

**BOROUGH OF PITMAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2020**

Call to Order

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag/Moment of Silence

Council President 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 2020, which was posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, sent to the "South Jersey Times" and filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 4, 2020.

Roll Call

Council President Blass: Present
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Present
Mayor Razzo: Present
Borough Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Present
Councilman Mazzola: Present
Councilman Weng: Present
Borough Solicitor Krachun: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Formal Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Abstain

Council Reports

Councilwoman Rudley read the following report:

Parks and Recreation

If you have not yet picked up your Freedom Four Miler tee shirt, they are available at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

The *We Missed Baseball Too* clinic still has some openings. This three morning clinic will take place on August 17, 18, and 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and is open to children ages 7-12. The cost is \$100 and COVID precautions will be taken. Please contact John Hopely at jhopely@pitman.k12.nj.us to register, or with any questions.

The Recreation Commission will meet this coming Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission met last Thursday night at Borough Hall. There are some exciting things to take place with twenty signs identifying some of our species of native trees to be added to the parks to provide additional information to residents regarding our natural resources.

Some members of the group met with a representative from Solitude regarding resources available to further prevent erosion at Alcyon Lake and they will consider to explore options for this project.

We are working with the Economic Development Committee to develop a possible 19th hole idea for the Disc Golf course, which would take the form of an informational kiosk for golfers to learn more about Uptown and the food and entertainment options should they decide to celebrate their success on the course by grabbing a meal or a drink in Pitman.

Senior Outreach

The Senior Outreach Committee has decided to focus on next year's events, rather than hold any in-person events this year. We will also be focusing on how to get better contacts for the many seniors in town who still do not know about the committee.

We hope to produce some special information in the next Borough newsletter providing resources to residents that will miss us having our Fourth Annual Senior Resource Fair.

I will be away for the second meeting in August, but I am always available by e-mail or phone. Amy.rudley@pitman.org or 609-214-6342

Councilman Weng read the following report:

The Pitman Police Department has recently received several inquiries into the "Noise Ordinance" and specifically, why the PPD responds to such calls and how the decibels of a noise ordinance come into play. In response to those inquiries, we would like to provide the following information.

The Police Department responds to all calls for service. Unlike many Police Departments, Pitman does not "stack" calls to have them sit until followed-up at a later time. When any call comes through the County Communications Center, Emergency 911, or through the non-emergency 3501 number during normal business hours, or through any other means that may reach us, Pitman Patrol Officers will respond to investigate and document the complaint. The PPD takes all calls as legitimate, and as a priority, until the officer can show it to be otherwise.

With regard to the Borough's Noise Ordinance, there are many conditions and circumstances attached to the ordinance itself. Each report of a noise violation is taken seriously and investigated. The officer will respond and is required to recognize and agree that there is a violation before taking action. Once, recognized, the officer has in his/her discretion the option to give a warning, which is most often done. If a subsequent report is received, then action and possibly a Borough summons is issued against the owner or person responsible for the noise. Residents or complainants are able to seek and sign Citizen Complaints through Municipal Court when they believe that it is warranted, and if the Police Department has not taken such steps already.

Lastly, the Borough Ordinance concerning noise is a stand-alone ordinance in which no other criteria is required for the Police Department to act. That would include decibel readings. Decibel readings are a County and/or State criterion that is covered under those statutes and are not required to be considered in the local Borough

ordinance. Decibel readings are generally considered in commercial machinery and factory settings and/or when a violation occurs over separate jurisdictional boundaries.

We hope that this helps clarify these issues. However, if there are questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please contact Chief Dan McAteer or Deputy Chief Tom Zander for further clarification.

Councilman Mazzola

Board of Education

Councilman Mazzola reported that the Board of Education has released their Back-to-School 20-21 Hybrid Plan for virtual learning.

Public Property

Two trees have been removed as recommended. These two trees were unhealthy and deemed dangerous to the surrounding houses. We are in the process of another assessment of trees. With the increase of storms we will be vigilant and swift with any trees that pose a danger to our residents.

Clean Communities has their first scheduled planned activity on August 26 at the Hollywood Dell. We will be sure to enforce all guidelines of social distancing during the event.

Councilman Fitzpatrick

Councilman Fitzpatrick reported that the Zoning Officer processed eleven permits in the past month and inspected six properties for violations.

The Code Enforcement Officer issued twenty-three violation notices.

The subcommittee for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan met on August 5 at 7:00 p.m. The committee will have short- and long-term recommendations that will go to the Planning and Zoning Board, then to Council.

The Master Plan Committee also reviewed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and also made recommendations to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board.

There was discussion at the last Planning and Zoning Board meeting about the five foot setbacks for sheds in the Grove. Board Chairman Nick Aspras will do some additional research and contact the Borough Fire Marshal for his input, and bring information back to the Planning and Zoning Board for more discussion.

