Borough, and stated that he was in favor of the sale, saying that it could lead to the development of a good tax ratable, such as a hotel on the corner of Lambs Road and W. Holly Avenue, an idea put forth in a recent meeting.

Council President Pierpont said that the issue of the sale of the liquor license will be addressed at the June 12 Work session meeting of Mayor and Council.

**Schuyler Kelley, 111 Cyrus Avenue** – Mr. Kelley asked for justification for the purchase of new garage doors and a utility truck with a plow package for Fire Company #1.



