

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

Call to Order

Time: 8:05 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: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Present
Mayor Johnson: Present
Clerk O'Donnell: Present

Councilman Blass: Present
Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Council President Razzo: Present
Borough Solicitor Duffield: Present

Approval of Minutes

Work Session, First Closed Work Session, & Second Closed Work Session Minutes of October 27, 2014

Motion: Blass

Second: Austin

Roll Call:

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

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

Mayor

Mayor Johnson offered his congratulations to Councilman Pierpont and Councilwoman Higbee on their re-election to another three year term serving on Borough Council. He also thanked candidates Barry Owen and Bob Shirley for their willingness to serve the residents of the Borough and for their efforts in their campaign.

Committee Reports

Councilman Austin – Councilman Austin reported that Ptlm. Parker and K9 Ranger will graduate from the K9 Academy by the end of November. After a brief time off, they will begin additional, more specialized, training.

Councilman Austin announced that former Pitman Police Officer Rich Malinoski passed away last week. Sgt. Malinoski served for fourteen years with Pitman before being hired in Harrison Township. A resident of Pitman, his police career with both departments totaled more than forty years. Councilman Austin offered his condolences to the family of Sgt. Malinoski.

The Pitman Office of Emergency Management conducted an emergency response drill last Sunday at McBurney Field in Pitman. The Borough Fire Department, OEM personnel, and the Police Department all participated.

The Pitman Environmental Commission participated in a clean-up of Alcyon Lake and Betty Park that was organized by the Friends of Alcyon Lake. Large amounts of trash were removed from the area and from within the lake.

Councilman Blass – Councilman Blass reported that renovations continue at Sunset Auditorium. The latest project completed is the replacement of the handicap ramp.

Councilman Razze read the following report:

Congratulations to Councilman Pierpont and Councilwoman Higbee. Thank you to Barry Owen and Bob Shirley for running for our local office. Thank you to all individuals for choosing to be proactive in their decision to run.

The Recreation Commission met last Thursday night. All of the fall recreation programs have ended. Basketball try-outs are this week for children in the third through eighth grades. Recreation Director Andy Fox and Alcyon Lake Park Superintendent Jarod Harmon will begin planning for projects to do at the park over the winter months.

A reminder that registration for the Christmas Parade ends this Friday. We have forty-five groups participating, and volunteers are needed to help with lining up the groups.

The Borough has received a dividend from the Joint Insurance Fund of \$37,438.00. This will be used as a credit toward the 2015 premium.

Councilman Pierpont read the following report:

Leaf collection is moving along on schedule. Please remember to not include twigs, grass clippings, or other debris with the leaves at the curb, and please try and leave room for storm water run off to the storm drains. If you have a storm drain in front of your property, like I do, please help by keeping the drain grate clear.

The Highway Division is busy patching roads and curbs. If you notice a pothole or broken curb line please report it by calling 589-1040.

The Water & Sewer Division has been busy with the usual calls for service, system maintenance, winterizing public properties, and finishing the mark outs along Highland Terrace in anticipation of the repaving project.

The trash and recycling numbers for the period between October 27 and November 7 are as follows:

Sixteen loads of trash

Ten loads of recycling

Twenty-seven loads of brush

Fifteen loads of bulk trash

A total of 194.8 tons of trash, recycling, and yard debris was collected during this time.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 21, 2014 – Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pitman, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter XXXV, Entitled “Zoning” of

the Code of the Borough of Pitman

Second Reading – Public Hearing

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Motion to open to the public: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:15 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion to close public portion: Razze

Second: Blass

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Absent

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

New Business

Resolution No. 160, 2014 – 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: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Absent

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Resolution No. 161, 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: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Absent

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Payment of Bills

Motion: Razze

Second: Blass

Roll Call:

Councilman Austin: Yes

Councilman Blass: Yes

Councilwoman Higbee: Absent

Councilwoman Kelley: Absent

Councilman Pierpont: Yes

Council President Razze: Yes

Mayor Johnson _____

Event Permit Applications

Event: Sale of Christmas Yard Signs

Applicant: Pitman United Methodist Church

Date: November 29, 2014
Location: On sidewalk at the corner of Broadway and W. Holly Avenue
Contact Person: Judith Downham
Motion: Razze
Second: Blass

Discussion on whether the display would impede pedestrian traffic within that area resulted in amending the motion to approve the Event Permit Application contingent upon the willingness of the group to move to the corner on the north side of Holly Avenue, and to provide the Borough with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Borough as Additional Insured.

Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Second: Blass
Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Council President Razze: Yes

Raffle License Applications

Organization: Memorial School HSA
Contact Person: Tiffany Johnson
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Time: 50/50 Raffle: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Memorial School

Motion: Razze
Roll Call:
Councilman Austin: Yes
Councilwoman Higbee: Absent
Councilman Pierpont: Yes
Mayor Johnson _____
Second: Blass
Councilman Blass: Yes
Councilwoman Kelley: Absent
Council President Razze: Yes

Public Portion

Motion to open to the public: Razze
Time: 8:25 p.m.
Second: Blass

Cynthia Ventura, 162 East Avenue - Ms. Ventura expressed her disappointment about having to take down all the decorations that she and other residents put up at Sunrise Park. She said that the residents only want to take care of it, and make it look nice. She said that they have asked for nothing in return from the Borough for their efforts.

Marge Monahan, 203 East Avenue – Ms. Monahan stated that she too is very disappointed about not being permitted to take care of the park after nine years of doing so. She said that the residents have always used their own funds to purchase their decorations, and does not think that someone who does not live in the neighborhood should have the right to come to Council and ask that all the decorations be removed. Ms. Monahan also stated her concerns about one of the trees that seems to be leaning at a dangerous angle in the park.

Mayor Johnson stated that the complaint that was brought to Council was in regard to the damage to the sign and the nails being put into the trees. Mayor Johnson reminded her that the area is owned by the Borough, and that if someone were to be injured on this lot, the Borough would be responsible.