The next Planning and Zoning Board meeting will be on August 17 at 7:00 p.m., either on Zoom or in person. All are welcome to attend. Borough Planner Tim Kernan will give an update on the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) requirements at this meeting.

Councilman Fitzpatrick said that he reached out to the potential developer of the old Sony property, and was told that things are moving very slowly due to Covid-19 restrictions. He hopes to have more information in the next few weeks to share with the Borough.

Councilman Blass read the following report:

Every two years the dam at Alcyon Lake is inspected. Last week Public Works employees began clearing out the spillway at the dam. This week they will do more extensive work and make repairs to the “floor” of the spillway.

Tomorrow, August 11, work will be completed on the driveway apron in front of the alley between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

There were some temporary patches on Adams Avenue that were getting deeper. Public Works filled these in as we wait for permanent repairs from South Jersey Gas.

Two Saturdays in a row, August 1st and August 8th, our on-call Water and Sewer Department employee was dispatched. The first was for a possible blockage on a main on Broadway and the second was for an alarm at the water tower on Laurel Avenue. Neither turned out to be true, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Bellevue Avenue is scheduled to be paved this Thursday and Friday.

Some stats from Public Works 7/27/2020 – 08/07/2020:

Highway Division

- Brush collected - 172 yards
- Truckloads of bulk trash collected - 8
- Repaired or replaced various street signs in town
- Hours spent cleaning the tops of storm drains - 20
- Delivered eight yards of mulch to residents
- Spent twelve hours mowing
- Repaired the trash/recycle cans at various locations
- Dropped off a truck for yard debris to six residences and picked them up the next day
- Trimmed branches in the alley by Edsam Avenue
- Delivered six new trash cans to residences and four new recycle cans

Water and Sewer Division

- Performed sixty-four water & sewer mark outs requests
- Plunged out six sewer stoppages.
- Performed work on the wells (painting, cleaning, etc.)
- Collected water samples.
- Read fourteen meters for settlement
- Re-read two meters for billing questions
- Replaced one meter body
- Upgraded one meter head

Recycling Report for July 2020

- Twenty-four loads of Single Stream Recycling totaling 94.15 tons, at a cost of \$9,257.14
- Three Loads of metal to Sims Metal totaling 7.17 tons, receiving \$690.00
- Mulch, leaves, and/or brush hauled out to various places totaling 391 cubic yards
- Mulch delivered to residents totaling fourteen cubic yards

Solid Waste Collection for the Month of July 2020

- Twenty-four loads to Wheelabrator totaling 296.05 tons @ \$74.50 per ton, for a cost of \$22,943.93
- Five loads to Gloucester County Landfill totaling 57.08 tons @ \$77.50 per ton, for a cost of \$4,423.71

Mayor Razze

Mayor Razze stated that a ribbon cutting was held on Saturday for a new business called Crave Cookies. He said how happy he is have a new business open in the Borough while in the middle of a pandemic.

New Business

Ordinance No. 9, 2020 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XIX “Property Maintenance” of the Code of the Borough of Pitman, to Add Section 19-5.9

Introduction/First Reading – Public Hearing September 14, 2020

Motion: Fitzpatrick Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Ordinance No. 10, 2020 – 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, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$1,100,000 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 \$1,045,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

Introduction/First Reading – Public Hearing September 14, 2020

Motion: Blass Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes Councilman Fitzpatrick: No
Councilwoman James: Absent Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Ordinance No. 11, 2020 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment for the Water and Sewer Utility System in the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating the Sum of \$161,000 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 \$161,000 Making Certain Determinations and Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions in Connection With the Foregoing

Introduction/First Reading – Public Hearing September 14, 2020

Motion: Blass Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes Councilman Fitzpatrick: No
Councilwoman James: Absent Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 119, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License for the Borough of Pitman (2020-2021)

Motion: Blass Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 120, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Quote From Wible’s Tree Service, LLC and Authorizing a Tax Lien on the Property Known as 141 West Avenue, Borough of Pitman, and Identified on the Municipal Tax Map as Block 19 Lot 33

Motion: Mazzola

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 121, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Gabrielle Bowen as Recording Secretary to the Borough of Pitman Environmental Commission

Motion: Rudley

Second: Mazzola

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 122, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Appointing Justin Burns as a Member of the Borough of Pitman Economic Development Committee

Motion: Blass

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 123, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes

Councilwoman James: Absent

Councilman Mazzola: Yes

Councilwoman Rudley: Yes

Councilman Weng: Yes

Mayor Razze: _____

Resolution No. 124, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Confirming the Report of the Tax Collector in the Matter of Property Maintenance

Motion: Blass

Second: Fitzpatrick

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 125, 2020 – 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 Deputy Chief Thomas Zander, Retroactive to January 1, 2020

Motion: Weng

Second: Rudley

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 126, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Public Works Water and Sewer Division Employee Stephen Bernat, Jr. to Attend the Course Entitled “Introduction to Water and Wastewater Treatment” at the Rowan College of Gloucester County

Motion: Blass

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 127, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Public Works Water and Sewer Division Employee Jason King to Attend the Course Entitled “Introduction to Water and Wastewater Treatment” at the Rowan College of Gloucester County

Motion: Blass

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Resolution No. 128, 2020 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Public Works Water and Sewer Division Employee Cody M. Noe to Attend the Course Entitled “Introduction to Water and Wastewater Treatment” at the Rowan College of Gloucester County

Motion: Blass

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Payment of Bills

Motion: Blass
Second: Mazzola
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: Yes
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Abstain to #39341; approves all others
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilman Mazzola: Abstain to #39331 and #16316; approves all others
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____

Event Permit

Event: 9/11 Ceremony
Date: September 11, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Ballard Park
Contact Person: Pitman Parade Committee; Michael Razze
Motion: Rudley
Second: Weng

Discussion:
Council President Blass stated that he is still a bit uneasy about bringing people together at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing restrictions in place.

Roll Call:
Council President Blass: No
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Parade
Date: September 12, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Broadway
Contact Person: Pitman Parade Committee; Michael Razze
Motion: Rudley
Second: Weng
Roll Call:
Council President Blass: No
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razze: _____
Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: BBQ
Date: September 12, 2020
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Alcyon Park
Contact Person: Pitman Parade Committee; Michael Razze
Motion: Rudley
Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: No
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

Event: Outdoor Entertainment

Date: August 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Borough parking lot behind Merryman’s Pub

Contact Person: Vito Mannino

Discussion:

Councilwoman Rudley read statements submitted by various residents who are against approving this Event Permit, saying that the residents feel the changes to the musical set-up on Saturday which were designed to lessen the sound, was still disturbing to them. Councilwoman Rudley said that she was told that no complaints were called in on Saturday evening because the residents were aware of this meeting and opted to attend the meeting rather than call the police. Councilwoman Rudley suggested that going forward the music should be performed acoustically, that is, with no amplification or microphones. Councilman Weng stated that the Police Department has no choice but to enforce an ordinance when someone calls to make a complaint. Councilman Fitzpatrick asked if music played acoustically is loud enough to be heard in such a large parking lot, with Councilman Mazzola stating that the music only needs to be heard in the area under the tent.

Borough Solicitor Krachun stated that the section of the noise ordinance being discussed pertains to amplified sound. If only acoustic music is played, it moves the enforcement from the part of the ordinance that relates to amplified sound to a totally different part of the ordinance for enforcement purposes. Chief McAteer shared that on Thursday night the complaints about the loudness of the music also included complaints about the cheering and hollering done by members of the audience. Councilman Mazzola stated that the Borough has done a lot for Merryman’s Pub, and Councilwoman Rudley suggested that the owners of Merryman’s Pub could encourage the patrons to show their appreciation by adding to the tip jar of the performer, not by making noise.

Councilman Weng suggested that the noise ordinance be reviewed and possibly make amendments if necessary.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rudley to approve the Event Permit Application contingent upon there be no amplification of sound at any of the events going forward. That is to say, no amplifiers as well as no microphones.

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: Yes
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

***Event:** Back the Blue - Back to School Fundraiser

Date: August 27, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: McBurney Field

Contact Person: Courtney Milward

Motion: Rudley

Second: Weng

Roll Call:

Council President Blass: No
Councilwoman James: Absent
Councilwoman Rudley: Yes
Mayor Razzo: _____

Councilman Fitzpatrick: Yes
Councilman Mazzola: Yes
Councilman Weng: Yes

**Approval is contingent upon adding this event to the insurance coverage document submitted by the Pitman Athletic Association, a co-sponsor of this event.*

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Blass
Time: 8:54 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Chris Wilson, 16 Adams Avenue – Mr. Wilson suggested that outdoor echo barriers could be installed around the tent to help with filtering the level of the music.

Kaitlyn Bunoza, 102 First Avenue – Ms. Bunoza said that she appreciates the compromise made to Merryman’s Event Permit, and suggested that the entertainment be moved to in front of the building, with speakers in the back. She said that the level of sound has become a quality of life issue for her and that she did not call to complain on Saturday night because she thought she would wait to come to this meeting to voice her displeasure instead.

Amy Fisher, 101 First Avenue – Ms. Fisher stated that she also did not call about the volume of the music on Saturday because of the social media outcry in response to the earlier complaints. She stated that performing totally acoustic is not the answer. People naturally become louder when music plays, and that there is no escaping the noise.

Crystal Snyder, 16 E. Holly Avenue – Ms. Snyder stated that there is a dangerous tree next door to her residence and that she would like to have the Borough send someone out to take a look at it.

Motion to close the public portion: Blass
Time: 9:04 p.m.

Second: Fitzpatrick

Adjournment

Motion: Blass
Time: 9:05 p.m.

Second: Mazzola

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith O’Donnell
Borough Clerk/Administrator